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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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

Forty-eighth session
Busan, Republic of Korea
19-29 July 2026

Item 16 on the Provisional Agenda:
Adoption of the Decisions Report

DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (BUSAN, 2026)

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1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

No decision.

2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Decision: 48 COM 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/2,

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

3. Authorizes the participation in its 48th session, as observers, of the organizations of the United Nations system, international governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, as listed in Part I of the present document, except Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), and the Expert Council on Protected Areas.

3A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (BUSAN, 2026)

Decision: 48 COM 3A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/3A,

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

3B. ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (BUSAN, 2026)

Decision: 48 COM 3B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/3B,

2. Adopts the timetable contained in the above-mentioned document.

4. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (UNESCO, 2025)

Decision: 48 COM 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 2025).

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

Decision: 48 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/5A, WHC/26/48.COM/INF.5A and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.5A.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 5A** and **47 COM 5A** adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) 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.CLT1 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. Commends all States Parties and Governments concerned for their continued substantial contribution to the World Heritage Fund to strengthen management and conservation of severely threatened cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage properties notably in Africa, including those inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and calls on other States Parties to join this initiative;

5. Emphasises the interaction of local communities and their environment in advancing sustainable development and supporting the conservation and eventual removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger, particularly in Africa; expresses its gratitude to the Government of Norway for its generous and flexible financial support to the World Heritage Fund to support these actions, and also thanks the Governments of Japan, the Republic of Korea and France for their support to conservation activities that contribute to sustainable development; and invites other States Parties to join these global efforts;

6. Welcomes the progress made by Indigenous Peoples, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre towards implementing paragraph 7 of Decision **47 COM 11** on enhancing Indigenous Peoples' participation in the Convention; expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Australia and Canada for their financial contributions to the World Heritage Fund in support of this priority; encourages further contributions to advance this work; requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to work together with Indigenous Peoples to elaborate a more comprehensive proposal for

examination at the 49th session under a dedicated item, drawing on the draft roadmap presented in Document WHC/26/48.COM/INF.5A.2 and the discussions at the present session;

7. Acknowledges the continued efforts of the World Heritage Centre to collaborate and enhance synergies across UNESCO's Culture conventions, relevant UNESCO programmes, including the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme and UNESCO Global Geoparks, as well as biodiversity-related conventions, including the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF); thanks the government of Switzerland for its continued funding to strengthen this work, notes the persisting gaps in the integration of World Heritage properties in national climate and biodiversity frameworks, in particular the limited inclusion of such sites in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the insufficient recognition of cultural World Heritage properties in both NDCs and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), 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 development and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policy instruments;

8. 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;

9. Recalling that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and overall funding for 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, including the effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection, emphasizes the urgency of securing adequate financial resources to achieve the objectives of the World Heritage Convention to protect the world's cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, in particular in light of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the unprecedented threats such as climate change, natural disasters, and armed conflicts;

10. Welcomes the UNESCO Sites Navigator as an enhanced geospatial knowledge-management tool, acknowledges the intrasectoral and intersectoral cooperation underpinning its development and thanks the Governments of Flanders (Belgium) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their support; also thanks the States Parties that have provided geo-referenced data of World Heritage properties for integration, and encourages all States Parties to submit such data to fully benefit from the tool's capacities and calls for further financial support to ensure the continued maintenance and long-term sustainability of the tool;

11. Further welcomes the expanded Guidance on Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context, acknowledges the collaboration of ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Belgium and the Swiss Confederation, and encourages partners to continue supporting the dissemination and use of the Guidance;

12. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, subject to availability of funds, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session, a concise and user-friendly "induction and communications pack" to guide site management bodies in communicating the world's cultural and natural heritage;

13. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on the reform plan within the framework of the UNESCO80 Roadmap and build on previous reviews and assessments, for examination at the 49th session;

14. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on its activities, including an updated result-based report on Thematic Programmes, under Item 5A: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities, for examination at its 49th session.

5B. REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES

Decision: 48 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/5B,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 5B**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

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 support the effective implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as well as the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

5. Welcomes the financial contribution of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) that enabled the participation of five African and Arab experts to the ICOMOS Evaluation Panel, and recognizes that this represents an important contribution to improving geographical balance, regional representation and the diversity of expertise in the World Heritage evaluation process;

6. Requests the Advisory Bodies, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and in consultation with concerned partners, to ensure that qualified regional experts, including relevant professional networks developed in the framework of regional capacity-building programmes, can participate in a systematic, transparent, and competency-based manner in evaluation, monitoring, advisory, and capacity-building activities, taking into consideration the need for a balanced geographical representation, regional expertise, and gender balance;

7. 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: 48 COM 5C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/5C,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 5C**, **46 COM 5C** and **47 COM 5C** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th session (UNESCO, 2025) respectively,

3. Welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa (2022–2029) and notes the continued efforts undertaken to strengthen representativity, conservation, capacity-building and community engagement across the continent;

4. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in enhancing the representativity of Africa on the World Heritage List, including the inscription of new properties and the first inscriptions achieved by several African States Parties during the reporting period;

5. Requests that future progress reports provide more quantifiable information on the impact of capacity-building initiatives undertaken in the region, including the involvement of trained African professionals in World Heritage processes and site management;

6. Takes note of the mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Strategy, including the achievements made, the challenges encountered, the lessons learned and the priorities identified for the remaining implementation period;

7. Commends the efforts undertaken by African States Parties, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM) and partners, particularly the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), for the progress achieved through technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives and support to heritage conservation and management;

8. Further commends the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for spearheading Priority Africa programmes, including capacity-building for the implementation of strategies put forward by the World Heritage Committee, and recognizes its central role in implementing the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa, building on its 20 years of experience supporting World Heritage processes in Africa, and in established regional networks;

9. Calls for more technical support for African States Parties in adopting digital technologies for the enhancement of heritage management;

10. Expresses its appreciation to the governments of Australia, China, Flanders (Belgium), France, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Sultanate of Oman, Kenya, South Africa, the European Union and States Parties contributing through the World Heritage Fund, for their financial and technical support to activities contributing to the implementation of the Strategy;

11. Encourages African States Parties to continue implementing the Strategy at national and regional levels, including by strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing professional expertise and reinforcing the engagement of local communities in heritage-related processes;

12. Further encourages African States Parties to continue to take full ownership of Priority Africa programmes, including through fundraising, and the strategic use of the International Decade on Culture for Sustainable Development, to ensure that African Heritage is sustainably conserved;

13. Encourages furthermore sustained investment in, and use of, African professional expertise in World Heritage processes, including through the strengthening of regional professional networks and partnerships with training institutions, universities, UNESCO Chairs and academic programmes dedicated to heritage conservation;

14. Encourages the continued development of community-based initiatives linking heritage conservation with sustainable livelihoods, including activities involving women and youth, and promoting the use of innovative and digital technologies;

15. Calls upon the international community, including the Group of Friends for Priority Africa, regional partners and development partners, to continue supporting African States Parties in the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa;

16. Further calls all concerned stakeholders for support for capacity-building for local communities, Indigenous Peoples and local governments, and for funding and technical support for conservation, innovation and community-based initiatives, and a dedicated financial and technical support to the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to lead and spearhead implementation of the Strategy and Priority Africa programmes, including the update of digital tools for heritage management and monitoring;

17. Notes that the forthcoming Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting in particular in the Africa region, provides opportunities for further reflection on the implementation of the Strategy, and also presents an opportunity to advance the operationalization of the Nairobi Outcome, including by documenting approaches, evolving practices and challenges, notably through exchanges with national focal points and site managers during the regional and sub-regional workshops planned as part of the Periodic Reporting process and thanks China, Norway, and the Netherlands for supporting the exercise;

18. Thanks Uganda for hosting and co-organizing the forthcoming workshop of national Focal Points in Africa, and welcomes the interest expressed by Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Ghana in hosting site managers' workshops in their respective sub-regions;

19. Requests the World Heritage Centre to support the establishment of the AFRICA 2035 Programme anchored in the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) as the regional implementation platform, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM) and relevant partners, in order to strengthen the Priority Africa agenda and the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa;

20. Requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM), the AWHF and partners, to continue supporting the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa, including progress made in addressing identified implementation gaps, sustainable financing, cooperation between the Conventions, regional coordination and the participation of African experts

in World Heritage processes, and to submit a further progress report to the Committee at its 49th session.

5D. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Decision: 48 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/5D,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 5E** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Expresses its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre along with UNESCO Field Offices, the Advisory Bodies, and other partners in providing technical support for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in SIDS;

4. Thanks the SIDS States Parties, as well as the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field Offices, Advisory Bodies, and World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres covering SIDS, and all those involved in the consultation process for their substantive contributions to the development of the World Heritage Strategy for SIDS, thanking also the States Parties of Germany and Ireland for their financial support;

5. Endorses the World Heritage Strategy for SIDS, composed of 4 strategic objectives, its priority actions and the costed action plan (annex 1), developed through a broad consultation process that involved SIDS States Parties and their representatives, national focal points, World Heritage site managers, and experts;

6. Encourages States Parties to integrate the World Heritage Strategy for SIDS, in line with the Regional Action Plans, into their national, subregional, and regional heritage strategies, and requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to assist States Parties in its implementation with the support of all partners and with available resources;

7. Thanks the Governments of Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, France, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, and the Sultanate of Oman, as well as Felissimo Corporation, for their financial support in implementing activities in and around World Heritage properties in SIDS;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to establish a sub-account of the World Heritage Fund dedicated for the implementation of the World Heritage Strategy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

9. Calls upon the States Parties, including the Group of Friends for SIDS, international organizations, development partners, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and other donors to provide financial voluntary contributions to the sub-account and in-kind contributions in order to support SIDS States Parties in the implementation of the World Heritage Strategy for SIDS, and welcomes the commitment and support of the Category 2 Centres to assist the SIDS States Parties to this end;

10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of World Heritage-related activities for SIDS, and of the World Heritage Strategy for SIDS, including related financial information, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

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

Decision: 48 COM 6A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/6A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 6A** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025), in which it also adopted the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) 2025–2035 "with a view to presenting to the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee a refined version of the Strategy which fully reflects the results of regional consultations",

3. Also recalling that it considers the WHCBS 2025–2035 as an adaptive strategy to be updated via its biennial Implementation Plans, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, States Parties and Category 2 Centres, in light of the evolving challenges and the emerging needs of States Parties,

4. Thanks the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, and all World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (C2Cs), as well as the participating States Parties, Universities, heritage institutions and individual experts, for their substantive contributions to the refinement of the WHCBS 2025–2035;

5. Takes note of the organization of a meeting to gather additional inputs regarding the WHCBS 2025–2035 from the Africa region, which members of the World Heritage Committee and a reference group composed of experts, institutions, and stakeholders from the African continent, including States Parties, the African World Heritage Fund, universities, heritage institutions, and professionals attended and provided written contributions, and its main outcome to add a new chapter on capacity building within the framework of UNESCO's global priorities, including Priority Africa, and the UNESCO priority groups; and warmly thanks all participants for their oral and written contributions, which directly informed the refined strategy submitted to this session;

6. Endorses the refinements made to the previously adopted WHCBS 2025-2036 in line with its request, and notes with appreciation that this refinement occurred through a transparent, consultative and inclusive process and with inputs from a broad range of stakeholders;

7. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to prepare a user-friendly version of the revised Strategy in the two working languages of the Convention, and encourages States Parties and partners to facilitate translations of the refined WHCBS 2025-2035 into national languages, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, to promote its wide dissemination and accessibility;

8. Encourages all partners, including States Parties, C2Cs, UNESCO Offices, National Commissions for UNESCO, and heritage institutions, to align their capacity-building activities with the WHCBS 2025-2035 and to engage in its implementation;

9. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the members of the Coordination Hub, to develop the first Implementation Plan for the period 2027–2029, covering notably the UNESCO biennium 2028-2029, and submit it for review at its 49th session;

10. Thanks the States parties of Australia, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland and partners such as Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs for the continued financial and technical support they are providing to capacity-building content development and activities for World Heritage;

11. Stresses nonetheless that the dedicated financial resources made available for capacity building remain insufficient to cover the breadth and scope of the WHCBS's ambitious programme, urges States Parties and other stakeholders to provide sustained, predictable financial contributions to the World Heritage Fund for capacity building and to provide extra-budgetary funding for the implementation of the revised WHCBS, including its coordination mechanism, and encourages States Parties to raise, within UNESCO Governing Bodies, the urgent need for increased and sustainable human and financial resources for the coordination and implementation of World Heritage-related capacity building, especially when reflecting on the second biennium of the Programme and Budget for the 2026-2029 quadrennium (43 C/5) and the preparation of the future 44 C/5;

12. Encourages further voluntary contributions, particularly multi-year and pooled funding, to support the effective implementation of the WHCBS, strengthen coordination at global and regional levels, and ensure the sustained delivery of capacity-building activities, and also encourages States Parties and other funding partners to provide adequate and sustained support to Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs, academic institutions and other World Heritage-related institutions and initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the WHCBS;

13. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the members of the Coordination Hub, to submit a progress report on World Heritage-related capacity-building activities and the implementation of the WHCBS 2025-2035, for examination at its 49th session.

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

Decision: 48 COM 6B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/6B,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 6B**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Congratulates the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO 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 Brazil, China, Mexico, Indonesia, India, the Republic of Korea and South Africa for hosting active World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres 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 Category 2 Centres and further encourages States Parties to support these Category 2 Centres 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 Category 2 Centres, based on their areas of specialization, and to support and participate in their activities whenever possible;

7. Also thanks the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres for their active contribution to the consultation process under the UNESCO80 Roadmap and encourages them to continue strengthening UNESCO's mandate, institutional strength and comparative advantage.

8. Further thanks Category 2 Centres for their active participation in the refinement of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy 2025-2035;

9. Also encourages Category 2 Centres to continue organizing 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 upcoming Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

10. Further encourages the active role of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres with a mandate in capacity building, in contributing to periodic revision of Tentative Lists, and supporting States Parties in the preparation of nomination dossiers, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and resource mobilization, particularly in regions where imbalances persist;

11. Welcomes the signature of the Partnership Agreement for the implementation of the joint Costed Action Plan between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) with a view to implementing Flagship Programme 3 of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Priority Africa (2022-2029), and encourages the ongoing reinforcement of this strategic partnership and an effective model for regional level implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

12. Congratulates the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, celebrated on 5th May 2026, African World Heritage Day, and acknowledges its exceptional contribution to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Africa; encourages UNESCO, States Parties, development partners, and other interested parties to strengthen technical, institutional and financial support to the AWHF with a view to speeding up the implementation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Priority Africa (2022-2029), reducing regional imbalances, and reinforcing its role as UNESCO's main regional implementation partner for World Heritage in Africa;

13. Requests the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 March 2027**, 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 49th session.

6C. REPORT ON THE 2025 NAIROBI CONFERENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Decision: 48 COM 6C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/6C,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 5C**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025) and Resolution **25 GA 9**, adopted at the 25th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (Samarkand/UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the report on the implementation of the Nairobi Outcome on Heritage and Authenticity, commends the efforts undertaken by UNESCO, the State Party of Kenya, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) and other partners (including ICESCO), in advancing the operationalization of the Nairobi Outcome through capacity-building activities, academic engagement and knowledge exchange initiatives, and encourages their continuation and further development;

4. Recalls the adoption at its 47th session of the Nairobi Outcome on Heritage and Authenticity and its areas of operationalization, including engaging regional experts and knowledge holders/bearers in the assessment of heritage, ensuring the inclusion, where appropriate, of authenticity in national legal and political frameworks, and applying the Outcome Document in all instruments relevant to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

5. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, and other relevant partners, such as Category 2 Centres, to examine the recommendations of the Nairobi Outcome on Heritage and Authenticity and to continue the broader reflection, including through similar expert dialogues in other regions, with a view to formulating consolidated recommendations for possible consideration in future revisions of the Operational Guidelines, for consideration by the Committee at its 49th session and the General Assembly in 2027;

6. Encourages States Parties, with the support of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, the AWHF and partners, to take into consideration the principles of the Nairobi Outcome on Heritage and Authenticity, as appropriate, in training, the preparation of nomination dossiers, the management of World Heritage properties, and monitoring processes;

7. Notes that the forthcoming Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting, in particular in the Africa region, presents an opportunity to further reflect on and advance the operationalization of the Nairobi Outcome, including by documenting evolving practices, experiences, and challenges related to its implementation, and by identifying approaches to implement the

Outcome's recommendations, and thanks China, Norway and the Netherlands for supporting the exercise;

8. Further thanks Uganda for demonstrating leadership by hosting and co-organising the forthcoming workshop for national Focal Points in Africa, and welcomes the interest expressed by Seychelles and Zimbabwe in hosting site managers' workshops in their respective subregions;

9. Recognises the importance of strengthening the evidence base and developing tools to support the operationalization of the Nairobi Outcome and encourages the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources to support the systematic collection and analysis of relevant information, including from States Parties, Advisory Bodies and site managers;

10. Further thanks China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, as well as all African States Parties, the African World Heritage Fund, and partners that have contributed significantly to the launch of the operationalization process of the Nairobi Outcome through various programmes and activities;

11. Further expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Japan, Kenya and France, as well as UNESCO and AWHF for the generous financial support for the preparation and publication of the scientific volume "Heritage Authenticity in Theory and Practice in Africa", jointly published by UNESCO and Springer Nature, as a major scholarly contribution to the implementation and global dissemination of the Nairobi Outcome;

12. Encourages States Parties, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, and relevant institutions, to organize similar regional expert dialogues on authenticity, taking into account their respective cultural contexts, so as to contribute to a broader global reflection on any future methodological developments related to authenticity;

13. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the implementation of the Nairobi Outcome within the progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa to be presented at its 49th session.

7. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Decision: 48 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7**, **43 COM 7.2**, **44 COM 7.2**, **45 COM 7.1**, **45 COM 7.2**, **46 COM 7** and **47 COM 7**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions, its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling that by ratifying the World Heritage Convention, States Parties commit to ensuring that the best possible protection and management systems are in place, that adequate human, financial and other resources are deployed, and that decisions are made which prevent harm to, and optimise the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties,
4. Further 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, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context before any interventions for new construction, demolition, modification, recovery or reconstruction commences or decisions are made that cannot be reversed,

Observed trends in the state of conservation reports (2021-2025)

5. Appreciates the useful analysis of observed trends in the state of conservation reports from 2021-2025, notes that pressures affecting the OUV of World Heritage properties increasingly result from the accumulation and compounding of threat factors, including those arising from gaps in management and governance frameworks, development and infrastructure pressures, and climate change and climate-related hazards that often act as threat multipliers exacerbating existing vulnerabilities; and noting that these factors are frequently interconnected and mutually reinforcing, calls on States Parties to respond by strengthening heritage management, impact assessment, resilience-building and capacity-building;
6. Further notes the increasing need to strengthen governance arrangements and decision-making processes in heritage management systems, ensuring the adequate establishment and consistent implementation of legal frameworks, regulatory instruments and management processes required to safeguard OUV of World Heritage properties, and invites States Parties to make active use of the Managing World Heritage (2026) and Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 (2023) resource manuals to support management planning processes;
7. Invites the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to consider whether the role, functions and responsibilities of the World Heritage site managers, as reflected in the Managing World Heritage (2026) resource manual, could be more clearly reflected, in particular in the relevant provisions of the Operational Guidelines relating to management systems and governance of World Heritage properties, with a view to their possible consideration in the next substantive revision of the Operational Guidelines, and to present its recommendations to the Committee at its 49th session;
8. Also invites the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to consider the possibility, with financial contributions from the States Parties, if necessary, of making the World Heritage Site Managers Forum a standing event in order to enable site managers to better understand the expectations and guidelines of the World

Heritage Convention, and to submit its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

Emergency Situations and Response in World Heritage properties

9. Expresses its deepest condolences for the loss of human life and its deep concern at the deterioration of humanitarian conditions and the damage to World Heritage properties resulting from conflicts (including armed conflicts and civil unrest) and from climate-related disasters, which are increasing in frequency and intensity, further expresses its grave concern that such conflicts continue to constitute a major threat to the OUV of World Heritage properties and remain a key justification for inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

10. Recognizes the importance of continuing the reflection on the practical implementation of Article 6.3 of the Convention in light of the increasing impact of armed conflicts on World Heritage;

11. Urges all parties associated with conflicts to ensure the protection of cultural and natural heritage and to avoid their use for military purposes, and calls upon all States Parties to fully respect their obligations under Article 6.3 of the Convention as well as to cooperate in combating the illicit trafficking of cultural objects resulting from armed conflicts, including through the ratification of the 1970 Convention and the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols, and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions **2199** (2015), **2253** (2015) and **2347** (2017), as well as the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendations on Museums and Collections (2015);

12. Recalls that the Desired State of Conservation for Removal (DSOCR) defines the state of conservation that a property must achieve in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened by serious and specific danger and to consequently allow for its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and that this desired state is attained through the successful implementation of corrective measures adopted by the Committee, which are designed to address the threats and restore any deteriorated attributes, and encourages the concerned States Parties to make use of International Assistance to support this process as an opportunity to lay the foundation for the sustainable recovery and long-term management of the properties;

13. Invites the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue the implementation of Decision **47 COM 7** (paragraph 9);

14. Welcomes the continued work of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in responding to emergencies due to conflicts and climate-related hazards threatening cultural and natural World Heritage properties and their OUV, including through the World Heritage Fund, the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) and the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), and invites States Parties to contribute to these funding mechanisms to enable them to continue responding to emergency situations in World Heritage properties;

15. Welcomes the continued development of the UNESCO Sites Navigator, supporting knowledge generation and analysis on pressures, climate-related risks and conservation trends affecting World Heritage properties, as well as support for remote-sensing-based monitoring, particularly for the early detection of natural and human-induced hazards that may place properties at risk, and invites States Parties to make use of the tool and to submit GIS data for properties within their territories to support effective monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and enable timely response;

16. Thanks the State Party of Cambodia for inviting an Advisory mission to the World Heritage property of the “Temple of Preah Vihear”, encourages the implementation of the mission's recommendations, and calls upon States Parties to provide financial and technical support for the safeguarding of the property;

Climate Change

17. Notes with concern the alarming findings of the UNESCO global assessment People and Nature in UNESCO-designated sites (2026), which highlight the growing and compounding impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties while also noting that the State of Conservation reports over the last five years increasingly reflect the impacts of climate change and climate-related hazards on World Heritage properties, affecting multiple attributes conveying the OUV of property particularly when combined with existing pressures and vulnerabilities, adversely impacting the economic and social development and quality of life of associated communities, thereby underscoring the urgent need for strengthened and coordinated climate action strengthening also the monitoring, assessment, and reporting mechanisms to better capture climate-related impacts and risks affecting World Heritage properties;

18. Urges States Parties to implement the 2023 Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage, and encourages again States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres to disseminate it widely through appropriate means;

19. Welcomes with appreciation the work of the World Heritage Centre, together with the Advisory Bodies, in responding to the Committee's request to prepare a Guidance Document to facilitate the effective implementation of, and support for, the actions, goals and targets of the Policy Document, and thanks the Governments of Australia, the Republic of Korea, and Sweden, for their support towards this initiative including the offer by the Republic of Korea to host an expert workshop in this regard;

20. Welcomes the work undertaken by the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, through the World Heritage Leadership Programme, to develop a joint toolkit on climate action for World Heritage, which will support capacity-building for States Parties and site managers to integrate climate change action in the management strategies;

21. Recognising that the need to better integrate climate-change mitigation objectives with the protection of heritage attributes is creating increasing pressures on World Heritage properties, encourages States Parties to use the Guidance on Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context (2025), developed by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to ensure that renewable energy planning and impact assessment safeguard the OUV of World Heritage properties;

22. Calls on national, sub-national, local, and site authorities to integrate World Heritage properties into plans, policies, and actions to avert, minimise, and address Non-Economic Losses (NELs) resulting from climate change and related disasters affecting cultural and natural heritage;

23. Notes with appreciation UNESCO's cooperation with the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) mechanisms to advance the integration of cultural and natural heritage into international climate frameworks, which contributed to the adoption at COP30 (November 2025) of five indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to measure the protection and integration of heritage in climate adaptation actions at national, subnational, local, and site levels; noting the limited integration of World Heritage properties in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in particular of cultural properties, encourages authorities to assess and monitor climate impacts and adaptation progress in World Heritage contexts in line with the GGA indicators, related to cultural and natural heritage, the Policy Document and NELs considerations, and invites States Parties to incorporate NELs into climate in planning and financing including through the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) ;

24. Emphasises that sea level rise poses a serious threat to coastal World Heritage properties while also recognising them as repositories of knowledge and resources for adaptation and resilience, and notes that UNESCO is the lead technical support on

cultural heritage for the preparation of a High-Level Meeting on Sea Level Rise to be held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2026;

Development pressures

25. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025), particularly paragraphs 17 and 24,

26. Stresses its continued concern regarding growing development pressures associated with a range of projects and sectors including transportation, tourism and urban expansion, that threaten OUV, and calls on States Parties to fully integrate obligations under the World Heritage Convention into legislation, governance, management and planning systems at all levels, ensuring that protection of OUV is not compromised, and that any proposed developments which may affect the OUV of a property must be assessed as early as possible and before any irreversible decision is taken, through appropriate impact assessment processes, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, so as to ensure coherent, sustainable, and long-term protection of OUV;

27. Encourages States Parties to use and implement available tools annexed to Document WHC/26/48.COM/7 to support effective management and advance sustainable development in the face of such pressures;

28. Notes the emerging trend of States Parties requesting Advisory missions at a stage when major planning or investment decisions, including funding commitments, have already been taken, which may limit the extent to which expert advice can be fully reflected in planning and decision-making processes, and invites States Parties to consider requesting such missions at the appropriate stage of project conception, planning and assessment, in order to support the effective integration of expert guidance into planning processes, impact assessments and subsequent management decisions;

Human Rights, Local Communities, and Indigenous Peoples

29. Notes the concerns raised in state of conservation reports regarding uneven consultation, narrowly scoped impact assessments and governance gaps affecting Indigenous Peoples and local communities; recalls that effective management systems require respect for human rights, inclusive and participatory planning, and stakeholder engagement and strongly encourages States Parties to ensure meaningful participation of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in World Heritage assessment, conservation and management, taking into account their perspectives, relationship with the land, and the interconnectedness of nature and culture and to ensure free, prior, informed consent of traditional owners;

30. Takes note of the findings of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights calling for stronger safeguards to ensure that conservation practices under the Convention fully respect cultural rights, including through free, prior and informed consent, and welcomes the efforts towards strengthening cooperation among UNESCO, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), the Advisory Bodies and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage, including the Human Rights Council's decision to devote its annual panel discussion at the 63rd session to Indigenous Peoples' rights and the World Heritage Convention; also welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to coordinate with the OHCHR Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council to organise a workshop between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, OHCHR, and the relevant Special Rapporteurs; and encourages States Parties to support the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to facilitate meaningful participation in the Convention's governance processes.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

1. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Notes with concern that the property continues to be severely affected by water seepage, humidity and environmental degradation, resulting in ongoing deterioration, and encourages the State Party to pursue consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prioritise urgent maintenance and stabilisation measures for damaged components, while recalling that emergency stabilisation should be undertaken only where collapse or further damage is imminent and in accordance with the principle of minimal intervention;
4. Welcomes the emergency conservation works undertaken on the Ziggurat of Ashur with the support of the World Heritage Fund, including mudbrick repair, drainage improvements, and capacity-building activities for local staff;
5. Noting that a pilot area, where measures have been undertaken to address water related damage is being monitored, requests that results of this monitoring be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once available, and reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the property, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, taking into consideration the outcomes of the pilot area measures;
6. Acknowledges the initiation of work on a Management Plan framework, and also requests the State Party to finalise its preparation, as a matter of priority, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for technical review;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to afford priority and allocate the required resources to enable implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, with particular regard to regular maintenance activities, and the submission of a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority to the World Heritage Centre, noting that all proposed future interventions should be integrated into the forthcoming comprehensive Conservation Plan for the property;
8. Also welcomes confirmation that the Makhool Dam project is permanently cancelled;
9. Recalls the necessity of submitting to the World Heritage Centre for review, detailed information on all proposed works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also encourages the State Party to finalise and submit the pending boundary clarification for the property as inscribed, and a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Further encourages the State Party to pursue, and allocate personnel and resources to support 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 and timeframe for implementation, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

12. Also noting the limited resources available for the implementation of sustained and coordinated conservation measures, reiterates its call upon all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures at property;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

2. Hatra (Iraq)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Acknowledges the State Party's ongoing efforts to implement previous Committee decisions, including corrective measures aimed at achieving the adopted Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and site monitoring and maintenance work, and encourages the State Party to continue implementing these activities;

4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to prioritize the implementation of the adopted corrective measures required to achieve the DSOCR, and to mobilise the additional support needed, in particular for:

    a) Reinforcing site security by installing the surveillance cameras for which funding has been allocated,

    b) Repairing damage resulting from conflict, including completing the temporary transport of the remaining archaeological finds, photographing and cataloguing them, and ensuring their adequate storage and protection,

    c) Assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict and addressing vulnerabilities, including through urgent stabilization, diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat,

    d) Preparation of the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area (which is regarded as a pressing priority);

5. Also reiterates its request to continue the implementation of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, in particular addressing the following:

    a) Once the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area is prepared, carrying out of diagnostic studies and the subsequent selection of pilot interventions and their monitoring over time to assess their efficacy,

b) Prioritization of the preparation of a Site Management Plan that includes requirements related to management, conservation, and visitor management, including additional facilities and services to address increasing tourism,

c) Preparation of a strategy and allocation of resources for documentation management;

6. Also encourages the State Party to prepare a minor boundary modification proposal for the designation of a buffer zone, for added protection of the property, and its submission in line 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 Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Reiterates its call upon all States Parties to support priority safeguarding measures, particularly with regard to the identified corrective measures;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

10. **Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

3. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Notes the efforts made in undertaking surveys, documentation, assessments and conservation planning, and requests the State Party to continue the implementation of such activities, to complete implementation of the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, and to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the preparation of the proposed comprehensive management plan for the property;

4. Notes with appreciation the support provided by the UNESCO/Netherlands Fund-in-Trust for strengthening capacities in the documentation and conservation of World Heritage properties in Iraq, focusing on earthen architecture;

5. Reiterating its concern about the condition of the property, particularly with regard to its conservation state arising from the impact of encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities, in addition to natural deterioration and weathering, welcomes the information that has been provided on encroachments at the property and its buffer zone, including relevant maps, and reiterates its request that the State Party submit the related detailed report once finalized, and continue strengthening its monitoring and enforcement measures to prevent further impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

6. Also welcomes that conservation reports are being prepared to assess the Palace of al-Ma‘shuq, Abu Dulaf Mosque, and Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya, in order to outline priority needs and plan conservation measures, and also requests the State Party to submit these reports once available, as well as the information about the emergency conservation works that have been initiated at the al-Ma‘shuq component, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also 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 consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, while in the meantime, planning for interventions 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;

8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to place a moratorium on further major interventions and to engage in a technical exchange and dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding an appropriate conservation approach at the property, focused on retention of authenticity and support for OUV;

9. Reiterates furthermore 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, particularly for major restoration interventions, which may have an impact on the OUV of the property; this should comprise Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for any major projects, including the proposed school construction project, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse;

10. Encourages the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the process for establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with related corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, for consideration by the Committee;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

4. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having considered Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev 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 **47 COM 7A.38** and **47 COM 8C.1** of its last session,

ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee

48th session of the Committee (48 COM)

Item 4: Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev,
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 30 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, 219 EX/Decision 22, 220 EX/Decision 33, 221 EX/Decision 33, 222 EX/Decision 40 and 224 EX/Decision 22, and the 14 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**, **45 COM 7A.31**, **46 COM 7A.18** and **47 COM 7A.38**;
7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent reported excavations, tunnelling, works, projects, 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 reported

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

5. Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.19** and **47 COM 7A.39**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the protection of the Rachid Karami International Fair through the designation of it as National Heritage;

4. Also welcomes the appointment of a new Board of Directors and the reported actions it has already taken, including initiating an institutional assessment, the foreseen establishment of an Advisory Council, collection and collation of archival material, capacity building activities, progress towards a preliminary land-use plan, integration of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) into management operations, and development of a management plan, and requests the State Party to submit the preliminary land-use plan and the management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before adopting them for implementation;

5. Recommends that Law 274 of 2022 be amended to ensure representation from the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) in the Board to participate in decision-making processes related to conservation, monitoring and maintenance efforts of the property;

6. Also recommends that the Advisory Council that will be established be composed of individuals to include representation from all key stakeholders at the central and local government level, professional and academic organisations, civil society, and heritage organisations at both local and national levels;

7. Urges the State Party to continue developing the delineation of the buffer zone of the property and the urban planning regulations for the cities of El Mina and Tripoli, to ensure that development in the setting of the property is aligned with the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

8. Further welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party to implement emergency stabilisation of the Water Tower, including through applying for support through

International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, and also urges the State Party to implement emergency actions aimed at stabilising the soffit of the Open-Air Theatre and the fascia of the Grand Canopy, and undertake emergency measures to reinstate a functioning rainwater run-off system;

9. Takes note of initiatives aimed at the appropriate reuse of the Dome and Hotel, notes the State Party's continued engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and encourages the State Party to continue to implement the advice provided to it through these processes;

10. Recalls its request to the State Party to provide the exact geographical coordinates of the boundaries of the property, and 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;

11. Reiterates its request to the State Party to review, and augment as needed, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, contained in the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission report, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

12. Calls again for increased mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to implement the short- and medium-term measures aimed at improving the state of conservation of the property, and invites the State Party to submit further proposals for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

14. **Decides to retain Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

6. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.11, 45 COM 7A.33, 46 COM 7A.20** and **47 COM 7A.40**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively;

3. Welcomes the continued conservation and protection efforts undertaken by the State Party at the property, including through ongoing collaboration with university missions, and support by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH), and commends the State Party for maintaining field activity under conditions of significant institutional and financial constraint;

4. Also welcomes the preliminary measures undertaken to address surface water and wastewater management, including the restoration of a Roman aqueduct to channel rainwater away from the Sanctuary of Apollo, and the extension of drainage pipework,

and encourages the State Party to build on this progress by consolidating these measures into a comprehensive integrated water and drainage management plan, in consultation with the municipal authorities of Shahat, and to submit this plan with all related studies to the World Heritage Centre for review;

5. Also encourages the State Party to establish, in collaboration with the international missions operating at the property, and with the support of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a coordinated conservation monitoring framework that systematically documents the methods and outcomes of individual interventions, with a view to identifying shared best practices, which can serve as the foundation of evidence for the development of a comprehensive conservation strategy for the property;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue the development of a conservation strategy reflecting the priority areas that have been identified by the UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission of November 2023, including:

   a) Urgent assessment and stabilisation studies for exposed or weakened foundations and structures,

   b) A comprehensive study addressing the stability and stabilisation of the rock escarpment in the lower north-west area of the property,

   c) Geotechnical and soil studies to address soil erosion,

   d) Disaster risk management with an early warning system;

7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property as a priority, and invites it to submit an International Assistance request under the World Heritage Fund to support this process;

8. Further requests the State Party to continue 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. Requests furthermore the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to initiate without further delay the process to develop a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

10. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

11. Recalls the need to keep the Committee informed through the World Heritage Centre on the evolution of the situation, and on any ongoing or 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, including, where relevant, the appropriate impact assessments;

12. Requests moreover that the invited Reactive Monitoring mission to the property take place as soon as conditions permit;

13. Continues to call for an increased mobilisation of the international community to support urgent and medium-term safeguarding measures at the property;

14. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya, as per 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 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the

implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

16. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

7. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.106, 41 COM 7A.38** and **47 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's concerted efforts to improve the state of conservation and maintenance of the property, including through partnerships with international academic institutions, and the establishment of a task force to develop a more precise delineation of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
4. Continues to encourage the State Party to implement the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible, and seek the necessary funds as needed, including through the submission of a request for International Assistance to address pressing conservation and management issues;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal, as procedurally outlined in paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Committee before endorsing such boundaries in national frameworks;
6. Also reiterates its request that the State Party provide further detailed information about the highway project, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in line with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines; and requests that no decisions on the alignment or construction of the highway are taken until the detailed boundaries of the property and its buffer zone have been adopted by the Committee and the highway proposal has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, as soon as possible;
7. Further reiterates its requests to the State Party to urgently develop, and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS:
    a) An overall risk assessment of tidal flooding, sea and sand encroachment on the property, with the elaboration of related mitigation measures,
    b) A comprehensive Conservation Action Plan for the property,
    c) A Management Plan for the property;
8. Continues to reiterate its concern about the alarming state of conservation of the Hunting Baths and also requests the State Party to submit details of the proposed earthen embankment, and the conservation strategy, plan and proposed interventions for the

Hunting Baths, with urgent conservation measures aiming to preserve and protect the monument, to the World Heritage Centre for review, before their implementation;

9. Continues to strongly urge the State Party to finalise the process of developing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;

10. Reiterates furthermore its requests to the State Party to keep the Committee informed, through the World Heritage Centre, on the evolution of the property and its setting, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review, detailed information on all plans and ongoing works that may impact the OUV of the property, including HIAs, before making decisions that may be difficult to reverse;

11. Strongly urges the State Party to engage with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in matters arising from the need to improve the state of conservation, protection and management of the property, and achieve the DSOCR;

12. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party for capacity building and the conservation of the property;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

14. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

8. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.42,** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Commends the State Party for the implementation of urgent conservation actions at the property, including through partnerships with external organisations, and encourages again the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and safeguarding its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and to seek the necessary funds as needed;

4. Welcomes the submission of a draft retrospective Statement of OUV for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

5. Urges again the State Party 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 ICOMOS;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit its proposal for the delineation of a buffer zone for the property through a minor boundary modification proposal, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Continues to encourage the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites again the State Party to seek the necessary technical and financial support and allocate the resources required for its implementation, including, where appropriate, targeted capacity-building for site staff;

8. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, particularly with regard to safeguarding vulnerable remains that are at risk, and the development of a comprehensive conservation plan, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. 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, of any ongoing and future plans for major restorations or new construction projects that may impact the OUV of the property, whether located within the property or in its setting, before any irreversible decisions are taken, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and recalls the need to assess such projects though appropriate Impact Assessments, in conformity with Paragraphs 112 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and informed by the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

10. Notes the reported continued limitations of financial and technical resources which hamper conservation actions, encourages again the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to address the pressing conservation and management issues that the property is currently facing, and continues to call for an increased mobilization by the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

12. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

9. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.44**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Regrets that the State Party has not been submitting any report on the state of conservation of the property since February 2021, in spite of the requests by the Committee at all its sessions, also regrets that the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) specifically requested for examination at the 48th session has not been submitted, and continues to express its concern about the continued and protracted absence of relevant updated information, noting that no state of conservation report has been received since February 2021;

4. Urges again the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its 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 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and encourages it to take place as soon as conditions permit;

8. Further urges the State Party to initiate, without further delay, the process to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, ideally in a coordinated manner, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

9. Continues to call for an increased mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

10. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya, as per 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;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

12. **Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

10. Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.28**, **43 COM 7A.29**, **44 COM 7A.16**, **45 COM 7A.38** and **46 COM 7A.25** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2026) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account the below annex, decides that the status of **Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town** relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decision **41 COM 8B.1** of the World Heritage Committee.

ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee

48th session of the Committee (48 COM)

1. Having considered Document WHC/25/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev,
2. Taking note of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the related corrective measures provided with the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party,
3. Also takes note of the approved request for International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund for the update of the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for the property and encourages the State Party to proceed with its update and finalization on the basis of the adopted statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), while streamlining the process with the DSOCR review and finalization, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Commends the State Party for the actions which are being taken at the property including conservation and maintenance work, as well as for initiatives with the local community, and activities for children, awareness-raising and training;
5. Deplores the ongoing Israeli activities reported inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, including the installation of an electric elevator at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, the construction of settlements, archaeological excavations, demolition of commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market and Hosh Al-Shareef and Qafisheh, as well as destruction of the arched and domed entrances at the historic bus station, access restrictions and withdrawal of all planning and construction powers from the Palestinian Local Planning and Building Committee affiliated with the Hebron Municipality, all of 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 requests Israel, the occupying power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
6. Expresses its deep concern about reported planned interventions at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, particularly the installation of a covering for the open courtyard, that could be carried out by Israel, the Occupying Power, without the consent of the State Party. In line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, such major interventions, potentially affecting the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property, should be submitted in advance to the World Heritage Centre by the concerned State Party, with the required documentation, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs). Reiterates its request to refrain from any intervention, and that the previously requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be dispatched, as soon as conditions allow, to assess the state of conservation and provide technical advice on the proposed works and necessary conservation measures, ensuring full preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
7. 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 the property and its heritage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Further requests that all parties refrain from any action that would cause damage to the attributes of the property conveying its OUV, 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;

9. Also decides to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property, and asks that the Committee be informed of any information relevant for the conservation of the OUV of the property through reports submitted every three months until the 49th session of the Committee;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

11. **Further decides to retain Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

11. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.46**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2026),

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), in collaboration with its partners;

4. 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, and the endorsement of the land-use plan and related bylaws, to avoid uncontrolled urban growth within the property and its buffer zone;

5. Also encourages the continued implementation of actions that would contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the property, including activities implemented in the framework of the project to "Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape of Battir", which aims to promote agro-cultural tourism as a driver for economic and social development, while safeguarding and promoting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Takes note of the State Party's commitment to transmit to the World Heritage Centre documentation for the visitor and interpretation centres once available, and further encourages the State Party to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment for the project based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to continue to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Regrets the continued reports of violations negatively impacting the property, continues to express deep concern regarding the condition of the property and the reported information about illegal constructions, settlements and other developments, as well as

restrictions on farmers and damages to agricultural areas within the property and its buffer zone, and requests all parties to avoid any action that would cause damage to the property;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

9. **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.**

12. Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer (State of Palestine)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Notes that the property has not been directly impacted by the conflict, but nevertheless, continues to express deep concern about the prevailing threats facing the property, notably in relation to environmental exposure, biological deterioration, and the prolonged interruption of regular maintenance activities, which are now said to be critical;
4. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State party and its partners to strengthen the protection of the property, continue its monitoring and documentation, and carry out preventive actions despite the challenges;
5. Acknowledges the State Party's readiness to organise and facilitate a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as soon as the situation on the ground allows, in order to assess its state of conservation and establish a Desired state of conservation, as well as a programme of corrective measures, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Encourages the UNESCO Secretariat to continue its active monitoring efforts and to develop new partnerships for the preventive conservation and emergency protection of the property, including strengthening measures to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural objects, as well as building local capacity for emergency response where feasible;
7. Reiterates its call on all States Parties to provide urgent financial support for the implementation of UNESCO's Action Plan for Gaza, including for the protection and conservation of the property, through voluntary contributions;
8. Also reiterates its call upon the Israeli authorities to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the site, including preventing any damage, degradation or alteration;
9. Reiterates its request for refraining from any action that may harm or adversely impact the integrity and authenticity of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

11. **Decides to retain Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

13. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Welcomes the development by the State Party of a national disaster risk reduction plan for Syrian World Heritage properties, and its intention to elaborate a site-specific Risk Management Plan as an essential tool for strengthening the preservation of the property;
4. Notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in October 2025, and requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations, and afford priority to urgent measures;
5. Also welcomes the 2025 Mission findings that conservation and restoration interventions generally demonstrate high-quality physical conservation, including at key monuments, and constitute an important foundation for the recovery of the property, with many interventions reflecting appropriate technical standards and commitment to preserving the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), however notes that gaps remain in systematic documentation, including methodological consistency, and determining whether full reconstruction of all damaged elements is consistent with conservation of attributes that convey the OUV of the property and retention of its authenticity, and that some monuments in the property remain at risk, requiring emergency stabilization;
6. Commends the State Party for the significant efforts undertaken to initiate the recovery of the property, despite limited human and financial resources, nevertheless, considers that the transition from fragmented, ad hoc interventions to a coherent and sustainable reconstruction process remains a critical challenge;
7. Requests the State Party to afford priority to the following priority recommendations:
    a) Urgently implement emergency measures at monuments at imminent risk of collapse, including documentation of the current condition, urgent structural assessments, and immediate stabilization measures and propping of fragile structures,
    b) Systematically secure and document original architectural elements recovered from debris,
    c) Develop a documentation system to ensure that conservation, restoration and rehabilitation projects adhere to systematic documentation requirements throughout all phases of works, and establish a centralized and accessible digital database of archives and documentation of heritage assets and conservation interventions to serve both, conservation management and urban planning purposes,
    d) Establish a clear methodological policy and decision-making process for reconstruction of damaged features which relates the proposed works to conservation of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, so as to retain its authenticity,

e) Accelerate the finalization of the Recovery Master Plan, initiated by the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums, as a key strategic planning instrument for the property's recovery, integrating the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, and to submit a draft version of the Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to its approval and implementation,

f) Develop and implement a Management Plan to strengthen governance frameworks in the recovery process and ensure compliance with the Recovery Master Plan objectives,

g) Establish an appropriate buffer zone for the property of sufficient extent to provide an additional layer of protection for the property and to mitigate adverse visual impacts arising from pressures of urban development in this post-conflict context, and submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit information on major projects, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 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, before irreversible decisions are made;

9. Calls for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to implement the short- and medium-term measures, aimed at improving the state of conservation of the property and the cultural and socio-economic livelihoods for local communities;

10. Encourages the State Party to review, and augment as needed, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with the related corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation, contained in the 2025 Mission report, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

11. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

14. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.49**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Expresses its concern about the situation at the property, the lack of detailed information on damages resulting from illegal activities, including illicit excavations, as well as the lack of progress in undertaking essential fieldwork in part due to the prevailing security constraints and human resource limitations;

4. Recognising the State Party's efforts in halting violations at the site and establishing a strategic framework for disaster risk reduction, urges the State Party to document the damage and implement emergency measures at the property as soon as the situation allows;

5. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties and actors 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. 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) Substantive external threats arising from the conflict that started in 2011 have been removed, through lasting cessation of hostilities,

      ii) The property's protection and management system has been reinstated,

      iii) Emergency measures have been completed to stabilise all attributes damaged, and to address the impacts due to illicit activities during the period of armed conflict and absence of control at the property,

      iv) Conservation, management and development are based on appropriate agreed-to conservation, management and master plans, including for remedial restoration of attributes and the reconstruction of the Nymphaeum (al-Kalybe monument), through the development and approval of a conservation plan that clearly outlines the intervention methodology;

   b) Corrective measures:

      - Implemented since 2013:

      i) Cooperation with the local communities has been strengthened for an enhanced protection and the access of heritage professionals to the site during the conflict,

      ii) Damage assessment and documentation carried out at the site,

      iii) Inventory of illicit excavations initiated,

      iv) Emergency measures implemented at the Nymphaeum and the Theatre/Citadel and initiated at a number of other attributes at risk,

      v) A buffer zone is in place to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and challenges in the buffer zone are addressed through the development of a sound technical building code,

      vi) A building code has been developed for the buffer zone of the property,

      vii) A full inventory of artefacts looted from museums has been established and 1058 of 1800 looted artefacts recovered,

      viii) Recovery of the city of Bosra is initiated for the return of inhabitants,

      - Not yet implemented:

      ix) Reestablish a fully functional and staffed management team at the property, with appropriate expertise,

      x) Reinstate and enhance national capacities for conservation, maintenance, and management through new partnerships and fundraising,

xi) Complete the Recovery Master Plan and Conservation Management Plan, submit them for review, and adapt as per advice contained in ICOMOS technical review,

xii) Incorporate in the Conservation Management and Recovery Master plans the specific policies and guiding principles relating to the recovery of residential buildings in the property and its buffer zone,

xiii) Complete the inventory of illicit excavations, and carry out emergency structural stabilisation/fencing of all illegal excavations presenting threats or risks through an agreed upon methodology contained in the plan to redress illegal excavations,

xiv) Inventorise and evaluate all illicit constructions dating to the period of conflict,

xv) Incorporate a strategy to redress illicit constructions that have a negative impact on the OUV, into the Recovery Master Plan,

xvi) Establish full curation of museum collections, including preventive conservation measures to address priority risks,

xvii) Finalise and implement a designed project for the reconstruction of the Nymphaeum, following an agreed approach, methodology and plan, which has been assessed through a Heritage Impact Assessment;

c) Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures by the end of 2030;

7. Calls upon the international community to support the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;

8. Taking note of the invitation by the State Party of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to take place in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR, requests that this mission be organized as soon as the situation allows;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an interim report and, by **1 February 2028**, an updated report, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session;

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

15. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.50**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the State Party's reported progress in implementing digital documentation surveys; planning the restoration of key monuments for cultural use and urban revitalization, including the Citadel; establishing an initiative connecting the property with the broader rural areas; and developing a strategic framework for disaster risk reduction, all of which underline strengthened international cooperation and a commitment to leveraging heritage as a driver of sustainable development;

4. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on any major restoration or development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Noting that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in October 2025, acknowledges with satisfaction the mission's observations that the property's urban fabric has retained its urban coherence, visual integrity, and living character, which is reflected in the growing resident population, the revival of economic and cultural activities, and the continued practice of intangible heritage;

6. Acknowledging the strong expertise and commitment of the institutions responsible for heritage preservation, commends their continued efforts in progressing towards the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and in particular:

   a) The effective restoration of key attributes damaged during the conflict, including the Great Mosque, the Citadel, the northeastern section of the city walls, and the Ottoman Bank building, all of which retain a high degree of integrity and authenticity,

   b) Implementation of risk mitigation measures to address fire hazards, unsafe electrical systems, and deficiencies in the sewage infrastructure, with large-scale works undertaken in priority areas,

   c) Progress in reestablishing the protection and management system, including the integration of digital tools, participatory approaches, and institutional strengthening,

   d) The strategic vision to sustain the property as a living, inhabited historic urban area, integrating heritage preservation with social, economic, and urban development objectives;

7. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts, take into full consideration the conclusions of the Reactive Monitoring mission report, and implement its recommendations;

8. Requests the State Party to prioritize the development of the new Master Plan as a key corrective measure towards achieving the DSOCR. The Plan should provide the vision of the future of the property, as well as an overview of the proposed approaches and methodology, together with an indicative development timeframe, notably with regard to:

   a) An analysis of the property's context, including the impacts of the conflict,

   b) An analysis of the property's urban fabric, including key attributes, the urban landscape, socio-economic dynamics and development opportunities,

   c) A review of the legal framework and governance structure, including the preparation of a conservation plan, a management plan, a sustainable tourism plan, and a disaster risk management plan,

   d) An outline of activities that foster sustainable development within the property and its buffer zone, encompassing its social, cultural, and environmental dimensions,

   e) A strategy to encourage participation in the rehabilitation of historic buildings, which may include a programme of incentives for private owners and/or the promotion of public–private partnerships,

   f) An outline of projects, including emergency interventions, restoration works, and improvement of public space and infrastructure;

9. Also requests the State Party to afford priority to the proposed disaster risk management plan;

10. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

16. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.51**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Reiterates its concern about the damage reported at components of the property and its resulting state of conservation;

4. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party in undertaking a condition assessment at most sites of the property, and identifying priority actions to prevent further damage and loss – including the removal of explosive hazards and construction violations, stabilization of structures, and 3D-documentation, as well as establishing cooperation to enable assessment of the remaining sites;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the information concerning the project for the archaeological park of Jebel Zawiyeh, and the engagement of local communities in the recovery and sustainable management of the property, and encourages the State Party to expand the scope of the project to other archaeological parks as feasible;

6. Noting the measures taken to address illegal construction at the site of al-Bara, including the establishment of a regional committee and the enforcement of the legal framework through the removal of incomplete concrete structures, requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about:

   a) Progress in implementing measures related to illegal construction and building regulations, as well as the community engagement activities,

   b) The evaluation and analysis of each of the current illegal constructions in al-Bara, including those on private lands, and their potential impact on attributes which support the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, which would inform related decisions,

   c) The identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures;

7. Also reiterates its previous call upon the international community to support efforts aimed at the conservation of the property, and further reiterates its appeal to all States Parties 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. Reiterates furthermore its previous request that the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in

Danger (DSOCR), building on the recent condition assessments and prioritization framework, with a set of corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation;

9. Taking note of the invitation by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for a Reactive Monitoring mission to take place in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and support the development of the DSOCR and associated corrective measures, also requests that this mission be organized as soon as the security situation allows;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

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

Decision: 48 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.52**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the development by the State Party of a national disaster risk reduction plan for Syrian World Heritage properties, and its intention to elaborate a site-specific risk management plan as an essential tool for strengthening the preservation of the property;

4. Noting that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in October 2025, requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations affording immediate priority to urgent measures;

5. Commends the State Party for the significant progress achieved at Crac des Chevaliers, where the corrective measures have been implemented through high-quality conservation interventions, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

6. Regrets that, at Qal'at Salah El-Din, conservation interventions have been limited to urgent risk mitigation measures and remain insufficient in scope and methodology to ensure the long-term conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that the DSOCR for this component has not been achieved, and further requests the State Party to:

   a) Ensure that the planned interventions under the financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund are implemented in accordance with best practice conservation methodologies, including photogrammetry, condition mapping, architectural documentation, and systematic monitoring;

   b) Update the 2020 condition assessment to support the development of a medium- to long-term conservation strategy,

c) Establish strong technical and institutional partnerships to support the initiation of a phased multidisciplinary documentation programme as a prerequisite for any intervention, including the development of management plan and master plan;

7. Acknowledging that the comprehensive baseline study at Crac des Chevaliers, supported by the International Assistance through the World Heritage Fund in 2019, provides a solid foundation for planning, also requests the State Party to develop a comprehensive master plan to guide the rehabilitation, use, and management of the property in medium- and long-term;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to develop a comprehensive landscape planning framework for the buffer zone, supported by detailed studies addressing spatial, visual, environmental, legal, and social aspects, in order to coordinate all mitigation measures within the buffer zone, and recalls that any proposed modification to the boundaries of the property or its buffer zone should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as a Minor Boundary Modification request, in conformity with the Operational Guidelines;

9. Encourages the State Party to actively engage local communities in identifying context- and site-related livelihood opportunities and requests moreover the State Party to develop and implement a sustainable tourism strategy that promotes sustainable economic benefits for local communities, building on the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit;

10. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

18. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.53**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Commending the collaborative efforts carried out by the governmental authorities, international organizations, and the local community in protecting the property and restoring its facilities, as well as the State Party's efforts for the establishment of a strategic framework for disaster risk reduction, acknowledges that these measures constitute notable progress towards enabling the property's recovery;

4. Noting that a project for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Palmyra National Museum is being developed, reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information regarding this initiative, as well as any other major project that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for review, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Noting with concern the results of the damage assessment at the necropolises and the scale of the illicit excavations that have occurred, reiterates its appeal to all States Parties

and actors 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. Welcomes the submission of the Recovery and Reuse Master Plan for the property, which represents a significant step forward in the planning of long-term recovery activities that will ultimately lead to the achievement of the DSOCR; and encourages the State Party to further strengthen and support the Master Plan, through the following:

   a) The development of an Action Plan or Road Map that defines the timeframe for implementation in the short, medium and long term, and identifies responsibilities and priorities for action, including emergency measures, and management structures that will underpin delivery and strengthen coordination among relevant stakeholders,

   b) Coordination measures between the delivery structures for the Master Plan and the management system for the property and its buffer zone,

   c) The elaboration of a Conservation Plan that presents a holistic vision for conservation and risk management actions at the property, and defines methodologies for documentation, assessment, conservation, restoration and reconstruction that over-arch recovery work;

7. Taking note of the invitation by the State Party that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR, requests that this mission is organized as soon as the situation allows;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an interim report and, by **1 February 2028**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session;

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

19. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.54** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Reiterates its concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be threatened by the ongoing conflict, the fragile state of many historic structures, heavy rainfall, and socioeconomic conditions;

4. Acknowledges the ongoing efforts in documentation, damage assessment, and building conservation at the property, and reiterates its previous requests that they continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, in line with the Operational Guidelines;

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, prior to any irreversible decisions being taken, and

also reiterates its previous requests to submit details about projects undertaken or envisaged at the Old Souk, the northern section of the city's citadel, parts of the Alexandria Minaret, and Zabid Castle, together with heritage impact assessments, where applicable;

6. Welcomes the information concerning the preparation of proposals for a boundary clarification and minor boundary modification to be submitted in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests that this occurs in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;

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 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;

8. Also acknowledges the need for the requested Reactive Monitoring mission 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 the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

20. Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **18 EXT.COM 5.3**, **46COM 7A.34**, and **47COM 7A.55** adopted at its 18th extraordinary (UNESCO, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the State Party in its recent efforts to preserve and monitor the property despite the challenging context;

4. Expresses concern regarding the lack of detailed and comprehensive information about the state of conservation of the property, and encourages the State Party to submit, when the situation allows, detailed documentation on the current condition of the property, including all damage incurred; such documentation should comprise systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics and quantitative data, as well as an assessment of risks to the property;

5. Reiterates its requests to 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-Sabaean 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 Sabaean 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;

6. Reiterates its recommendation that the State Party only undertake protection and urgent stabilisation work 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 or resulting from conflict-related damage such as intentional destruction should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, and that the boundaries of the property should be protected from illicit excavations and looting;

8. Reiterates its request that the invited Reactive Monitoring mission take place once conditions allow, in order to report on the overall state of conservation of the property, assess the protection of the property and its buffer zone, consider the effectiveness of the property's boundaries, and advise on the development of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and related corrective measures;

9. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilisation of the international community to support capacity building initiatives and technical assistance for emergency safeguarding measures;

10. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties and actors 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 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

12. **Decides to retain Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

21. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.56** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Reiterates its concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of damage from conflict, security challenges, the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, the effects of extreme rainfall, and continuing limited resources, but acknowledges the continuing efforts to undertake emergency conservation work, and secure funding;
4. Welcomes the commitment to refer major projects to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, together with Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and requests that irreversible actions should not occur until the technical advice of the Advisory Bodies has been received and implemented;
5. Also reiterates its previous request that the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review of the rehabilitation project for Halaqa Market and adjacent souks be fully implemented, including preparation of a HIA following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
6. Notes that modifications to the boundary of the property will not be considered at this time, and also welcomes confirmation that boundary modification proposals will be elaborated in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, and submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Further reiterates its previous request that high priority be afforded to the proposed review of the protection system for the property, and that the State Party submit the findings of this review to the World Heritage Centre;
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 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
9. Acknowledges the need for a Reactive Monitoring mission 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 the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the security situation allows;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;
11. **Decides to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

22. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.57** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Reiterates its concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable owing to the current conflict, climate change, development pressures, and lack of awareness about the World Heritage status of the property;
4. Notes that the Conservation Plan for the property has not been updated but that a local-level Conservation Plan is to be prepared, and requests the State Party to submit the draft local-level conservation plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is adopted and implemented;
5. Commends again the efforts undertaken and progress made with conservation of historic buildings at the property, including through the European Union-funded 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' project and the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH) funded project 'Preserving the Unique Earthen Architecture of Shibam', and supports the implementation of such initiatives in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
    a) Submit further available information on the 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018-2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam' to the World Heritage Centre,
    b) Submit full details of the works undertaken at the Governmental Complex buildings to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
    c) 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,
    d) Elaborate proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit full details of the proposed asphalt road and associated paving works, including a Heritage Impact Assessment prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review prior to commencement of works or any irreversible decisions;
8. Continues urging 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 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;

9. Acknowledges with appreciation the support provided by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the reconstruction of historic houses at the property, and reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, for the implementation of the conservation actions, including for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;

10. Further reiterates its previous request that the State Party initiate remote elaboration of the 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 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 a future session of the Committee;

11. Further reiterates the need for a Reactive Monitoring mission 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 DSOCR, and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the security situation allows;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

13. **Decides to retain Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

23. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **31 COM 7A.21**, **43 COM 7A.41**, **44 COM 7A.28**, **45 COM 7A.51**, **46 COM 7A.37**, and **47 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the continued implementation of operational activities at the Bamiyan Buddha cliffs and the two Niches, as well as at Shahr-i Ghulghulah, Kakrak and Shahr-i Zuhak, aimed at achieving the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

4. Expresses its appreciation for the financial support provided through 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 UNESCO/Italy 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 Ghulghulah, the World Heritage site in Bamiyan”, enabling emergency works at both Buddha Niches and at Shahr-i Zuhak, Shahr-i Ghulghulah, and Kakrak, as well as regular monitoring of all components

of the property, and requests UNESCO to continue monitoring the state of conservation of the property;

5. Requests that the next state of conservation report be structured around the corrective measures adopted by Decision **31 COM 7A.21**, including:

   a) The submission of the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,

   b) The revision of the Action Plan for achieving the DSOCR, in line with the guidance provided by the World Heritage Centre in February 2021 and the ICOMOS Technical Review, notably to maintain recognition of the property as a cultural landscape,

   c) Information on the status and implementation of the 2021 Strategic Master Plan as well as the Cultural Master Plan and other relevant planning instruments referred to in previous Committee decisions,

   d) Detailed information on all conservation, restoration and documentation activities carried out at the property, including excavations at Shahr-i Ghulghulah and Shahr-i Zuhak, to allow a comprehensive assessment of progress towards the DSOCR;

6. Noting that urban management remains a major challenge due to housing and infrastructure development within the property boundaries, recommends that the implementation of the Strategic Master Plan and the Cultural Master Plan include provisions for cultural landscape protection, community engagement, revision of buffer zones, and a clear land-use scheme aligned with national legislation, the ICOMOS Technical Review and previous Committee decisions;

7. Stresses the need for all stakeholders to prevent and mitigate any negative impacts of development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests updated information on the status and any revisions of previously reviewed projects, including the Dasht-e Isa Khan–Ghulghulah Bazaar road, the road construction near Tepe Almas and the Bamiyan Energy Supply project, should they be pursued;

8. Requests that the design for the Shashpul Zohak Access Road be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any implementation;

9. Noting the great archaeological sensitivity of the area near the Western Buddha niche and the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, requests that the possible reinstatement of the Old Bazaar, destroyed in the 1990s, be addressed through a comprehensive technical proposal that assesses the project's feasibility and considers re-establishing the bazaar function at an alternative location;

10. Reiterates the need to comply fully with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests that no decisions that would be difficult to reverse be taken before the submission of detailed planning documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the subsequent approval by the Committee;

11. Welcomes the resumption of the Bamiyan Expert Working Group (Japan, September 2025), and encourages its regular convening with the participation of the UNESCO Office in Kabul, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and, where feasible, of Afghan academics to facilitate exchange of approaches and ensure knowledge transfer to Afghan experts;

12. Reiterates its request for an updated report on the conservation status of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre;

13. Reiterates the importance of safeguarding Afghanistan's cultural heritage in line with international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations and UNESCO instruments, and expresses its solidarity with the Afghan people in safeguarding their heritage and cultural rights;

14. Finally requests that, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

24. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.42**, **44 COM 7A.29**, **45 COM 7A.52**, **46 COM 7A.38** and **47 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note with appreciation of the continuation of operational activities at the property and its surroundings, contributing to the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted by Decision **31 COM 7A.20** and to the implementation of its previous Decisions, notably the deployment of on-site security personnel, remote monitoring of the Minaret, flood protection activities including the construction of durable gabions, and the installation of the suspension bridge serving local community needs;
4. Commends UNESCO for its continued engagement in carrying out field operations through its Office in Kabul, that enable monitoring and the implementation of essential activities at the property, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and encourages its continued involvement;
5. Encourages that international cooperation for the property prioritize actions that contribute to implementing the corrective measures, in line with the updated Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and the corrective measures and DSOCR adopted in 2007, while also providing, to the extent possible, benefits to local communities;
6. Requests that, in line with the UNSFA, ongoing and future actions, as well as the next state of conservation report, be structured around the corrective measures adopted in Decision **31 COM 7A.20**, and in particular include information on:
    a) Capacity building for relevant stakeholders for conservation and management, including disaster risk management,
    b) Progress with the preparation of a request for a minor boundary modification of the property,
    c) Progress with the consolidation and conservation of the Minaret of Jam and the archaeological remains, including:
        i) Documentation and recording,
        ii) Soil investigations in the vicinity of the monument,
        iii) Regular and systematic monitoring of the Minaret's inclination,
        iv) A complete inventory of its decoration and a reference system for all eight sides of the Minaret's base,

v) Continued monitoring and emergency restoration of the Minaret's surface decoration, and

vi) Development of a data management strategy ensuring that existing data collections remain accessible and reusable over time, as a precondition for evidence-based conservation management,

d) Security measures, including strict control of illicit excavations and enforcement of the 2004 Preservation Law for Cultural and Historical Monuments,

e) Development and implementation of an effective management system, including appropriate training for staff responsible for the property;

7. Reiterates that recurrent seasonal flooding continues to pose a serious threat to the property that is exacerbated by climate change, and also reiterates the urgent need for a thorough hydraulic study and a long-term prevention strategy, supported by continued monitoring of the Minaret's inclination, to strengthen site management and guide effective preventive action;

8. Stresses the need for a conservation strategy informed by comprehensive data from the Minaret's inclination monitoring system, together with observations on the environmental and hydraulic conditions affecting the property, and requests that this information be used to guide the overall management framework for the property;

9. Reiterates the importance of safeguarding Afghanistan's cultural heritage in accordance with international humanitarian law and relevant international instruments relating to the protection of cultural property, expresses its solidarity with the Afghan people, and calls upon the international community to continue providing assistance and support for safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage and cultural rights;

10. Requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, 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 49th session;

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

25. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of))

Decision: 48 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.19** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes progress with some of the actions required to manage the property, protect its Outstanding Universal Value, and address the agreed corrective measures to achieve the Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including further removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation, reopening of key canal routes, and efforts to secure sustainable funding for the appointment of a dedicated Site/Property Manager;

4. Also welcomes the review of the Pohnpei State Code, related consultation and drafting of a new bill, including provisions to enhance protection, clarify management

responsibilities, and incorporate legally defined buffer zones, and encourages the State Party to expedite this statutory reform arising from the review;

5. Acknowledging that the Site Management Plan will not be adopted by the Pohnpei State Government, takes note of the intention to prepare a new site management plan which is better aligned with Pohnpeian cultural practices and living traditions, and urges the State Party to afford urgent priority and adequate resources to the process and requests the State Party to submit the draft new site management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to finalisation and adoption;

6. Further welcomes the expected adoption of the Sustainable Tourism Plan for the property and also requests the State Party to advise the World Heritage Centre when this has occurred;

7. Also takes note that construction activity for the tourism resort on Nahnhingi Island, within the buffer zone of the property, has ceased, and further requests the State Party to submit the Heritage Impact Assessment which has been prepared for this project to the World Heritage Centre for review and evaluation in relation to issues raised in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review, before any decision is made regarding resumption of work;

8. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to afford priority to the opening, resourcing and operation of the recently completed Visitor Centre;

9. Further takes note of the progress made in initiating the corrective measures adopted by Decision **47 COM 7A.19**, and encourages the State Party to establish an appropriately resourced implementation programme, and to use the DSOCR framework table to monitor progress and report to the World Heritage Centre on the status of each corrective measure;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

11. **Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.20** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the progress being made on developing a dossier for a Significant Boundary Modification (SBM) based on proposals to reduce the property as a selection of monuments under the working title of the ‘Ak Sarai and the Timurid Monuments of Shakhrisyabz’ for submission by 1 February 2029;

4. Notes the commitment of the State Party to undertake systematic data collection and updating of cultural heritage inventories, archaeological surveys, and scientific research within the property and its protection zones during the next three-year period, as requested by the Committee;

5. Also welcomes the intention of the State Party to continue close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, on processes relating to the elaboration and integration of various management tools, including a Management Plan aimed at strengthening the involvement of local communities, a new Master Plan, the revision of the 2022 Restoration Plan, and the Heritage Code, and requests the State Party to report on progress with these matters in its next state of conservation report;

6. Further welcomes the State Party's actions to improve control of underground water levels and humidity at the key monuments, as well as its decision not to implement silicone treatment on the walls of the Ak-Sarai complex to combat water ingress, and reiterates its request for consideration of a city-wide approach to water ingress mitigation which impacts all monuments and highlights the urgent need for further research and consultation with international experts on this issue, and for the results to be shared with ICOMOS before any firm projects are developed;

7. Also notes the work undertaken in 2025 at Ak Serai and the work planned for the period 2025–2027 at Ak Serai, Kok Gumbaz, and the city walls and, given the complex conservation challenges at Ak-Sarai, also requests the State Party to submit an overall restoration approach for review by ICOMOS before further work on the monument or its setting is undertaken;

8. Urges the State Party to ensure that all conservation work is guided by the Restoration Plan and that the Plan originally adopted in 2022 is revised as soon as possible so that it can provide overarching guidance for this work;

9. Also urges the State Party to ensure that for all conservation works, the methodologies adopted, the restoration methods, materials used, and related documentation and processes will be duly included in the dossier for the SBM;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

27. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.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**, **45 COM 7A.55**, **46 COM 7A.1** and **47 COM 7A.21** 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), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th (Paris, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Further recalling that the World Heritage Committee by its Decision **41 COM 7B.42** inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger for two reasons, namely

the specific threats posed by (then) current planning controls to the OUV of the property and the inadequate extent of change proposed for the Vienna Ice Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project, which were the basis of the Desired State of Conservation for Removal (DSOCR) adopted by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 7A.32**,

4. Warmly welcomes the sustained and exemplary efforts of the State Party and the City of Vienna to address the reasons for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2017, and commends the State Party on the significant progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures required to achieve the DSOCR;

5. Recalls the welcome and positive approach which prevailed of joint efforts towards a consensus ensuring the protection of the OUV of the property and further recalls that, as per Committee Decisions, any further project for high-rise projects has been halted, the moratorium has been respected, and three Heritage Impact Assessments (2019, 2021, 2023) have been conducted in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for World Heritage Properties on revised versions for the Vienna Ice Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project, submitted by the State Party and the city of Vienna and reviewed by ICOMOS;

6. Expresses its full satisfaction of the State Party's confirmation of the following planning control measures as implemented:

   a) The formal adoption of STEP 2035, reaffirming the City of Vienna's commitment to the protection, preservation and management of the World Heritage property, and the formal adoption by the Vienna City Council of the decision "Protection and Development of the Historic Centre of Vienna" in 2017 that no new high-rise locations, no additional high-rises as well as no further storeys adding to the height of existing high-rise buildings in the Inner City of Vienna will be planned and decreed,

   b) The operationalization of the amendments to the Federal Monuments Protection Act, placing World Heritage obligations on a firm statutory footing at the national level,

   c) The amendment of the Viennese Building Code to embed World Heritage status as a binding legal consideration in the primary planning instrument of the City of Vienna,

   d) The adoption and implementation of the revised and updated Management Plan, incorporating identification, description and mapping of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property, a monitoring and evaluation programme, and bidding provisions for Heritage Impact Assessment of proposed developments,

   e) The extension and full application of the roof cadastre across the property, providing comprehensive protection for this defining attribute of the historic skyline and implemented through the Management Plan,

   f) The establishment of the World Heritage Office and the appointment of a dedicated World Heritage expert to the Advisory Board for Urban Planning, Urban Design and World Heritage, ensuring permanent institutional integration of heritage expertise into urban governance;

7. Further recalls the submission of three revised designs for the Heumarkt Neu project and commends the efforts of the State Party and the City of Vienna as well as all the stakeholders involved to adequately address the extent of change of the Vienna Ice Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project;

8. Notes that in its Decision **45 COM 7A.55** paragraph 8, the World Heritage Committee acknowledged that redevelopment in the Heumarkt Neu site is possible and that a reduction of the project will allow its compatibility with the OUV of property; and further

notes that the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission stated that "ICOMOS therefore strongly urges the relevant State Party's authorities to facilitate major revision to the project proposal so as to reduce the height, as recommended by the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission";

9. Acknowledges that the height reduction requested by the Committee Decisions has been addressed by the State Party with three major revisions assessed by robust HIA with the last one, the 2023 revised version of the project, significantly reducing the height and further acknowledges that the revised project, with its reduced height, will be only 5.95 meters higher than the existing building at its highest point;

10. Considers that the 2023 version of the Vienna Ice Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project addressed the 2015 Reactive Monitoring report recommendations to facilitate major revisions to significantly reduce the height;

11. Also recalls the rationale of Decision **41 COM 7B. 42** which addressed a three-components project, the Vienna Ice Skating Club, the Intercontinental Hotel and the Vienna Konzerthaus, and concludes that the assessment of the mitigation of threats of the Heumarkt Neu project must be done on the same baseline also noted in the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the Historic Centre of Vienna from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

12. Recalls that in its Decision **43 COM 7A.45** paragraph 3.6, the Committee requested the State Party to support and pursue a comprehensive process for continued monitoring and evaluation that is focused on retention of the OUV while sustaining the economic growth of the City of Vienna; and considers that:

    a) The mitigation measures included in the 2023 new project for the Intercontinental Hotel,

    b) The planned complementary measures for the preservation and contractual safeguarding of the 155-year old Vienna Ice Skating Club until 2125 and the improved visibility of the Vienna Konzerthaus, both living heritage and attribute of the OUV of the property, and

    c) The proposed Public Space Strategic Concept,

    witness the successful implementation of the two components of the comprehensive process;

13. Also considers that any further delay in the implementation of the Vienna Ice Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus 2023 project will jeopardize the efforts of the State Party and the City of Vienna to sustain in the long-term the multi-layered intangible and tangible values of the property as well as the sustainable social, environmental and economic growth of the City;

14. Confirms that the conditions for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been met, that the structural planning framework has been fundamentally and durably transformed, that the revised Vienna Ice Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus 2023 ("Heumarkt Neu 2023" 49.95 m) project complies with World Heritage criteria and that the management system in place provides a reliable basis for the sustained protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;

15. **Therefore, decides to remove the property from the List in Danger** and congratulates the State Party for the measures taken for the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions all over the last 8 years;

16. Also encourages the State Party to continue the implementation of all remaining elements of the Management Plan, in particular the ongoing monitoring and evaluation programme towards the demonstration of the Management Plan's efficacy over the five-year review period;

17. Appreciates the submission by the State Party of the documentation on the impact of the new station buildings at Frankplatz and Rathaus on the extension of the Vienna Metro System following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and welcomes its positive result on the OUV of the property;

18. Also appreciates the submission of the documentation concerning the Schwarzenberg Palace and Schwarzenberg Garden renovation, also welcomes the considerable efforts of the State Party to address the Committee decisions, but requests the State Party to submit further comprehensive documentation on the renovation of the Schwarzenberg Palace including detailed architectural drawings, design drawings of the proposed hotel annex and to prioritize the historical character of the Schwarzenberg Garden renovation;

19. Requests the State Party to continue to notify the World Heritage Centre of any planned major development projects in or adjacent to the property in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

20. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2028**, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session in 2028.

28. Roșia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.56, 46 COM 7A.2** and **47 COM 7A.22,** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Noting the ongoing work undertaken by the State Party in relation to the revision of the Management Plan, the development of interpretation strategies and efforts to foster a participatory approach, nevertheless notes with concern delays in the finalisation of the revised Management Plan, which had previously been expected in the first half of 2025, thereby affecting the timely implementation of the corrective measures;

4. Notes also the ongoing legal challenge to the arbitration award issued to the Government of Romania by the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in July 2024, as well as the ongoing legal challenge to the non-renewal of the mining exploitation licence by the National Agency for Mineral Resources (ANRMPSG), and reiterates its concern that these concurrent challenges mean that the threat of mining at the property has yet to be fully removed;

5. Acknowledges that the timeframe for completing the corrective measures under the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, adopted in 2023, is proving difficult to achieve due to these ongoing legal challenges;

6. Notes also with concern that these legal challenges continue to constrain the effectiveness of the protection and management arrangements for the property, in particular that:

    a) The ANRMPSG remains unable to formally approve the cessation of mining activities within the property (Corrective Measure 1) or assume control of the underground mine workings from Roșia Montană Gold Corporation, which would

enable the development of a detailed archaeological research plan, as requested by the Committee,

b) The finalisation of the revised Management Plan (Corrective Measure 4) is dependent on the transfer of control of the underground mine workings,

c) The development and implementation of the General Urban Plan as a key instrument for controlling development and preventing activities that could negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property (Corrective Measure 2), have been delayed and cannot be fully implemented while the legal cases remain unresolved;

7. Further notes the results of ongoing monitoring of water outflows from galleries and requests the State Party, in relation to Corrective Measures 5 and 6, to undertake a comprehensive risk assessment of water discharge-related threats and to develop a formal inspection and maintenance plan for the 18th/19th-century header ponds;

8. Notes furthermore that infrastructure projects related to drinking water supply, sewerage and wastewater treatment have been initiated, and that improvements to road infrastructure are underway, and further requests the State Party to provide further information on the scope and location of these works, and to clarify whether appropriate impact assessments have been, or will be, undertaken to evaluate potential effects on attributes conveying OUV, including known and subsurface archaeological remains;

9. Also welcomes the draft proposals prepared by the National Institute of Heritage to include Heritage Impact Assessments in amendments to Law No. 564/2001, and encourages the State Party to establish a clear legal and methodological framework with a view to their effective and systematic application;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027,** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

11. **Decides to retain Roșia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

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

30. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7A.4** and **47 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and its 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the associated loss of human life;

4. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', including through the implementation of protective, monitoring, emergency preparedness and conservations measures under exceptionally challenging circumstances, and expresses its utmost concern at the intensification of threats to the property arising from the ongoing war;

5. Reiterates its call 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. Expresses its grave concern regarding the significant damage sustained by the Dormition Cathedral within the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, as well as other monuments within the property, including elements of the Lavra's fortification complex and the Ivan Kushnyk Tower, during the large-scale attack on Kyiv on 15 June 2026, which demonstrates the growing vulnerability of the property to the impacts of the ongoing war;

7. Encourages the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect cultural and natural heritage affected by the ongoing war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included on the Tentative List;

8. Welcomes the continued efforts of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to support Ukraine in safeguarding its cultural heritage in the context of the ongoing war, including through emergency response, damage assessment, capacity-building and coordination of international assistance, underlines the importance of sustained and coordinated international support to protect cultural heritage, mitigate the impact of the ongoing war and advance recovery and resilience efforts, notes with appreciation the support provided by Member States and partners for UNESCO's actions in Ukraine, including through voluntary contributions and in-kind support, and calls for such support to be further strengthened, notably through the World Heritage Fund to deliver targeted assistance to World Heritage properties and their management teams;

9. Calls upon the international community to continue supporting the protection of World Heritage properties in Ukraine, in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines for its implementation, and to strengthen cooperation in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural property originating from Ukraine;

10. Further encourages the State Party to make full use of the assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to advance, as a priority, the preparation and implementation of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for the property, building on the substantial progress already achieved in risk assessment, monitoring, technical studies and capacity-building;

11. Takes note of the conclusions of the 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and endorses its recommendations aimed at enhancing the protection, management and long term-resilience of the property;

12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the property and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for further review by the Advisory Bodies

before its formal adoption and implementation, as a matter of priority, and also encourages the State Party to establish effective governance and coordination mechanisms to support its implementation;

13. Invites the State Party to advance the preparation of the new Kyiv City Master Plan, ensuring that it incorporates the principles of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and respects the need to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to submit the Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of Kyiv to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, with a view to its prompt revision, if required, and formal adoption;

14. Encourages furthermore the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop, as a priority, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), together with an associated set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 50th session, while acknowledging that this process is constrained by the ongoing war and its consequences;

15. Urges the State Party to strengthen the regulatory framework for the protection of cultural heritage, including by ensuring the effective application of the Law of Ukraine “On Protection of Cultural Heritage” (2000 with later amendments) and related legal instruments, and to continue efforts to align legislative and land use planning frameworks with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention to ensure national and local authorities have adequate tools to control urban development;

16. Encourages also the State Party to strengthen and systematically apply impact assessment processes, including Heritage Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments, in order to assess impacts, including cumulative impacts, on OUV arising from renovations, reconstruction and development within the buffer zone and wider setting, and to further integrate these processes into national legislation and planning procedures in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, as well as to support them through a clearer management framework and a clearer definition of how the buffer zone supports the protection of the OUV of the property;

17. Further encourages the State Party to continue systematically complying with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and to notify the World Heritage Centre of any new constructions, as well as major restorations and reconstructions, that may adversely affect the OUV of the property, prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

18. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including progress in preparing measures to address the mission’s recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

19. **Decides to retain Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

31. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7A.5** and **47 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and its 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the associated loss of human life;
4. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', in particular the protective, monitoring, emergency and restoration measures undertaken, and expresses its utmost concern at the intensification of threats to the property arising from the ongoing war;
5. Reiterates its call 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; and expresses its grave concern regarding the damage sustained by several historic buildings in the Bernardine Monastery Complex, within the property, during the attack on L'viv on 24 March 2026;
6. Encourages the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect cultural and natural heritage affected by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included on the Tentative List;
7. Welcomes the continued efforts of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to support Ukraine in safeguarding its cultural heritage in the context of the ongoing war, including through emergency response, damage assessment, capacity-building and coordination of international assistance, underlines the importance of sustained and coordinated international support to protect cultural heritage, mitigate the impact of the war and advance recovery and resilience efforts, notes with appreciation the support provided by Member States and partners for UNESCO's actions in Ukraine, including through voluntary contributions and in-kind support, and calls for such support to be further strengthened, notably through the World Heritage Fund to deliver targeted assistance to World Heritage properties and their management teams;
8. Calls upon the international community to continue supporting the protection of World Heritage properties in Ukraine, in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines for its implementation, and to strengthen cooperation in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural property originating from Ukraine;
9. Further encourages the State Party to make full use of the assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to advance, as a priority, the preparation of the Management Plan for the property, including an emergency preparedness and response component;
10. Also encourages the State Party to develop, without delay, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), together with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their

implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 50th session, while acknowledging that this process is constrained by the ongoing war and its consequences;

11. Urges the State Party to strengthen the regulatory framework for the protection of cultural heritage, including by ensuring the effective application of the Law of Ukraine 'On Protection of Cultural Heritage' (2000 with later amendments) and related legal instruments, and to continue efforts to align legislative and land use planning frameworks with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention to ensure national and local authorities have adequate tools to control urban development;

12. Regrets that the hotel project at 9 Adam Mickiewicz Square, within the property, was completed without prior notification to the World Heritage Centre and despite the Committee's request to halt construction, and expresses concern that the existing regulatory and oversight mechanisms did not ensure the prevention of adverse impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

13. Notes that the Historical and Architectural Reference Plan has been submitted in Ukrainian, and further invites the State Party to implement the recommendations of the forthcoming ICOMOS Technical Review following translation into English, and to ensure its effective articulation with the Management Plan, in line with the Committee's long-standing request for a comprehensive management framework;

14. Encourages the State Party to continue systematically complying with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and to notify the World Heritage Centre of its intention to undertake or authorise in an area protected under the Convention new constructions as well as major restorations that may affect the OUV of the property, prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

15. Welcomes the invitation extended by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in November-December 2026, to assess its overall state of conservation and the factors affecting it, including issues related to governance, coordination and regulatory enforcement, and assist the State Party in preparing a proposal for a DSOCR and a corresponding set of corrective measures, for consideration by the Committee at its 50th session;

16. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

17. **Decides to retain L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

32. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7A.6**, **47 COM 7A.26** and **47 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and its 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the associated loss of human life;

4. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa', in particular the protective, monitoring and emergency measures undertaken, and expresses its utmost concern at the intensification of threats to the property arising from the ongoing war;

5. Reiterates its call 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; and expresses its grave concern that over 60 cultural sites within the property have been damaged since the beginning of the full-scale invasion;

6. Encourages the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect cultural and natural heritage affected by the ongoing war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included on the Tentative List;

7. Welcomes the continued efforts of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to support Ukraine in safeguarding its cultural heritage in the context of the ongoing war, including through emergency response, damage assessment, capacity-building and coordination of international assistance, underlines the importance of sustained and coordinated international support to protect cultural heritage, mitigate the impact of the ongoing war and advance recovery and resilience efforts, notes with appreciation the support provided by Member States and partners for UNESCO's actions in Ukraine, including through voluntary contributions and in-kind support, and calls for such support to be further strengthened, notably through the World Heritage Fund to deliver targeted assistance to World Heritage properties and their management teams;

8. Calls upon the international community to continue supporting the protection of World Heritage properties in Ukraine, in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines for its implementation, and to strengthen cooperation in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural property originating from Ukraine;

9. Further encourages the State Party to make full use of the assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to advance the revision of the Management Plan for the property, including the integration of emergency preparedness and response, and the development, with the support of Italy, of an integrated and sustainable heritage management system for the city of Odesa, as well as to develop, without delay, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), together with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 50th session, recognising its role as a framework to coordinate national and international efforts to secure the recovery and sustained protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), while acknowledging that this process is constrained by the ongoing war and its consequences;

10. Invites the State Party to inform the Committee of the details of the project funded by the Government of Italy in support of cultural heritage in Odesa and to leverage this significant funding to implement the most urgent priorities for the property, as identified by the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, including: (i) identifying the attributes that convey the property's OUV; (ii) developing a comprehensive inventory and condition assessment of historic buildings and structural elements; (iii) strengthening the planning system to manage new developments; (iv) submitting a minor boundary modification for a revised extension of the buffer zone to support the protection of the property's OUV, in accordance with Decision 47 COM 8B.50; and (v) establishing a functional, adequately resourced and participatory management framework;

11. Requests the State Party to submit the draft Integrated Urban Plan of Odesa, once finalised, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption, in order to ensure its full alignment with the protection of the property's OUV;

12. Urges the State Party to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for the protection of cultural heritage, including by ensuring the effective application of the Law of Ukraine 'On Protection of Cultural Heritage' (2000, with later amendments) and related legal instruments, and to continue efforts to align legislative and land use planning frameworks with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention in order to ensure that national and local authorities have adequate tools to control urban development;

13. Encourages furthermore the State Party to ensure systematic compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines by notifying the World Heritage Centre of any proposed developments or major restoration works that may affect the property's OUV prior to any decision, and further requests the State Party to provide its comments regarding the reported construction project at 1B Kanatna Street within the property;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

15. **Decides to retain The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

33. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the implementation of the updated Management Plan, urges the State Party to provide all necessary human and financial resources necessary for its implementation within the timeframe (2024 - 2029) and requests detailed information on the activities implemented in its framework;

4. Also welcomes the adoption, with adequate financial allocations, of the follow-up measures of the Critical Route to remove Potosí from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí, together with the strengthening of the institutional coordination mechanisms;

5. Takes note of the commitment of the State Party to ensure the consolidation and effective application of the legal and regulatory framework related to the property, with the progressive implementation of technical management instruments, in compliance with the recommendations of the Committee;

6. Commends the State Party for the continued monitoring of water quality of the lagoons, including control measures and prohibiting illegal mining activities;

7. Takes note with satisfaction of the implementation of the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation aimed at updating the catalogue of built heritage in the historic areas of Potosí, and invites the State Party to further report on its final outcomes;

8. Encourages the State Party to continue its actions to preserve the structure and shape of the Cerro Rico, as well as the actions concerning mines closures and relocation of miners;

9. Expresses its appreciation for the steady progress reported toward the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger within the framework of the updated Management Plan (DSOCR), encourages the State Party to progress in its implementation and requests it to report in detail on it at the 49th session of the World Heritage Committee;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

34. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Notes that the State Party agreed with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) on an extension of the loan until December 2028;

4. Also notes that the State Party decided to maintain the work plan that has been established and to implement the corrective measures to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by the end of 2028, and requests the State Party to report on the advances;

5. Commends the State Party for the continuous work on the restoration, consolidation, and maintenance of the fortifications of Portobelo and San Lorenzo, as well as for the strengthening of the Portobelo and San Lorenzo Trust;

6. Regrets that the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) with its associated documents is newly delayed, until the end of 2027, urges the State Party to prioritize this work, and requests the State Party to submit the document(s) to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;

7. Notes furthermore the efforts by the State Party for the Visitor Centre at San Lorenzo to be operational in the first quarter of 2026;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

35. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.37**, **46 COM 7A.9**, and **47 COM 7A.29** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for continuing the implementation of the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex 2021-2031 and the conservation research undertaken by the Pan-American Centre for the Conservation of Earthen Architecture;
4. Takes note of the emergency conservation and maintenance work carried out at the Nik An, Huaca Toledo, La Esmeralda, Arco Iris, and Takaynamo walled complexes, and of the new access route enabled for visitors;
5. Notes with appreciation the establishment of an inter-institutional working group focused on developing the Disaster Risk Prevention and Reduction Plan (PPRR) foreseen to be completed in 2026;
6. Also notes the actions taken to regularize the physical and legal status of pre-Hispanic properties in the buffer zone in the process of integrating the Chan Chan Master Plan 2021–2031 with metropolitan territorial management, and encourages the State Party to finalize this process as soon as possible;
7. Welcomes the information that the Multisectoral Committee, constituted in 2024, was formalized as the Working Group for the development of a Multisectoral Action Plan for the protection, conservation, and restoration of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex and requests the State Party to provide information on the composition, mandate and advances of this effort;
8. Further takes note of the publication and public consultation of the draft regulation of Law N°28261, as well as of the advances in the identification of registered land tenure overlapping the World Heritage site, and the physical and legal resolution of these conflicts with the National Superintendency of Public Registries (SUNARP), and encourages the State Party to finalize this process for the entire property;
9. Reiterates that the issues addressed above are linked to necessary steps for reaching the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), which focuses on
    a) The operational and sustainable management system,
    b) The integration of the Management Plan with other planning tools,
    c) The continued implementation of conservation and maintenance measures at the property, and
    d) The legislative and regulatory measures to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities;

10. Requests the State Party to inform on the further advances of the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment on the Second Carriageway road project of the Autopista del Sol, Trujillo–Sullana section, and the analysis of a potential alternative alignment to the current road project;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

36. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Expresses appreciation for the punctual delivery of the state of conservation report provided in compliance with Decision **47 COM 7A.30**, but reminds the State Party to report in the mandatory format contained in Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, which facilitates a direct reference to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee;

4. Commends the State Party for its commitment to allocate important resources for the management and conservation of the property despite critical economic challenges, as well as for the many conservation and training activities implemented;

5. Notes the information and maps related to the redefined buffer zone, and reiterates once again its request for a Minor Boundary Modification proposal to 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 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible;

6. Welcomes the information on the implementation of the Management Plan by all the heritage institutions, involving communities and integrating traditional know-how, and on the harmonization of legal tools by the Joint Commission, and requests once again the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre an integrated version of the Management Plan, together with a report on its implementation, as well as comprehensive information on the reported harmonization of legal tools by the Joint Commission;

7. Notes with appreciation the advances in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.2**, notes however that serious delays occurred in the implementation of the established two-year work plan and requests the State Party to develop a timeframe and work plan for their completion and to report on their progress and expected date of completion;

8. Reiterates once again that it is imperative that the already-requested Reactive Monitoring mission to the property be undertaken to assess the implementation of such corrective measures towards the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges the State Party to

make the necessary arrangements for such mission to be undertaken before the next reporting cycle;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, 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 49th session;

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

AFRICA

37. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.31** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding the property's state of conservation;
4. Welcomes with satisfaction the State Party's ongoing efforts, in particular by the Djenné Cultural Mission and local communities, to support the property's conservation and the implementation of corrective measures, including the rebuilding in 2025 of some houses that collapsed during the exceptionally rainy season of 2024, the installation of markers and signs prohibiting rubbish dumping on the riverbanks, the dissemination of information signs and awareness-raising materials against illegal occupation, the updating of the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for the 2025-2030 period and community initiatives to improve the condition of the historic fabric;
5. Notes favourably the State Party's acknowledgement of the effectiveness of deterrent measures and legal procedures that have led to a reduction in solid construction and the halting of building activity, and calls on the State Party to strengthen the application of these measures while also planning initiatives to promote and raise awareness of respect for traditional architecture;
6. Expresses its concern at the persistence of several conservation challenges, in particular the inadequate security of the archaeological sites of Djenné-Djenno, Hambarketolo, Kaniana and Tonomba, exacerbated by the current absence of guards, ongoing illegal excavations and the effects of water erosion, and calls on the State Party to implement more extensive security, surveillance, conservation and public awareness measures;
7. Reiterates its concern regarding the lack of financial resources, particularly for the Djenné Cultural Mission and the local council, which affects all areas and needs relating to the property's effective conservation and management, including the improvement of sanitation, an updated inventory to assess the extent of the damage, assistance to families in need of help with the maintenance or rehabilitation of damaged or collapsed houses and the creation of a materials bank to facilitate the supply of traditional materials, inter alia, and requests the State Party to consider all options for increasing the resources and financial allocations for the Cultural Mission and the municipality of Djenné to enable action in these areas;

8. Also notes the growing difficulties in accessing the traditional materials required for the maintenance of earthen architecture, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to facilitate access to these materials, in particular through the creation of a materials bank;

9. Welcomes with satisfaction the updating of the property's management and conservation plan for the 2025-2030 period and requests the State Party to submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, but expresses concern at the prolonged dysfunction of the property's Management Committee, leaving the Cultural Mission largely on its own in managing the property, and requests that the committee be reactivated under the new MCP 2025-2030;

10. Also welcomes with satisfaction the submission of a Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), drawn up on the basis of the corrective measures agreed by the Committee at its 40th session, and adopts the DSOCR, as presented in item 37 of document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add, as a framework for the work required to bring the property to a stable Desired State of Conservation that would allow the Committee to consider its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and thanks various partners, notably the Government of Norway, ICESCO and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for their financial and technical support in this process;

11. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to raise awareness and engage local communities in the conservation of the property;

12. Lastly, requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

13. **Decides to retain the Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

38. Timbuktu (Mali)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes with satisfaction the progress made in the property's conservation and the implementation of the corrective measures, particularly the work to maintain and stabilize the Djingareyber and Sankoré mosques, including their period plastering;

4. Particularly welcomes the vital support of the "Rehabilitation and enhancement of protected buildings in Timbuktu" project, funded by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trust Fund for Victims, which has notably allowed for the establishment of a Coordination Committee between the mausoleum managers, the management committees of the mosques and other community and technical stakeholders as well as their capacity-building, the reinforcement of the enclosing walls of the cemeteries of the Three Saints and the recruitment of caretakers, but is concerned by the long-term sustainability of these measures beyond the project's funding, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to achieve the objectives of the corrective measures;

5. Also welcomes the measures undertaken to improve the safeguarding of the site, notably the establishment of a special delegation which has evicted illegal occupations and carried out drainage work;

6. Reiterates its concern regarding the persistent negative impacts of the vibrations connected with the security systems and road traffic around the mosques, which could have long-term repercussions on their stability, and urges the State Party to take measures to divert traffic away from the mosques;

7. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures in line with the established timetable, particularly those relating to silting, sustainable funding, mapping of buffer zones, urban regulations, conservation tools and operational capacity-building;

8. Expresses its satisfaction with the efforts relating to the reinforcement of the institutional and technical capacities of the stakeholders involved in the management of the property, particularly the 12-month recruitment of caretakers for the watering and maintenance of the trees planted around the cemeteries, but reiterates its request to establish a more ambitious tree and hedge planting programme aimed at expanding the scope of the initiative, including a succession system, the identification of areas suitable and available for such planting, and the definition of an ecological flood management strategy, based on expert knowledge of the morphology of the area, and recommends that the State Party consider submitting a request for International Assistance to that effect;

9. Welcomes the availability of a mathematician, tasked with statistical data, the strengthening of intervention capacities and relations with the traditional communities. However, reaffirms its concern with the persistent lack of technical and financial resources which may compromise the conservation and management of the property, and further requests the State Party to pay particular attention to strengthening the human resources of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu;

10. Welcomes with satisfaction the updating of the conservation and management plan for the property for the period 2025-2030 and requests the State Party to submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, notably in order to ensure that the measures aimed at achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), adopted by the Committee in 2025, are adequately integrated;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

12. **Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;**

13. **Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

39. Tomb of Askia (Mali)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 47th session (Paris, 2025),

3. Welcomes the significant progress made in the conservation of the property thanks to the major project for the Rehabilitation of the Tomb of Askia, which has, in particular, strengthened the mechanisms for the sustainable management of the property, improved the physical conservation of the buildings, restored the integrity of the components of the property, fostered traditional knowledge and skills, improved the comfort of use for worshippers and promoted the property's values;

4. Thanks the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH) for providing funding for the rehabilitation project, commends the State Party, in particular the Gao Cultural Mission and the various stakeholders working towards the management and conservation of the property, and encourages it to implement the necessary measures to ensure its long-term sustainability;

5. Notes with satisfaction that a solution to the occupation of the buffer zone around the Tomb of Askia has been found thanks to the commitment made by the Regional Directorate of State-owned Properties and the Land Registry to make two plots of land available for residential use for the resettlement of the occupants of the buffer zone, and requests the State Party to provide information in its next report on the implementation of this initiative;

6. Welcomes in particular the fact that the rehabilitation project has enabled the implementation of eight out of the 10 corrective measures adopted in 2016 for the conservation of the physical components of the property, as well as for its protection and management, and the revision of the 2005 promotional brochure, commends the fact that the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) has been updated for the 2026-2030 period, including the drafting of a conservation guide for the Tomb of Askia, and requests the State Party to submit these documents to UNESCO for review by the Advisory Bodies once they have been finalised;

7. Takes note that the identification of short-, medium and long-term funding sources to ensure the implementation of the new MCP, as well as the necessary budgetary allocation for urgent conservation activities, are the main measures still lacking, and requests the State Party to pay particular attention to regular budgetary planning for this purpose;

8. Also welcomes with satisfaction the submission of a Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) aimed at removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, prepared on the basis of the corrective measures agreed by the Committee at its 40th session, and adopts the DSOCR, as presented in item 39 of document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add, as the status to be achieved for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and thanks the various partners, notably the Government of Norway, ICESCO and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), for their financial and technical support in this process;

9. Takes account of the reports received and the information on progress and achievements observed, and, subject to the adoption of the DSOCR proposed above, reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, if security conditions permit, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property, in particular to examine its general state of conservation and the implementation of all the corrective measures, and to assess whether the desired state of conservation has been achieved;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

11. **Decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

40. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7A.56** and **47 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to address the 2024 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations in relation to the Significant Boundary Modification (SBM) proposal and evaluating progress in the implementation of the corrective measures towards the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
4. Regrets however the delay in the finalisation of the detailed progress report on the implementation of corrective measures towards achieving the DSOCR, recalls its concern that forest loss within the property is continuing at a rate that is exceeding restoration efforts, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a detailed progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures towards achieving the DSOCR, including an action plan and timeline to implement the actions needed to achieve the remainder of the DSOCR indicators, in line with Decision **46 COM 7A.56**;
5. Notes with appreciation the State Party's confirmation that the proposed Sanggi-Bengkunat road upgrade project will not be permitted to proceed if it is determined to have any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that no approvals or works will be undertaken unless it is demonstrated through appropriate impact assessments that the OUV will not be adversely affected;
6. Takes note of the confirmation that hydropower, mining and infrastructure projects, including the Trans-Sumatran Highway, proposed in the vicinity of the property and in the wider Leuser Ecosystem continue to not be implemented, and that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) would be undertaken for such projects in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context prior to making any decision that is difficult to reverse, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any such projects in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also notes with appreciation that the mitigation measures identified in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property will be systematically integrated and implemented through relevant policies, plans, and programmes within the property and its wider setting, and regularly monitored, and also requests the State Party to provide an update on the implementation of the mitigation measures in relation to the protection of the OUV of the property;
8. Also takes note that a revised proposal for the SBM for the property was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures set out in the Operational Guidelines;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

41. East Rennell (Solomon Islands)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7** and **47 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Appreciates the continued joint efforts by the State Party, local communities and other stakeholders towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the assessment of the implementation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to evaluate progress and identify remaining gaps, and reiterates its request to the State Party to prioritize the allocation of adequate financial resources for the long-term, sustainable management of the property;

4. Noting the ongoing challenges in obtaining consent from all tribal groups to apply the Protected Areas Act 2010 (PA Act) to their customary land, welcomes the reported finalization of a Protected Area Management Plan 2025-2030 (covering areas proposed for protection under the PA Act) in consultation with local communities, which is expected to facilitate the application of the PA Act within the property, and encourages the State Party to continue consultations to secure full consent from all customary landowners, while also supporting the communities in finalizing the pending Management Plan for the entire property, and to clarify how the 3-year Strategic Plan for the property relates to the new Management Plan;

5. Also welcomes the finalization of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan, with support from BirdLife International, and requests the State Party to allocate sufficient resources to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the Plan, while continuing to address the impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as well as on local livelihoods and food security;

6. Also noting the continued impact of climate change and IAS on local communities, further welcomes on-site initiatives, including the carbon financing project led by Live & Learn Environmental Education and Nakau, and capacity-building activities to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and local food security with support of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, and also encourages the State Party to secure resources to undertake an "integrated vulnerability and adaptation assessment" to fully address climate change impacts on the property and local communities;

7. Regrets that no information was provided regarding the mass mortality of flying foxes reported in 2021, also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide clarification on the current status of flying foxes and the causes of mortality;

8. Also regrets that no update was provided on the previously reported mining leases in West Rennell, also recalling the Committee's position that mining is incompatible with

World Heritage status, further reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the status of these leases;

9. Notes with significant concern that road works for the road from Lavagu to Hutuna village within the property have commenced without an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to assess potential impacts on the OUV, and urges the State Party to undertake an ESIA, as a matter of priority, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (Guidance and Toolkit), including the consideration of alternatives, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any further works;

10. Also takes note that an airport proposed within the property is at a preliminary stage and will be subject to feasibility studies, an ESIA, and approval processes, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV are appropriately assessed in line with the aforementioned Guidance and Toolkit, prior to making any decision to proceed, including to undertake an ESIA and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review should the project progress past the feasibility phase;

11. Welcomes furthermore the allocation of funding to strengthen tourism in the property, including the preparation of a Tourism Master Plan; and further requests the State Party to ensure that the Plan promotes sustainable and responsible tourism that supports the long-term protection of the property's OUV, with the full engagement of local communities;

12. Further takes note of the assessment of progress made towards achieving the DSOCR and that the State Party considers that additional time is required to implement the corrective measures and fully achieve the DSOCR, decides to extend the timeframe until the end of 2028 as requested by the State Party, yet reiterates its concern that achieving full implementation of the DSOCR within this timeframe will continue to be challenging without ongoing and additional support, both financially and technically, and continues to call upon stakeholders and the international community to provide the State Party with the necessary support;

13. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to assess progress in implementing the corrective measures and towards achieving the DSOCR further to the assessment conducted by the State Party, provide advice on the development of a time-bound (and costed) action plan to fully achieve the remaining indicators of the DSOCR towards the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and evaluate the status and potential impacts of ongoing and planned infrastructure and tourism developments, and mining, within and around the property;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

42. Everglades National Park (United States of America)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7A.14**, **35 COM 7A.14**, **45 COM 7A.17**, **46 COM 7A.41** and **47 COM 7A.3** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note that a full report on the state of conservation of the property will be provided to the World Heritage Committee for examination at its 49th session in 2027;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall implementation of the corrective measures and to provide support for their revision, sufficiently in advance to enable the mission's findings to inform the Committee's deliberations at its 49th session, and recalls its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;
5. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

43. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7A.42** and **47 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively;
3. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to strengthen governance, land tenure regularization, and inter-institutional coordination, including through the issuance and preparation of Family Usufruct Contracts (CUF), and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts to clarify land use rights and strengthen territorial governance;
4. Acknowledges the strengthening of law enforcement and site protection actions, including through the operationalization of the Inter-Institutional Task Force against Environmental Crime (FTIA), and requests the State Party to ensure the sustained

implementation of these measures, including addressing the underlying drivers of illegal activities;

5. Notes positively the continued implementation of the National Forest Restoration Strategy and the Zero Deforestation Strategy, and the reported reduction in deforestation in 2025, however notes with concern that deforestation within the property continues, and urges the State Party to continue to strengthen efforts to halt forest loss and promote the ongoing recovery of forest cover in the property, to ensure the implementation of a monitoring approach that allows for the consistent monitoring of deforestation levels over time, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the strategies, including through adequate resourcing;

6. Takes note of the progress towards a Significant Boundary Modification that requires the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of affected Indigenous Peoples, and also requests the State Party to continue the consultation process in line with international norms and standards;

7. Also takes note of the proposed designation of the Warunta Indigenous Anthropological Reserve which is reported to be ecologically connected to the property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the conservation and management of this new protected area are coordinated and complementary with those of the property, where appropriate, and to ensure the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples concerned and their role in the governance arrangements;

8. Notes positively the reported strengthening of technical and financial capacities towards the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Patuca III Hydroelectric Project (HPP) with the collaboration of the State Party of Panama, and urges again the State Party of Honduras to advance the SEA process, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and implement adequate management decisions according to the assessment's findings;

9. Notes with appreciation that the requested Reactive Monitoring mission to the property is in planning, and reiterates its request for the mission to review the proposed revisions to the indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger proposed by the State Party in 2025, 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 inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and also assess the situation with regards to the continued deforestation and illegal activities, and the progress made in the SEA for the Patuca III HPP, particularly in relation to assessing the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

44. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to implement the corrective measures including to strengthen surveillance, enforcement, and institutional coordination to address illegal fishing and totoaba trafficking;
4. Notes positively that the 2025 monitoring survey results did not show a further decline in vaquita (Phocoena sinus) numbers, and 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;
5. Acknowledges the reported reduction in illegal fishing activities within the Zero Tolerance Area (ZTA) by 98%, and emphasizes that sustained and effective enforcement remains essential to ensure the continued protection of the vaquita and its habitat;
6. Notes with concern that vaquita sightings are continuing to be reported outside of the ZTA reaffirming that important areas of habitat remain insufficiently protected, and reiterates its recommendation that the State Party assess, as a matter of priority, the possibility of expanding the ZTA to include areas where vaquita sightings were reported outside the current boundaries, to ensure more effective and comprehensive habitat protection;
7. Continues to welcome the cooperation between the State Party and other relevant States Parties, notably the United States of America and the People's Republic of China, to combat illegal trafficking of totoaba products, and encourages the further strengthening of this cooperation, including within the framework of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and strongly recommends that the State Party of Mexico, together with all the States Parties of transit and all destination countries, take urgent action in line with all CITES decisions to effectively address the illegal totoaba bladder trade;
8. Also welcomes the strengthening of legal frameworks, scientific advisory bodies, and international cooperation efforts, and also encourages the State Party to ensure their effective and sustained implementation, including through the continued removal of illegal fishing gear and strengthened enforcement;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement, with utmost priority, all of the corrective measures for the property, included in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) approved by the Committee;
10. Takes note that infrastructure projects for the development and transport of natural gas in the northwest of the country remain suspended due to legal challenges, that such projects would be subject to national impact assessment processes, and that the State Party will inform the World Heritage Centre of details including possible impacts on the OUV once there is more certainty;
11. Also notes with concern however the third-party concerns regarding an alleged planned expansion of several liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in the vicinity of the property, and requests the State Party to:

a) Provide details of any projects planned within the property or in its wider setting that have the potential to impact the OUV,

b) Ensure that the potential impacts of such projects on the OUV of the property, including the marine biodiversity and ecosystems, be assessed through an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and

c) Avoid approving any activities that would negatively impact the OUV;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

13. **Decides to retain Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

45. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.3**, **46 COM 7A.44** and **47 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the outcomes of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission carried out in February 2026, and expresses its deep concern regarding the outcomes of the mission, which found that the state of conservation of the property remains a cause for concern and that the property continues to face several challenges compared with the situation reported in 2019, due to multiple pressures, including poaching, transhumance, persistent insecurity, artisanal mining and the prospect of imminent oil exploitation;

4. Welcomes the actions taken by the State Party and its technical partner, WCS, to gradually restore the management system, strengthen security at the property and support community initiatives in the area surrounding the property, despite the difficult and challenging context for field work, but regrets that several of the recommendations and corrective measures set out by the 2019 mission have not been implemented and that the progress made remains, on the whole, insufficient and, at this stage, limited given the scale of the challenges to be addressed;

5. Notes with concern the lack of effective securing across the entire property, particularly in its central, northern and eastern sectors, which are currently inaccessible and inadequately controlled by the State Party, as well as the persistence of commercial poaching, as evidenced by the significant seizures of more than two tons of bushmeat

within the property in early 2026, and urges the State Party to take immediate measures to ensure the gradual securing of the entire property and to strengthen anti-poaching measures, including by continuing efforts to recruit and train additional eco-guards, reinforcing cooperation with the judicial authorities, and securing sensitive corridors;

6. Also takes note of the observation made by the 2026 mission that the available data remain fragmentary and inadequate to enable a robust and scientifically reliable assessment of the status and trends of the populations of species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) within the property, despite the continued presence of certain flagship species in the North-Eastern Central African Republic Protected Areas Complex and its Functional Landscape (CAP-PF Nord-Est), also notes with concern the absence of an ecological monitoring system covering the entire property and requests the State Party to establish without delay a permanent, functional ecological monitoring system covering the entire property, in cooperation with its technical partners, in order to produce reliable data on the status of wildlife populations, in particular those of species characteristic of the OUV;

7. Appreciates the establishment of the community agents' system ('Tango') as part of an effort to regulate transhumance within the property, however, also regrets that the vulnerability of these Tango agents, who lack legal status and adequate protective measures, has led to serious incidents, notably the tragic death of an agent in 2024, leading to the suspension of this system in 2025, and also requests the State Party to establish a specific legal and operational framework to regulate the activities of the Tango agents and ensure their safety prior to their redeployment in the field;

8. Also expresses its deep concern regarding the impacts of uncontrolled transhumance, including the continued significant presence of domestic livestock, human settlements and bush fires within the property, as observed by the 2026 mission, and further requests the State Party to strengthen control and law enforcement measures to prevent the establishment of transhumance camps within the property, and to carry out the ecological restoration of degraded areas;

9. Further expresses its deep concern regarding the persistent lack of clarification on the situation of the oil blocks overlapping the property, in particular oil block A and exploration blocks I, II and III, particularly as the information obtained by the 2026 mission indicates conclusive exploration results for block A, part of which overlaps the property, and the prospect of exploitation starting imminently, considers that the imminent start of oil exploitation constitutes a potential danger to the property and that, if confirmed, this would constitute a further reason for maintaining the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Also urges the State Party to provide, without delay, updated clarification on the status of these oil and exploration blocks and to ensure that no oil or mining exploration or exploitation activities are authorized within the property or its buffer zone, in accordance with the Committee's established position;

11. Expresses once again its concern about the lack of information concerning the current impact of mining activities on the property and the effectiveness of the various actions undertaken to address the trend in these activities, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide a more detailed report on the scale of these activities and their impact on the property's OUV;

12. Also welcomes the submission of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports relating to the project to upgrade National Road 8 between Ndélé and Birao and notes that these will be examined separately by IUCN;

13. Further urges the State Party, with the support of its technical and financial partners, to implement all of the following corrective measures, updated during the 2026 mission, namely:

    a) Establish a strategy aimed at ensuring the gradual securing, on an annual basis, of at least 1,500 km² of the property's territory from the Manovo base camp, continue the capacity-building measures currently underway, and accelerate the reopening of surveillance bases in the areas gradually secured each year, whilst strengthening, to the extent that resources permit, the use of aerial surveillance to support ground-based surveillance;

    b) Strengthen the technical and human capacities of criminal investigation officers within the ranks of the eco-guards, and foster close and sustained collaboration with the judicial, including magistrates, and security authorities in the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources in and around the property, whilst complying with the laws in force regarding respect for human rights;

    c) Strengthen and gradually extend the biomonitoring system to cover the entire property, ensuring the effective implementation of the 2026-2030 Ecological and Threats Monitoring Strategy, including the roll-out of a harmonized SMART system and a standardized network of camera traps (for more elusive species) gradually covering all components of the property, in order to produce scientifically robust data on the distribution, abundance, population trends and regeneration potential of species characteristic of the OUV;

    d) Develop and urgently implement a strategy for managing transhumance, including the designation of authorized areas and transhumance corridors located outside the property, and continue efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation with the neighboring States Parties to address the issue of transhumance;

    e) Implement the existing regional agreements on anti-poaching and other transboundary criminal activities with Cameroon and Chad, such as the 2013 Transboundary Tripartite Anti-Poaching Agreement and the 'N'Djamena Declaration' of January 2019, and subsequently extend them to Sudan and South Sudan to ensure greater effectiveness and consistency;

    f) Not to grant authorization for the start of exploitation, in particular for block A, and urgently provide further clarification regarding the other surrounding blocks and the next steps envisaged, particularly with regard to the direct and indirect impacts of these actions on the property, and ensure that no oil and mining exploitation are authorized within the property and its wider setting, in accordance with the position of the World Heritage Committee;

    g) Ensure that an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is carried out for any project within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, which may have a negative impact on its OUV, in accordance with the Guide and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the report to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible decision, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

    h) Ensure the urgent recruitment of a manager for the ecological monitoring department, make, as soon as possible, an updated inventory of species characteristic of the OUV across the entire property, combining methods tailored to the species and the resources available, such as IKAs, cameras and aerial surveys, particularly in areas not covered by the 2024 inventory, and share the results of this updated inventory with the World Heritage Centre.

14. Noting that the implementation of these updated corrective measures could take a minimum of four years, decides to grant the State Party a further period of four years to maintain the momentum in the management of the property, to demonstrate whether it

is still possible to restore its integrity, and to collect further data on the trends in its wildlife populations, in particular for the key species of the OUV, and requests moreover the State Party to invite a new joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2031, in order to assess whether regeneration of the OUV is still possible through the effective implementation of the aforementioned updated corrective measures and the seven recommendations set out in the 2026 mission report;

15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

16. **Also decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;**

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

46. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling decisions **44 COM 7A.40**, **45 COM 7A.4, 46 COM 7A.45**, and **47 COM 7A.7** adopted respectively at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou / online, 2021), extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the States Parties in implementing the corrective measures identified by the 2019 mission and towards meeting some of the indicators of the Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), thanks to the satisfactory implementation of several significant initiatives and actions on the ground, particularly in the areas of transboundary cooperation and management, support for local communities, maintenance of vegetation cover, and monitoring of human-caused bushfires;

4. Remains concerned about the persistent delays observed in relation to certain indicators, in particular those concerning the impacts of mining projects on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the harmonized ecological monitoring protocol, and the joint monitoring system, and urges the States Parties to continue the full implementation of all corrective measures and activities contributing to the achievement of the DSOCR indicators, whilst drawing on the costed action plan (2024–2025), revised at the 2026 workshop;

5. Encourages technical and financial partners to support the ongoing efforts of the States Parties, specifically with regard to the effective submission of all requested information and documentation, whilst using their indicators as sources of verification, as set out in the approved DSOCR (Decision **45 COM 7A.4**), in order to accelerate the full implementation of corrective measures and the achievement of DSOCR indicators;

6. Takes note of the encouraging results of the ecological monitoring focused on the OUV's indicator species, notably the Mount Nimba viviparous toad, the West African chimpanzee, and Lamotte's micropotamogale, as well as the announced development of the 'Mount Nimba-Data' ecological and geospatial database, emphasises, however,

that the ecological monitoring reports for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025, which were supposedly annexed to the report on the state of conservation, as well as the verification sources relating to the establishment of an effective and operational monitoring system covering the entire property, have not been submitted, and also urges the States Parties to continue their ongoing efforts and to submit these reports, including the consolidated report for 2026, if available, in their next report on the state of conservation of the property;

7. Also takes note of the production of updated land-use maps and the designation of an area of approximately 24,707.02 hectares on the periphery of the Ivorian component of the property, intended to serve as a buffer zone, recalls, however, that the Committee had requested that this buffer zone be designated in accordance with the procedure for minor boundary modifications of the property, and requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to formally submit the request for a minor boundary modification by 1 February 2027 at the latest, in accordance with Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines for examination by the Committee;

8. Welcomes the consultations held with farmers in the Guinean component of the property and also requests the State Party of Guinea to establish a clear timetable for the effective implementation of the recommendations arising from these consultations and to provide a detailed update in the next report on the state of conservation of the property;

9. Further takes note of the submission of the Development and Management Plans (PAGs) for the Ivorian and Guinean components of the property, as well as the draft Integrated Development and Management Master Plan (PDAIG), which has been specifically reviewed by the IUCN, commends the States Parties on the subsequent finalization of the 2026–2035 PDAIG, submitted as the final deliverable of the international assistance project funded by the World Heritage Fund, and invites the States Parties to ensure its effective implementation, with adequate technical, human, and financial resources;

10. Notes that the Nimba Development Company (NDC) project is still at the scoping and terms of reference stage. However, regrets that no information has been provided regarding the Nimba North and West permits acquired by Equatorial Resources Limited, further requests the State Party of Guinea to provide detailed information on the status of these permits, bearing in mind that the Nimba West permit covers a significant part of the Guinean component of the property and recalls the Committee's position on the incompatibility of mining exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status;

11. Expresses its deep concern that an environmental permit has been issued to the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) for mineral exploration activities in the mining enclave, noting that the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for Phase 1 of the project:

    a) Remains limited to Phase 1 of the project, despite the clear and substantial concerns previously expressed by the Committee that such an isolated approach does not allow for a comprehensive and exhaustive assessment of the potential impacts of the project as a whole on the OUV of the property, which does not fully meet the commitment made by SMFG and the Committee's previous requests,

    b) Does not take into account the synergistic and cumulative impacts of other existing or potential mining projects in the immediate vicinity and the wider context of the property,

    c) Identifies major and potentially irreversible negative impacts on the essential attributes of the OUV, including the fragmentation of ecological corridors, the loss of rare high-altitude habitats, and risks to strictly endemic and threatened species, directly affecting criteria (ix) and (x), should the project be implemented in its current form;

12. Wishes to emphasize that, given the property's status as a World Heritage Site in Danger, the major impacts identified in the EIA for Phase 1 of the SMFG project raise serious concerns regarding the prospects of removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and requests furthermore the State Party of Guinea not to issue any operating permits or environmental compliance certificates for the SMFG mining project until all the Committee's previous requests, as set out in its decisions since 2021, regarding a comprehensive impact assessment covering the entire project, including all phases (construction, operation, closure, restoration), and explicitly incorporating the cumulative effects with other mining projects in the landscape, as well as the strategic environmental assessment covering the entire landscape and incorporating all relevant mining projects, have not been implemented and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

13. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the points mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

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

Decision: 48 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.46**, **45 COM 7A.9**, **46 COM 7A.46,** and **47 COM 7A.8**, adopted respectively at its extended 44th (Fuzhou / online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, and at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th sessions (UNESCO, 2025);

3. Regrets that, once again, no separate report has been submitted by the State Party concerning the General Decision on the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite the decisions mentioned above, and decides to give priority henceforth to individual reports on the state of conservation of each of the five properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the DRC, in order to ensure continuous and tailored monitoring of threats, adapted to the specific characteristics of each property;

4. Remains once again concerned about the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the east of the country, particularly following the attack in February 2026 in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, as well as its negative impact on key neighbouring protected areas, welcomes nevertheless the commendable progress observed regarding the implementation of certain corrective measures, notably in Virunga National Park, provided that security and management conditions continue to improve, and encourages the State Party to intensify its efforts to ensure, as far as possible, the continuity of conservation actions and the full implementation of corrective measures;

5. Takes note of the ongoing progress made in strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), in line with the recommendations of the report by the Commission of Inquiry into alleged violations committed by personnel of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) in Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB), and those of the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue in support of the Batwa, and requests

the State Party to expedite internal disciplinary mechanisms, ensure their rigorous application, and train all personnel on human rights issues, whilst involving the IPLCs in asset management processes, in accordance with current international standards and the 2015 Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development;

6. Recalls once again the 2022 Decision (Communication 588/15) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), and once again urges the State Party to expedite the implementation of all measures requested in that decision to ensure conservation in harmony with respect for the rights of Batwa communities in and around the property and the preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

7. Also regrets the very limited progress made regarding the exploitation of natural resources, particularly due to a persistent lack of updates on fundamental issues such as the cancellation of the 2022 tender for oil exploration in blocks overlapping the Virunga National Park, and the issue of active mining sites in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, reiterates again its position that gas, oil and mining exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, and urges once again the State Party to cancel all oil block concessions and mining concessions that encroach upon World Heritage properties;

8. Expresses concern at the continuing security, environmental, and social pressures facing World Heritage properties in the DRC, thanks the Government of Norway for its continued support for properties in danger in Africa, including in the DRC, and calls once again on the international community to provide further technical and financial support for the ongoing efforts of the State Party and its partners to protect World Heritage properties within its territory;

9. Finally requests the State Party to ensure that it submits to the World Heritage Centre, in a timely manner, and within the specified deadlines (**1 February** or **1 December**, as applicable), updated reports on the state of conservation of each of the properties located on its territory and on the implementation of the aforementioned measures.

48. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7A.47** and **47 COM 7A.9** adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit, within the statutory deadline of 1 February 2026 and the exceptionally extended deadline of 15 February 2026, the report on the property's state of conservation as requested by the Committee, contrary to paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines;

4. Notes that the State Party's failure to submit the report in time makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to monitor the property's state of conservation, given the conservation threats that the property still seems to be facing, in particular on the basis of information previously available to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

5. Requests the State Party to ensure that the property's state of conservation report is submitted within the statutory deadlines, and to provide updated information on the implementation of all the recommendations set out in its Decision **47 COM 7A.9**, in particular regarding:

   a) Continued implementation of corrective measures;

   b) Strengthened surveillance patrols in response to the increase in incursions by poachers and transhumant herders, particularly in the northern part of the property;

   c) Conducting of the aerial inventory planned for 2025 within the property and sharing the results with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

   d) Technical assessment of the implementation of the 2020-2024 Giraffe Conservation Action Plan and the steps taken to update it;

   e) Acceleration of the process of relocating artisanal mining sites and validation of related documents;

   f) Acceleration of the drafting and signing of a formal memorandum of understanding between the DRC and South Sudan to strengthen cross-border cooperation.

6. Also notes the translocation of 24 southern white rhinoceros individuals to the property in December 2025, in addition to the first group of 16 individuals introduced in 2023, recalls having requested the State Party to submit several key documents mentioned above (the updated feasibility study incorporating comments from the 2022 IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission [AfrRSG SSC] and the risk management strategy referred to in the previous conservation status report) and then to ensure that future species translocations are carried out on the basis of formal technical advice from the IUCN AfrRSG SSC and in accordance with the IUCN guidelines for in situ reintroduction and translocation of African and Asian rhinos, also requests the State Party to provide a detailed update on this operation and comprehensive information on the translocation programme, including, in particular:

   a) The total number of individuals concerned by translocation operations within the property;

   b) The number of individuals planned in the programme's subsequent phases and indicative timetables for the next phases;

   c) The monitoring protocols put in place and the post-release management measures, in particular with regard to health monitoring, ecological monitoring, and risk mitigation;

   d) The procedures for integrating the programme into the property's strategic plans, in particular the 2025-2029 business plan, and into the comprehensive biodiversity monitoring framework and the associated conservation indicators;

7. Takes note of the IUCN evaluation mission within the property in 2025 following the property's re-nomination to the World Heritage List (modification of criteria) submitted by the State Party in January 2025, and that this nomination is currently under examination in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, and is presented in Document WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the property's state of conservation and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

9. Decides to maintain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

49. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling decisions **45 COM 7A.6, 46 COM 7A.48** and **47 COM 7A.10** adopted respectively at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Expresses its deep concern about the persistence of structural and conjunctural threats that seriously hamper the effective implementation of the 2017 mission's recommendations, the updated corrective measures and its previous decisions, and deeply deplores the attack at the end of February 2026 by armed groups that emptied the eco-guards' weapons depot, considerably weakening their ability to protect the property, thus seriously compromising its integrity, management and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Commends the State Party on the progress reported concerning respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), in accordance with the recommendations of the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue and the 2022 Commission of Inquiry, in particular the integration of community representatives into the Park Council, the operationalisation of a human rights unit, the deployment of the 'complaints and feedback management mechanism', the raising of community awareness and the development of mechanisms facilitating secure and sustainable access to land;
5. Recalls the 2022 decision (Communication 588/15) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), once again urges the State Party to expedite the implementation of all measures requested in this decision for conservation in harmony with respect for the rights of the Batwa communities in and around the property and the preservation of the property's OUV;
6. Takes note of the provisional administrative measures taken against the eco-guards involved in two cases of mass crimes, as well as the conviction and expulsion of three eco-guards for poaching in 2024, and encourages the State Party to continue the ongoing judicial proceedings concerning illegal wildlife trafficking and environmental crimes, in close collaboration with the Human Rights Unit, as soon as the competent judicial bodies are fully operational, and to strengthen internal disciplinary mechanisms in order to avoid possible recurrences;
7. Welcomes with appreciation the results of the 2024 terrestrial wildlife inventory in the Tshivanga sector based on three complementary methods (camera traps, line transects and surveys) conducted exclusively in the high altitude, which enabled 64 species to be recorded, including emblematic species and seven threatened ones, but is deeply concerned that these results also reveal a state of advanced ecological degradation marked by increased habitat fragmentation, loss of functional connectivity, canopy closure limited to 26%, declines in species indicative of stable forest environments and a high incidence of signs of logging and other human activities;
8. Notes with concern the deterioration of the security situation, which has led to the withdrawal of eco-guards from a large part of the property and the resurgence of illegal activities, in particular poaching, illustrated by the seizure of 1,414 kg of ivory in 2025, and requests the State Party to urgently develop and implement an integrated strategy to secure the property and preserve its key attributes, involving, inter alia, civil, judicial and security authorities, as well as local communities, to combat wildlife trafficking networks;

9. Also takes note of the activities planned for 2026, including ecological restoration, the retraining of judicial police officers (JPOs) and the recruitment of 80 eco-guards, notes that implementation of the 2022 restoration plan has been suspended in view of the security situation and also encourages the State Party and its partners to continue their efforts, including restoration in unoccupied areas, and to provide updated and detailed information in this regard in its next report;

10. Further takes note of the completion of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Tshivanga infrastructure project, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, as previously requested, and invites the State Party to submit this assessment to the World Heritage Centre, as well as similar assessments envisaged in the other sectors of the property;

11. Strongly encourages the international community and the technical and financial partners to continue to support the State Party's efforts to achieve lasting security for the property and gradually improve its management, while bearing in mind the need to continue to work on the development of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), followed by the definition of the actions necessary for their implementation;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the property's state of conservation and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

13. **Decides to maintain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

50. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.7**, **46 COM 7A.49** and **47 COM 7A.11** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyad, 2023), 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th session (UNESCO, 2025), respectively;

3. Appreciates the implementation by the State Party of some corrective measures updated in 2014, but notes with concern that several additional key requests made by the Committee in its Decisions **45 COM 7A.7**, **46 COM 7A.49** and **47 COM 7A.11** remain unanswered to date, and requests the State Party to provide complete and updated responses to all the requests made in the above-mentioned Decisions in order to allow continuous monitoring of the property's state of conservation;

4. Expresses once again its deep concern at the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the area of the property, marked in particular by the March 2026 attack on the Babesua patrol post, and notes with appreciation the evacuation of armed groups and of mining camps and worksites, thanks to the strengthening of operational capacities and the intensification of ground and air patrols, including in previously inaccessible areas, as well as the joint patrols conducted with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the Congolese National Police (PNC);

5. Notes, however, a difference between the figures given for surveillance coverage in the February 2026 report (from 38% in 2024 to 58% in 2025) and the January 2025 report

(73.18% in 2024), also requests the State Party to specify the area actually under surveillance to date and to provide details on the sources of the data used, in order to assess actual progress on the ground, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to clear out armed groups and illegal mining activities until they are completely eliminated;

6. Welcomes the progress made in the repression of environmental offences, illustrated by the arrest of 154 suspects and several convictions, as well as the actions to combat poaching and illicit trafficking, but stresses that these efforts come up against the challenge of the persistent degradation of ecosystems, in particular the increase in the rate of deforestation around the property, estimated at 4,000 ha/year between 2020 and 2024, with a significant impact on the preservation of the property's integrity and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

7. Expresses concern that no information has been provided on several key management tools announced for 2025, including the Development and Management Plan (Plan d'aménagement et de gestion - PAG), the Community Strategy (Stratégie communautaire - COCO) and the Guidelines for Access to Natural Resources (Directives d'Accès aux Ressources Naturelles - DARN), urges the State Party to provide an update on their status, to accelerate their finalisation and implementation and to ensure that they are accompanied by a sustainable funding strategy that guarantees their effectiveness and, in turn, contributes to the consolidation of temporary community development initiatives;

8. Commends the resumption of the biological inventories in 2025, stresses that an updated assessment of the status of key species of OUV is essential to guide conservation priorities and assess the real impact of management measures, and invites the State Party to transmit the results of these biological inventories to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available;

9. Notes once again with concern the persistence of activities negatively affecting the property's OUV, in particular artisanal and semi-industrial mining inside the property and in the legally disputed areas, accompanied by a gradual increase in recent years in pollution and deforestation, with the estimated loss put at 4,000 ha/year between 2020 and 2024;

10. Notes positively the establishment of the joint commission between the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature and the Cadastre Minier (ICCN-CAMI) and its visit to the property to put an end to the violation of the boundaries specified in Ministerial Order 045/CM/ECN/92 of 2 May 1992 creating and delimiting the reserve, as well as the continuation of the process of participatory demarcation of the property's boundaries, and once again urges the State Party to impose an immediate moratorium on all industrial and artisanal mining activities in the legally disputed areas until the final clarification of the property's boundaries and the final harmonisation of the maps used by the Cadastre minier (CAMI) and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), in accordance with the property's boundaries as validated at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List;

11. Notes with appreciation the official invitation transmitted by the State Party for the organization of the reactive monitoring mission to the property, further requests that this mission be carried out as soon as the security conditions in the area of the property allow and requests furthermore the State Party to submit detailed information on the efforts made towards achieving the DSOCR indicators, including the methods of verifying these indicators as indicated in the approved DSOCR (Decision **38 COM 7A.41**) in the next state of conservation report in order to support the preparation of the said mission;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the property's state of conservation and the implementation

of the above-mentioned points for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

13. **Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property;**

14. **Decides to maintain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

51. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,

2. Recalling decisions **45 COM 7A.8**, **46 COM 7A.50** and **47 COM 7A.12** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) and its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025) respectively,

3. Notes with concern the persistent absence of response to the previous requests, in particular those made in Decisions **45 COM 7A.8**, **46 COM 7A.50** and **47 COM 7A.12,** and stresses that this lack of updated information impedes monitoring by the World Heritage Committee of the state of conservation of the property and real progress made with regard to the serious conservation threats facing the property;

4. Expresses once again its deep concern regarding the persistent instability of the security situation in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which continues to jeopardize the sustainability of conservation actions, notes with great interest, however, the rare birth of twin mountain gorillas within the property, despite the difficult context and also stresses that this constitutes an encouraging sign of the ecosystem's resilience and of the potential for the recovery of flagship populations, as long as security and management conditions continue to improve;

5. Appreciates the continued implementation of the corrective measures updated during the 2018 reactive monitoring mission, particularly the reinstatement of the operational presence of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) within around 65% of the property boundaries, made possible thanks to the rehabilitation of patrol posts and the establishment of forward operating bases, supported by strengthened cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the Congolese National Police (PNC), and strongly encourages the State Party to continue and consolidate these efforts with a view to the full implementation of the corrective measures;

6. Recalls, however, that several requests made by the Committee since 2019 remain unanswered to date, and requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with updated information on each of the points below as soon as possible:

    a) Civil and military infrastructure developments within or around the property, including hydropower projects and road developments, their progress, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) conducted and available, and the measures envisaged to avoid any potential negative impact of these projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

    b) The updating of the 2021-2025 Development and Management Plan (DMP) and its submission to the World Heritage Centre following final validation,

c) The monitoring of OUV flagship species, based on a standardized methodology,

d) The details of the operation to reintroduce four female gorillas at Mount Tshiaberimu in October 2024, and the measures taken or planned to ensure the long-term success thereof,

e) The increased human land encroachment, up from 12% (2021) to 14.2% (2024), and the pressure on the natural resources of the property, particularly from armed groups;

7. Takes positive note of the fall of almost 50% in illegal armed activities in the priority zones following the joint ICCN-FARDC operations and the positive impact reported on the eastern lowland gorilla habitat and population, as well as the progress made in strengthening the environmental justice system, is concerned, however, at the persistent pockets of instability and the continuing high number of environmental crimes which reflect continued pressure on the natural resources of the property and represent a risk to maintaining its integrity and its OUV;

8. Takes note of the improved surveillance actions which have reduced poaching by approximately 25% and illegal fishing by 20%, particularly at Lake Edward, is concerned, however, about the 41 poaching cases recorded in 2025, indicating that additional efforts are still necessary, and further stresses the importance of sustainably strengthening the integrated approaches involving the local communities in the management and safeguarding of the property, notably building on local development initiatives supported by the Virunga Alliance, as well as the efforts aimed at improving access to renewable energy and reducing illegal production of charcoal, in order to reduce pressure on the resources of the property;

9. Recalling again the importance of ecological corridors for the sustainable preservation of the OUV of the property, welcomes the continued cross-border cooperation with Uganda, resulting in an approximate 40% decrease in transboundary elephant poaching, and also requests the State Party to extend this collaboration within the framework of the “Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration”;

10. Also takes note of the reaffirmed commitment of the State Party not to grant oil concessions in the property, however regrets the lack of updated information concerning the 2022 tender including two blocks overlapping the property, which does not appear to have been withdrawn, reiterates the Committee’s position that oil and mining exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, and further requests the State Party to urgently clarify this point and to confirm that no oil exploration or exploitation incompatible with the preservation of the OUV of the property will be authorized therein;

11. Once again thanks the technical and financial partners for their continued support, and appeals to the international community for greater support for the efforts of the State Party and its partners with a view to ensuring sustainable funding for the conservation of the property;

12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit detailed information on the efforts made to achieve the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including their sources of verification (Decision **35 COM 7A.4**), in order to facilitate rigorous assessment of the progress with a view to preparing the Reactive Monitoring mission previously requested by the Committee, as soon as security conditions allow;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

14. **Decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

52. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.10**, **46 COM 7A.51, 47 COM 7A.13** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024), 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the continued implementation of the Management Plan (2018-2028) for the property, the allocation of resources for its planned revision in 2028, the increase in management personnel at Sibiloi National Park, community engagement and awareness-raising activities and the completion of the 2025 National Wildlife Census;
4. Notes with concern, however, that several key recommendations of the 2020 mission remain unimplemented or significantly delayed, and reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement these recommendations, in particular to:
    a) Develop a site-specific Biodiversity Action Plan to restore wildlife populations in the property,
    b) Conduct a comprehensive scientific study to assess the current impacts of grazing and the development of a viable grazing pressure reduction strategy, based on grazing capacities to address encroachment, particularly in view of the 2025 census which recorded substantial livestock numbers along corridors designated as wildlife access points to the lake,
    c) Establish a co-management 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,
    d) 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,
    e) 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;
5. Also 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 OUV, and to include a co-management system agreed with local communities on resource use;
6. Also takes note of the State Party's report that water levels have continued to rise across the Great Rift Valley lakes, including Lake Turkana, the preliminary findings of the 2024-2025 UNESCO Norway-funded project on water dynamics of Lake Turkana and the reference to the 2021 UNEP-DHI modelling study indicating that the causes of recent lake-level changes are not yet fully understood and that no comprehensive assessment

has yet been undertaken to explain the observed hydrological changes affecting the Rift Valley lakes;

7. Considers that rising lake levels do not resolve the long-standing concerns regarding the cumulative impacts of developments in the Omo-Turkana Basin on the property's OUV, including impacts on the quantity, timing and seasonality of water flows, sediment and nutrient transport, water quality, salinity dynamics, shoreline processes, fisheries and ecological processes, and recalls again the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), including to provide a comprehensive assessment that distinguishes climate-driven variability from the cumulative effects of upstream regulation, irrigation abstraction and land-use change in the Omo River Basin on the property's OUV;

8. Urges the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya to initiate, as a matter of priority, the requested SEA to assess the cumulative impacts of developments in the Omo-Turkana Basin, including by reconvening the Joint Technical Experts Panel (JTEP) as proposed in the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and to ensure that the SEA is conducted in line with Guideline and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

9. Recalling the strong dependence of Lake Turkana on inflows from the Omo River, regrets that no updated information has been provided by the State Party of Ethiopia regarding ongoing and planned developments in the Omo Basin, including the Kuraz Sugar Development Project and the Gibe IV (Koysha) and Gibe V dam projects, and further reiterates its request to the State Party of Ethiopia to provide comprehensive and updated information on all such developments that may affect the property, in line with Article 6 (3) of the Convention text;

10. Further takes note of the State Party's request to consider the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, but considers that the reported progress relating to the implementation of the Management Plan 2018-2028, resource mobilization efforts, and the holding of meetings with Ethiopia only relate to three out of 16 indicators of the DSOCR adopted in 2024, and that only limited progress has been achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 mission, therefore requests the State Party to provide in its next State of Conservation report, a comprehensive update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 mission, and progress in implementing the corrective measures towards achieving the indicators of the DSOCR, including relevant sources of verifications of these indicators, as identified in the DSOCR, to enable the Committee to assess whether conditions are in place for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to verify progress towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

53. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.12, 46 COM 7A.53** and **47 COM 7A.15** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party, with the support of technical and financial partners (TFPs), despite a difficult security context and still-limited resources, to continue the implementation of the corrective measures updated in 2015 and various conservation actions, notably through the strengthening of the human, technical and logistical capacities of the property's management unit, underscores, however, that the absence of clear performance indicators and detailed sources of verification for each of these actions makes it impossible to measure their effectiveness as well as the actual progress made;
4. Notes positively the extension of patrols beyond the boundaries of the property, with the involvement of local communities, as well as the continued absence of poaching cases since 2022, and encourages the State Party and its TFPs to continue efforts to strengthen the capacities of the ecoguards and their ongoing technical support, notably in the implementation of the SMART tool, and to integrate the data collected into an adaptive results-based management system;
5. Notes with appreciation the continued observation of certain emblematic species contributing to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), such as the dama gazelle, the red-necked ostrich and the Barbary sheep, but regrets the lack of detailed data allowing an assessment of the actual progress made towards achieving the indicator of the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) regarding a trend in the encounter rate of these species over three consecutive years, in accordance with the verification sources included in the adopted DSOCR;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a rigorous ecological monitoring protocol, as outlined in the DSOCR, covering all key species of OUV, and requests that a monitoring report detailing the methodology and results by key species of OUV be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
7. Takes note of the establishment of a working group for the revision of the Development and Management Plan (DMP) and the ongoing discussions between UNESCO, the State Party and the partner Wild Africa Conservation (WAC) on this matter, within the framework of Norwegian Government funding of UNESCO for this property, recalls that the previous DMP (2020-2024) expired more than a year ago and urges the State Party and its partner to accelerate the revision process in order to guarantee continuity in the management of the property, while ensuring that the future DMP adopts a proactive and inclusive approach, with a monitoring and evaluation system based on clear indicators covering all the major challenges affecting the property as identified in the DSOCR, and equipped with adequate financial and technical resources;
8. Also takes note of the steps taken by the State Party to revoke the three mining permits granted on the south-eastern boundary of the property, which constitute a potentially serious threat to the OUV, also urges the State Party to expedite these steps and ensure their definitive cancellation and recalls the Committee's position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status;

9. Reiterates its concern once again about the persistence of illegal gold panning sites in the south-eastern boundaries of the property, in the absence of a buffer zone, and also encourages the State Party to further strengthen the current measures to combat this activity, including by considering, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, the relocation of gold panners and the submission of a request for a minor boundary modification for the property, in accordance with paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, to include a functional buffer zone ensuring the property's long-term integrity;

10. Notes with concern the persistent weakness of the management unit's financial resources and technical capacities, compromising the effectiveness and sustainability of conservation actions, as evidenced by the persistence of illegal logging and land clearing within the property, intrinsically linked to its very large surface area, as well as the lack of funding for the Dama Gazelle Conservation Action Plan;

11. Invites the State Party to take advantage of the current revision of the MDP to provide the property management unit with additional human, technical and financial resources, and reiterates its appeal to the international community and TFPs to further support the efforts of the State Party regarding a strategic capacity-building plan to ensure the successful implementation of corrective measures and the effective achievement of the DSOCR indicators;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the property's state of conservation and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, including progress made towards achieving the DSOCR indicators, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

13. **Decides to maintain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

54. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania)

Decision: 48 COM 7A.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.16, 44 COM 7A.51**, **45 COM 7A.14**, **46 COM 7A.55** and **47 COM 7A.16** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its utmost concern over the current status of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the cumulative and irreversible impacts of major infrastructure and extractive developments, notably the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), the Kidunda Dam and the Mkuju Uranium Project;

4. Expresses again its utmost concern that the JNHPP is in full operation notwithstanding the clear Committee position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status and its concerns regarding its irreversible impact on the OUV of the property in the absence of an adequate Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and urges the State Party to thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation measures against the values and attributes of OUV of the property;

5. Also recalling that the State Party was repeatedly requested not to approve or proceed with the Kidunda Dam project before a new ESIA that assesses the potential impacts on

the OUV of the property is undertaken, also expresses its concern that construction is reportedly continuing against this explicit request of the Committee, and requests the State Party to continue dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the revision of the existing ESIA in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to include a comprehensive assessment of impacts on OUV and cumulative effects and agreed actions to address actual and potential impacts on OUV, prior to any resumption of project activities;

6. Recalling that a drilling contract for the Mkuju Uranium Project has already been awarded by the Tanzanian Mining Commission, takes note of the submission of the updated 2012 Environment Management Plan (EMP) to the World Heritage Centre for review, and that a new ESIA is under preparation, reiterates its urgent request to the State Party, to suspend operations until the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property have been rigorously assessed in line with the aforementioned guidelines and the ESIA submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;

7. Requests that the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as repeatedly requested since 2018, be undertaken with utmost urgency in order to assess the options available to the State Party and the Committee, including but not limited to:

   a) The status and implications of the ongoing and completed large-scale development projects, notably the JNHPP, the Kidunda Dam and the Mkuju Uranium Project and associated infrastructures for the World Heritage status,

   b) The status of the populations of elephant, black rhinoceros, wild hunting dog, hippopotamus and other key species within the property,

   c) The current status of the OUV of the property and to confirm whether the property continues to demonstrate the integrity and values which underpin the OUV as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List,

   d) The future scenarios for the property, including options to conserve the wider Selous-Niassa ecosystem,

   e) Review and advise on the draft Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) submitted by the State Party in May 2024

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

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

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

1. Tipasa (Algeria)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Recognizes the ongoing efforts to ensure the conservation, maintenance, monitoring and documentation of the property, commends the State Party for the submission of the Management Plan, and requests that all efforts are made to ensure its full implementation as promptly as possible;

4. 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 also requests that:

   a) The lighting system is reviewed and improved to ensure that the most appropriate solution possible is implemented,

   b) An update is provided on the status of the proposed port development project together with confirmation that it has been revised in light of the recommendations of the 2017 Advisory mission and the mitigation measures identified in the impact assessment,

   c) 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;

5. Further requests that the maritime extension of the buffer zone proposal is defined as soon as possible and that a minor boundary modification is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also reminds the State Party of the requests to share the water management project and, in the meantime, encourages the State Party to identify the financial resources required to implement the solutions identified in the water management study to resolve the conservation problems caused by water-pooling within the property;

7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review.

2. Abu Mena (Egypt)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7A.23**, **45 COM 8B.57**, and **47 COM 7A.34** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts to:

   a) Implement the recommendations of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission,

   b) Monitor and report the ground water level at the property and the state of conservation of its archaeological structures,

   c) Address the stabilisation of the archaeological structures, maintenance of the property through the clearing of vegetation, and maintaining the public water system,

   d) Ensure the continuous functioning of a robust ground water control system with an emergency backup system,

   e) Develop a financial strategy and a framework for data management for the property, with a view to respectively implementing conservation projects and the creation of a GIS database for the property;

4. Encourages the State Party to continue these actions, including the implementation of conservation projects on the archaeological structures of the property, as foreseen in the financial strategy, for completion between 2028 and 2030;

5. Also welcomes the progress made in developing the Conservation Plan, and the State Party's commitment to early notification of development projects and to ensure impact assessments are undertaken, and requests that the State Party to:

   a) Align the Conservation Plan with the Site Management Plan to ensure an effective management framework for the property, following the guidance provided by ICOMOS in its Technical Review,

   b) Ensure timely notification to the World Heritage Centre of projects included in the Conservation Plan where the screening phase of impact assessments indicate possible negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, so that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies can provide guidance for ensuring that any developments are aligned with the preservation of the property's OUV;

6. Recalling its past request to the State Party to, on the basis of surveys, submit a logical boundary for the property and an appropriate buffer zone as a minor boundary modification, and noting the State Party's timelines for this process and that the proposed boundaries should ensure that the area designated as an archaeological site will include the entire property, also encourages the State Party to engage the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in the process before submission of a minor boundary modification request and formal adoption of new boundaries on a national level;

7. Also requests that the State Party ensures that the future boundaries of the property can be designated as protected under its National Antiquities Protection Law subsequent to their adoption by this Committee;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

3. Historic Cairo (Egypt)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.38**, **45 COM 8B.58,** and **46 COM 7B.26** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively;

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment of resources to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the tangible and intangible heritage of the property;

4. Also welcomes the establishment of the Urban Regeneration and Historic Cairo Management Committee by Prime Ministerial Decree, as a new permanent authority for the regeneration of the property, notes that the Committee serves both as proposer and approver of projects, and that the decree provides potential administrative overlap with the mandates of other similar bodies, including the Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites;

5. Further welcomes the continued restoration and conservation of historically significant buildings in the property undertaken by the State Party in collaboration with its international partners, but considers that these initiatives, as well as urban regeneration projects, should be closely coordinated and the process urgently scaled up and framed by the forthcoming Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and Sustainable Development Plan (SDP);

6. Also notes that the CMP and the SDP remain under development, and that the State Party will submit these plans for review before their adoption, urges again the State Party to give priority to completing both the SDP and the CMP as both are needed to frame the development of urgently needed regeneration projects and the vision for regeneration, and requests that the State Party utilise the process of development of the CMP to critically reflect on the management system of the property to ensure robust decision-making processes without duplication of roles among administrative and management bodies;

7. Further notes the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Greater Cairo Metro Lines 4 and 6;

8. Notes furthermore that the ICOMOS Technical Review of the Metro Lines 4 and 6 proposals concludes that utmost care is required in further detailed technical

investigations, and that further planning of the metro lines will require dedicated Heritage Impact Assessments focused on its different components, further requests the State Party to implement HIAs as part of the project design process, as outlined in the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including investigating alternatives for the currently planned future station at Al Azhar Park, and submit the reports of such HIAs to the World Heritage for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made;

9. Encourages the State Party to continue its engagement with the World Heritage Centre in providing responses to reported damage to the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit technical information on any major restoration or new project that may affect the property's OUV, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Requests furthermore that, in light of the large conservation challenges faced at the property, the large-scale urban regeneration and conservation projects envisaged, the development of the transport infrastructure through the property, the ongoing process of finalising the CMP and the SDP, as well as the possible development of a minor boundary modification, the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as soon as possible to assess the state of conservation of the property and the changes that have taken place since inscription, review the restoration, conservation, urban renewal, and infrastructure projects implemented and those planned in the property, provide guidance on the completion of the CMP and SDP, and to consider proposals for modifications to the boundaries and buffer zones in relation to the enhanced documentation and analysis and to increase protection and support management requirements;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

4. Saint Catherine Area (Egypt)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B. Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.138,** and **47 COM 7B.168** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th session (UNESCO, 2025), respectively;

3. Welcomes the State Party's invitation of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and notes that it was undertaken in July 2026, and that it will consider the report of this mission at its 49th session (2027);

4. Notes the outcomes of the technical review of the revised Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the "Great Revelation Initiative – the Land of Peace" (GRILP) project, which found that aspects that have already been implemented, could result in significant permanent negative impacts on the integrity and authenticity of the property; and looks

forward to considering the findings and recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in order to further assess these potential impacts;

5. Also welcomes that the Presidential decree of September 2025, which mandates the suspension of works under the GRILP project until all UNESCO requirements related to its HIA are met, and requests that this suspension remain in force until the Committee has had the opportunity to review the recommendations of the July 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission;

6. Encourages the State Party to expedite the completion of the management plan, the conservation plan, and the visitor management plan, and submit drafts of these plans to the World Heritage Centre for technical review before their adoption;

7. Also notes that an inventory of conservation needs for the Saint Catherine Monastery has been submitted as annex to the State Party's report on the state of conservation of the property, and also encourages the State Party to:

   a) Further develop the inventory of conservation needs to encompass all built and known archaeological attributes of the property, linked to a register of the attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which would inform the forthcoming conservation plan,

   b) Develop a timed action plan for conservation actions, with short-, mid- and long-term actions, for inclusion in the forthcoming conservation plan,

   c) Establish current visitation numbers and the carrying capacity of the property's various tourism sites, to inform the forthcoming visitor management plan;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

5. Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.27**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes with appreciation the measures undertaken in the post-earthquake context, including the technical assessments, the adoption of a framework for interventions, and the launch of restoration works;

4. Invites the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre a consolidated report on the actions and initiatives in order to evaluate the overall coherence of the interventions, particularly including:

   a) Details of the operational planning for the post-earthquake restoration programme, in particular the preliminary studies, the chosen intervention methodology, and its progress,

   b) Modalities of coordinating the interventions, particularly the coordination between the post-earthquake works and the programme for the restoration of houses that has been in place since 2014;

5. Welcomes the progress made towards the gradual introduction of a dedicated management structure, with administrative and financial autonomy, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities, as well as the reflection undertaken on improved visitor management and uses at the property;

6. Encourages the State Party to revise the 2020-2030 management plan and to consolidate it, incorporating the following three operational components:

   a) Formalisation of the property's management structure and its operating mechanisms, with clear integration of risk management,

   b) A visitor management plan that outlines the functions at the property, organizes visitor flows, and sets out the chosen solution to control the pressures associated with commercial activities, as well as modalities for the plan's implementation,

   c) Mechanisms for coordination with the national actors in terms of managing risks throughout the property, and the proposed modalities of intervention in emergency situations;

7. Also invites the State Party to transmit the revised version of the management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review once finalized, in order to evaluate its coherence and its overall operational effectiveness;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review.

6. Medina of Marrakesh (Morocco)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes with appreciation the progress reported by the State Party in the implementation of the conservation and restoration interventions in response to the damage caused by the earthquake of 8 September 2023;

4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a comprehensive technical and scientific documentation that would allow the review of the restoration operations, particularly including:

   a) Detailed damage assessment reports,

   b) Technical documentation on the interventions, including the selected options, intervention methods and monitoring system, as well as for the interventions carried out under the responsibility of other administrations, such as for Koutoubia Mosque,

   c) An overall, consolidated schedule of interventions and corresponding timelines, structured to address the damage assessment;

5. Also notes that the State Party will submit special specifications and additional technical reports concerning the car parking projects at Arset Bouachrine and El Antaki Hospital;

6. Recalls the observations and recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS advisory mission of August 2023 as well as the ICOMOS technical review of November 2022 and also requests the State Party to submit, before any irreversible decision is made, a consolidated report on the car parking projects at Arset Bouachrine and El Antaki Hospital responding to each technical concern raised, and notably including:

   a) Prior identification of attributes for the areas affected by the two projects, reasoned justification for the choice of location within the property and analysis of alternatives,

   b) Preliminary archaeological investigations (soundings and excavations) and transmission of the corresponding reports,

   c) Traffic and environmental studies in an appropriate scale, as well as assessment of impacts and mitigation measures, including for the landscape and hydrological components,

   d) Details concerning the target users and the parking regulation mechanisms;

7. Further requests that the car parking projects be reconsidered as follows:

   a) The car parking project at Arset Bouachrine to be re-examined in light of the reservations expressed by the mission, and measures to be envisaged to protect the nearby buildings, and to restore “Arset Bouachrine” to its original state and recover the original spirit of the historic garden,

   b) The car parking project at El Antaki Hospital to be revised within the framework of a comprehensive approach incorporating the redevelopment of all of the hospital’s open spaces, with specific measures to protect the nearby buildings and a system for monitoring the condition of structures beyond the duration of construction works;

8. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to clarify the management system, in particular the structure in place for the property, its status, staffing, mandate and funding modalities, and encourages the State Party to prepare, as soon as possible, a sustainable tourism management plan for the property, to be incorporated within the updated management plan;

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

7. Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.178**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Reiterating its deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, calls again on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;

4. Remains deeply concerned about the highly vulnerable state of conservation of the property, which faces threats related to ongoing conflict, climate change, flooding, over-visitation and insufficient resources to ensure its adequate conservation and management;

5. Commends the State Party for its efforts to ensure protection for the property, assess its current condition and undertake emergency activities for its preservation in spite of the difficult prevailing context, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;

6. Welcomes the documented project proposal that has been developed by the State Party for the emergency preservation of the Temple of Augustus and also encourages the State Party to seek support for its implementation, including through the possible submission of an International Assistance request;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to refrain from permitting any development within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and further encourages it to initiate a dialogue with the concerned communities to assess needs and the potential expansion of existing residential areas through a planning process that avoids any negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, including, where applicable, the submission of appropriate impact assessments for proposed developments;

8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue the updating of the management plan to include planning regulations for the buffer zone and the integration of a sustainable visitor management strategy;

9. Welcoming the support already provided by international partners, including the new cooperation project funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH), reiterates its call to the international community and all scientific missions involved with the property to continue to support the State Party's efforts in the implementation of emergency safeguarding measures, by providing the necessary technical assistance and documentation;

10. Recalling the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, further reiterates its appeals to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Sudan;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the on the steps taken to implement the recommendations mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th 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.**

8. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.179**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Continues to express its deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;

4. 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 47th session;

5. Encourages the State Party to pursue coordination among local authorities, further engage with the civil society and community representatives in order to support the preservation and management of the property, and strengthen collaboration with UNESCO, particularly through its Office in Khartoum, which may provide technical assistance in enhancing capacities of the site management team;

6. While welcoming the progress made in the on-going inventorying and storing of cultural objects at Gebel Barkal, also regrets that detailed information on the project planned at the museum was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre, prior to the commencement of works, in order to allow for a comprehensive assessment of the project's potential impacts;

7. Reminds the State Party of the need to submit information on projects that may have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value, to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for review, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;

8. Noting the limited results with delay in the implementation of the Emergency Assistance request approved in February 2025, which aimed to contribute to the emergency protection of the property in the prevailing context, urges the State Party to finalize activities that have begun and initiate the implementation of pending ones, as soon as possible;

9. Reiterates its call for an increased urgent mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;

10. Recalling the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, reiterates its appeal to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Sudan;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th 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 AND PACIFIC

9. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.61**, **39 COM 7B.64**, **41 COM 7B.90**, **43 COM 7B.61**, **45 COM 7B.157**, and **47 COM 7B.68** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes that the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is being implemented, but urges the State Party to provide information on the current status of the plan, including progress made in achieving a shared management vision and resolve among the various decision-making bodies involved in the planning, protection, and management of the property, and the implementation schedule for key conservation actions in this IMP and its strategies, particularly the completion of Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Tourism Strategy, Visitor Management Plan, and Socio-economic sectoral plans foreshadowed as part of the Master Plan;

4. Urges again the State Party to expedite the completion of the Master Plan and the sectoral plans/strategies within it to provide more structured guidance to development in the property and buffer zone, and to submit the revised Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review;

5. Expresses concern regarding the construction of two buildings, namely the pilgrim accommodation and pilgrim-related facilities in the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the Anjanadri foothill, which was already completed before a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was submitted, and requests the State Party to provide an update on proposals for

the Anjanadri Hills area, including the pilgrim village developments and the tourism developments incorporating the ropeway proposal and associated facilities, in conformity with paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Reminds the State Party that all development proposals should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and that these HIAs and any other relevant project documentation should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision that would be difficult to reverse is made;

7. Notes the information provided by the State Party that the widening scheme for a road passing through the property near the villages of Sanapur and Anegundi was abandoned, the policies adopted on homestay to stimulate livelihood opportunities for local communities, updated information on works at Virupaksha and other archaeological and conservation works, and changes to vehicular movement on roads in the property and buffer zone;

8. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre to provide the results of the mission to the 49th session for information, and the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

10. Historic City of Ahmadabad (India)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.17**, **45 COM 7B.159**, and **47 COM 7B.70** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the continued documentation of historic pol houses in the property and the development of a digital database and GIS mapping of the property, and encourages the State Party to expedite the continuation of this process;

4. Notes the information provided on the routine conservation, repair and maintenance works at Bhadra Fort, the proposed adaptive reuse of the Sardar Patel Bhavan as a museum and interpretation centre, and the briefing of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation of the requirements to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in its activities within the property, including the bus stop development, and that the 2026 Reactive Monitoring mission reviewed and supported these developments;

5. Notes the additional information provided on a number of proposed restoration works, capacity building, inventory, and planning and governance developments, and requests the State Party to provide further information on the 'Vision 2070' project, the Heritage Tradable Development Rights (HTDR) scheme, and the Tourism Department's promotion of Public/Private Partnership conservation and adaptive reuse projects;

6. Notes that the Urban Design Guidelines within the Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) are under revision and will be submitted when complete, and requests that the State Party finalise this and other revisions of the HCP, Tourism Management Plan and Heritage Management Plan (HMP) as soon as possible and submit the revised documents to the World Heritage Centre for review;

7. Regrets that the construction of the Danapith Fire Station and multi-level car park development have been completed before Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes that fully consider potential impacts on the property's OUV were completed and the reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;

8. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party invited a Reactive Monitoring mission in March 2026, as requested in Decision **47 COM 7B.70**, takes note of the mission's conclusions and findings, and requests that the State Party implement fully the recommendations of this Reactive Monitoring mission;

9. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party that all development proposals in the property and buffer zone be subject to HIAs, and that these and any other relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

10. Urges the State Party and the Amdavad Municipal Corporation to revise the "Comprehensive General Development Control Regulations 2017 – Part II Planning Regulations" (Clause 7.3) to reflect the need to protect the urban fabric from development heights that could adversely impact the property's OUV, and that buildings within the property be limited to no more than 15 metres in height;

11. Welcomes the commissioning and undertaking of an independent iterative HIA for the proposed Kalipur Railway Station development, and urges the State Party to continue the iterative HIA process as a preferred design is chosen, ensuring that design and planning respond to issues raised in the Revised Interim HIA (December 2025) annexed to the State Party's state of conservation report;

12. Requests the State Party to submit revised HIA documents for the proposed Kalipur Railway Station to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and also requests that urgent mitigation measures be implemented to ensure the conservation of the related Minar historic sites, tree planting and landscaping on the roadway network, high-quality urban design in all public spaces, and a pedestrian link to the World Heritage property, with associated interpretative material, as recommended by the 2026 Reactive Monitoring mission;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

11. Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (India)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7B.32** and **47 COM 8B.38** adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts for the protection, conservation and presentation of the property;

4. Also welcomes the State Party's reported progress on the extension of the buffer zone to encompass the wider ancient irrigation system, including the canals and Lake Ramappa, and encourages the State Party to submit the request for a minor boundary modification before **1 February 2027**, following the procedures outlined in Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Notes the submission of the updated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme project, for review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;

6. Further notes that currently any major restorations or new constructions outlined in the Tourism Development Master Plan (TDMP) are at the preparatory level and, should the development proceed, notes furthermore the State Party's commitment to carry out HIAs, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, on project components, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the HIAs and project details, including site plans, sections and elevations, for any projects that may have a negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, for review before any decisions on the implementation of such projects are made.

12. Hegmataneh (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 8B.17** and **47 COM 8B.53**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription;

4. Also takes note of the maps submitted that show the revised property boundaries, as requested by the Committee, and the buffer zone, the boundaries of which have remained as initially proposed;

5. Encourages the State Party to further develop the Comprehensive Long-Term Conservation Programme with a clear focus on long-term research, conservation, and presentation of the archaeological finds, along with a realistic assessment of potential risks to the property;

6. Requests the State Party to complete the Integrated Management Plan as soon as practicable and to ensure that it incorporates:

   a) A clear definition of the attributes of the property that support its Outstanding Universal Value, together with the measures required for their protection, which should also be included in the conservation plan,

   b) The use of Heritage Impact Assessments, where relevant, to support the preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and

   c) Continued consideration for the participation and well-being of local communities;

7. Also encourages the State Party to continue developing a systematically organised inventory and documentation of all elements of the property, with particular emphasis on archaeological resources;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

13. Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Japan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the continued progress with the post-disaster reconstruction of the State Hall, while ensuring the protection of archaeological remains and the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Acknowledges with appreciation the adoption of the Fundamental Principles for Disaster Prevention and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall, Southern Hall and other structures, and encourages their continued integration into the reconstruction planning and design processes;

5. Strongly encourages the State Party to continue strengthening disaster risk management through the finalization of the multi-hazard disaster risk management Framework, including the formulation of a comprehensive first Response Manual addressing fire,

earthquakes and other potential hazards, and requests that this Framework and the Response Manual be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

6. Welcomes the continued involvement of the local community in disaster preparedness, including through regular fire drills, and the use of the reconstruction process as an opportunity for educational outreach;

7. Congratulates the State Party for the satisfactory reconstruction strategy used to guide the reconstruction works;

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

14. Sado Island Gold Mines (Japan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48. COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 8B.18** and **47 COM 8B.53**, adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in implementing most of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription, particularly with regard to management, conservation planning and visitor management;

4. Notes the State Party's decisions not to designate the entire buffer zone of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine component part as an Important Cultural Landscape, or to incorporate Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms into the Landscape Plan;

5. Requests the State Party to consider whether the Important Cultural Landscape that forms part of the buffer zone of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine component could be expanded to include more of the designated buffer zone, to ensure that protective mechanisms are appropriate for providing an effective additional layer of protection to the property, as specified in paragraph 104 the Operational Guidelines;

6. Requests the State Party to set up adequate mechanisms to ensure that all proposed development projects within the property, buffer zone and wider setting that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, irrespective of their size, are systematically assessed through Heritage Impact Assessments carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that such processes include opportunities for public engagement where appropriate;

7. Encourages the State Party to ensure that archaeological inspection and monitoring are systematically undertaken during forest management operations, particularly where such operations may result, even temporarily, in the exposure of underground remains;

8. Encourages the State Party to undertake interpretation and presentation measures at in-situ Edo period archaeological remains, during and upon completion of excavation, as a means of demonstrating to visitors how the remains convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

9. Acknowledges that additional interpretation and presentation measures have been developed, but considers that further clarification is needed regarding how the interpretation and presentation strategy and facilities comprehensively address, at the site level, the whole history of the property throughout all periods of mining exploitation, in line with Decision **46 COM 8B.18**; and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed of its progress;

10. Noting that the interpretation and presentation strategy of the whole history has shown some progress but remains to be fully developed, recommends the State Party to have close consultation with the States Parties concerned, with a view to enhancing, at the site level, the interpretation and presentation strategy and facilities of the property, and to comprehensively address, at the site level, the whole history throughout all periods of mining exploitation;

11. Requests the State Party to provide documentation on the effective identification of proposed development projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and the effectiveness of the visitor management strategy in protecting Outstanding Universal Value, and recommends that the visitor management strategy be evaluated more frequently in the first stages of its implementation;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027,** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

15. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the significant progress made in the development of the protection and management system of the property, including ongoing restoration and stabilisation work, monitoring and the submission of the draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP), which includes the framework and action plan for the development of the requested Disaster Risk Management Plan and Visitor Management Plan and extracts from the City of Turkestan's updated Master Plan for 2020-2035;

4. Welcomes the State Party’s commitment to investigate the feasibility of returning the historic Gurkana and Mausoleum doors, the latter of which is being restored, to the property; noting that these historic doors are attributes of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), stresses that maintaining the attributes of a World Heritage

property within the boundaries of the property is essential to preserve its OUV, and requests that the Gurkana and Mausoleum doors be returned to the property, preferably in their locations as per the time of inscription of the property;

5. Welcomes the implementation of 26 of the 32 recommendations made by the International Institute of Central Asian Studies (IICAS) including scientific studies; noting that contemporary interventions including shade structure affect the property's immediate setting, underscores the importance of the IICAS recommendation to remove inappropriate exterior installations to at least 100 m away from the Mausoleum, and requests the State Party to relocate the shade structures with particular attention to their visual and spatial impact on the property's OUV;

6. Welcomes the State Party's indication that it will submit the analytical results of the monitoring of the wider setting of the property and, considering the importance of a clearly articulated, consolidated baseline study, drawing on existing datasets, to support consistent and comparable future Impact Assessments, requests that these be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;

7. Takes note of the submission of an English translation of the "On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan" Law, annexed to the State Party report and included in the draft IMP, and that there is the need to ensure that the territory of the property, its boundaries and its buffer zone, as well as the IMP and the Visual Axes Protection Zone as important regulatory mechanisms are explicitly embedded in the Law, and requests the State Party to ensure full alignment between the Law, the Integrated Management Plan and the Master Plan, including explicit integration of the property boundaries, buffer zone delineation, Visual Axes Protection Zone, and clear provisions for Heritage Impact Assessments, and submit an updated draft version of the Law to the World Heritage Centre for review before adopting a revision to the Law;

8. Considers that the IMP should be revised to accurately reflect the Law "On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan", including in relation to the planning policies that relate to the wider setting of the property, and encourages the State Party to revise the IMP and the City of Turkestan's updated Master Plan for 2020-2035 according to ICOMOS' recommendations;

9. Stresses the need for strict control of the property's wider setting, including through the strict enforcement of the Visual Axes Protection Zone and height restrictions;

10. Encourages the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to the property in order to provide relevant advice on the conservation of the property, review the evolution of the property's wider setting since inscription, support the finalization and alignment of the Integrated Management Plan, Master Plan and legal framework, and further strengthen technical cooperation on the preservation of the property's OUV, including through the management of its wider setting;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

16. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.80** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Acknowledges the State Party's ongoing efforts to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, through implementation of the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan ("Plan de sauvegarde et mise en valeur" – PSMV), and reiterates its previous requests in Decisions **45 COM 7B.43**, **46 COM 7B.34** and **47 COM 7B.80** to the State Party to submit the updated elements of the PSMV to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review;

4. Takes note of the State Party's advice that the status of the World Heritage Management Division and possible re-instatement of the Heritage Fund remain under consideration, and requests the State Party to resolve these two outstanding and important matters, having regard to the specific requests in Committee Decisions **45 COM 7B.43**, **46 COM 7B.34** and **47 COM 7B.80**;

5. Welcomes improvements to legislation to support conservation and management of the property, through urban planning regulations, supplementary policies for intangible cultural heritage, ecological policies and draft guidelines for Sisavangvong and Sakkalin Roads, and requests that the Sisavangvong and Sakkalin Roads guidelines be further developed in line with the recommendations of the Technical Review by ICOMOS to provide more comprehensive coverage of the entire property and its buffer zone, and incorporate principles from the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), and that an updated project plan be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

6. Further takes note that, following two Technical Reviews by ICOMOS, the Luang Prabang Tourism Management Plan is close to finalization, and encourages the State Party to bring forward the proposed visitor carrying capacity study for the property to 2026 or early 2027;

7. Also acknowledges that the January 2024 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Luang Prabang Hydro-Electric Power Project was revised in response to the recommendations of the 2024 ICOMOS Technical Review and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and also requests the State Party to report on compliance with the mitigative measures outlined in the HIA;

8. Also welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and urges the State Party to implement the mission recommendations, particularly with respect to:

   a) Monitoring potential impacts of the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project on the OUV of the property and investigating ways to allocate a proportion of its revenue to the conservation of the property,

   b) Adverse impacts of the bank stabilization and development works from the Nam Khan River Park and Riverfront Protection projects,

c) Potential impacts on OUV of the Urban Environment Improvement Investment Project,

d) Coordination of projects within the Integrated Urban Strategy,

e) Assessing heritage impacts of major projects, including the new Mekong bridge, Riverside Tourism Development Park, the Hillside Tourism Development (if it proceeds), the footpath project, and Luang Prabang Airport using the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context (2022) and submitting these projects and their respective HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review,

f) Retention of the existing New Nam Khan Bridge,

g) Managing development in the buffer zone,

h) Wetlands rehabilitation and,

i) Support for digital recording;

9. Further notes the updates provided for significant tourism and infrastructure projects and further welcomes the commitment of the State Party to ensure that, in conformity with the State Party's national legislation and the Operational Guidelines, documentation for major projects, including HIAs prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, 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 51st session.

17. Bagan (Myanmar)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.20**, **45 COM 7B.44** and **47 COM 7B.82**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the continued implementation of management and conservation measures at the property, including the application of strategic tools such as the Bagan Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP), the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, the Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy and the "One Map" initiative, which contribute to improved monitoring, risk preparedness and stakeholder coordination;

4. Takes note of the ICOMOS Technical Review of the Disaster Risk Management Plan, and requests that its recommendations be implemented;

5. Notes the information provided regarding the March 2025 earthquake on the property, requests the continued monitoring of the condition of the monuments so that early remedial action may be taken to address incremental earthquake damage, and commends the continuation of conservation works, research activities, training programmes and cooperation with national and international partners to strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response capacity;

6. Requests the continued monitoring of the security situation in the region to ensure the safeguarding of the property, and urges again all parties associated with the military activities to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to Myanmar's heritage and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and those sites included on the Tentative List;

7. Welcomes the progress made on the implementation of the Bagan Hotel Strategy, including the commencement of phasing-out of hotels located within the property, restrictions on new hotel developments, and the systematic use of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to ensure that tourism development does not adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and reiterates its previous request that a full draft of the Bagan Hotel Strategy be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before it is finalized and adopted;

8. Requests that all Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) undertaken for projects within the property or its buffer zone follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and recalls the need to submit project documentation, including HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Takes note of the submitted archaeological report and the reported progress on the landscape study, and reiterates its previous requests for the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the following documents, for review:

   a) A comprehensive archaeological assessment of the completed, ongoing and future road upgrading projects,

   b) The draft Cultural Landscape Management Plan,

   c) A detailed rehabilitation plan for ancient water channels to prevent flooding risks, including consideration of the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, together with a related HIA;

10. Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, 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 51st session.

18. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Acknowledges the State Party's continued efforts towards the recovery of the property following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, the important contribution of the International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley (ISC-KV), progress with conservation and restoration work to monuments within the Protected Monument Zones of the property, and progress with implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and the ISC-KV;

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. Takes note that the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) has been updated following review by the ISC-KV, and requests the State Party to develop and complete its component documents in accordance with the ICOMOS Technical Review, and also takes note that six proposed Sector Strategies, which are intended to support the conservation and management of the property, are now in draft form, and also reiterates its previous request that the Sector Strategies are reviewed and approved by the ISC-KV before being finalized and implemented;

6. Further takes note of the submission of the 'Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report', which integrates the Recovery Master Plans for each of the Protected Monument Zones, that the Recovery Master Plans are to be phased out;

7. Takes note furthermore that the Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (UNESCO, 2011) and socio-economic revitalization programme for urban communities are to be accommodated within the Integrated Management Framework and Sector Strategies;

8. Takes note moreover that the new Master Plan for Pashupati Protected Monument Zone is yet to be formally adopted, and recalls its previous request to the State Part to submit this Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its adoption and implementation and prior to lifting the current suspension on interventions;

9. Also acknowledges submission of the report on archaeological monitoring of the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project;

10. Welcomes advice from the State Party regarding its provisional Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) procedures, but further reiterates its previous request to the State Party to ensure that these procedures are 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 that the updated draft State Party HIA document be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

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

Decision: 48 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Notes with satisfaction the initiatives pursued and commitments made by the State Party to secure the long-term conservation of the property, including:
   a) The Lumbini International World Heritage Conference in April 2025,
   b) Capacity building for the Lumbini Development Trust, the Department of Archaeology, and the Lumbini Cultural Municipality,
   c) The re-establishment of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the property, its preparation meeting in February 2026, and amendment of the ISC Terms of Reference as recommended by ICOMOS,
   d) Systematic reporting on the implementation of the recommendations from the ISC and the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission,
   e) Condition monitoring and interim measures at the Mayadevi Temple Shelter, particularly in relation to the ongoing threat of damage to archaeological features,
   f) The seven Sector Strategy documents, which are being finalised taking into account the ICOMOS Technical Review, including the new 'Community' and 'Sustainable Development' Strategies;

4. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and urges the State Party to implement the mission recommendations, particularly with respect to:
   a) The use of the Archaeological Risk Map from the Sector Strategy for Archaeology to avoid disturbance of archaeological remains in the Sacred Garden,
   b) The desired state of conservation of the archaeological remains within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter and within the Sacred Garden,
   c) The completion and adoption of the Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden and the Sector Strategies before the strategy and action plans for the proposed World Bank/Government of Nepal Greater Lumbini Area Development (GLAD) project are completed,
   d) The recognition of intangible living traditions of veneration and devotion to the ideas and beliefs of Buddhism in the Integrated Management Framework and Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden,

e) The facilitation of participation by Buddhist organizations in decision-making processes, including the provision of pilgrim facilities,

f) The submission of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for actions arising from the Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden and GLAD project,

g) The review and revision of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan,

h) The revision of the Lumbini Visitor Management Plan,

i) Capacity building for Lumbini Development Trust and the Department of Archaeology,

j) The possible removal of the Mayadevi Temple Shelter;

5. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies:

a) The complete Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden,

b) Information on the status of the development projects, particularly components pertaining to the property,

c) The proposed draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting;

6. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party that projects arising from the review of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan for the Sacred Garden and the 2023 Visitor Management Plan for the Sacred Garden be subject to HIAs, and that these HIAs and any other relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

7. Further reiterates its concern that the condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Mayadevi Temple Shelter continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

8. Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts in maintaining the OUV of the property and to use the implementation of the GLAD project as a means of ensuring continued protection of the property's OUV, including improving the condition of the archaeological remains within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter, including short-, mid- and long-term conservation solutions, and requests that plans for any conservation initiatives be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

20. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.38** adopted at its extended 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Commends the State Party's continued actions and commitment following the 2022 monsoon, in particular the progressive implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO emergency missions in 2022 and 2023, as well as the completed programme of short-term conservation actions and condition assessments, further research into the causes of deterioration, and the 2025 Disaster Risk Reduction workshop;

4. Notes with appreciation that the State Party has begun implementing the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts, including:

   a) Conservation actions prioritised to address the most vulnerable parts of the property,

   b) Ongoing research into the causes of deterioration and appropriate preventive and remedial actions,

   c) Measures addressing saline action, the rehabilitation of bricks, the improvement of restoration materials, and the establishment and maintenance of a well-functioning overall drainage system to protect vulnerable structures,

   d) Elaboration of an Integrated Management Plan;

5. Requests the State Party to submit the revised Disaster Risk Reduction Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review;

6. Welcomes advice from the State Party regarding the approach to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for projects that may have a potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

7. Reminds the State Party that documentation, including HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to commencement of works and before making any irreversible decisions, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Welcomes the new UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project to address the priorities identified by the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and previous decisions of the Committee, encourages the State Party, the World Heritage Centre, and the UNESCO Office in Islamabad to work in close cooperation on the technical and financial implementation of the approved project, to support conservation needs, to review and possibly update the existing management and conservation tools, and to establish the proposed Integrated Management Plan, and calls upon all States Parties and scientific institutions to further support this initiative;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

21. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.39** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Commends the State Party' sustained efforts after the August 2022 monsoon, guided by the UNESCO emergency missions in November 2022 and February 2023, and the progress made with the Conservation Plan 2023-2024, the Revised Management Plan 2023-2028, and the Disaster Risk Reduction Plan 2023-30;

4. Welcomes the technical process and capacity-building results of the UNESCO/Kingdom of the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (NFiT) project for the conservation of the Sheikh Jiyo Tomb and a nearby Samma-period tomb, notably as a model for emergencies given its technical replicability and the meaningful participation of local communities and businesses, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts for the two tombs and the four platform tombs, based on observations through the NFiT project;

5. Recalls paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and requests the State Party to submit project documentation, including a Heritage Impact Assessment consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to the commencement of works, including major conservation projects;

6. Notes with appreciation the ongoing integration of international standards into World Heritage conservation practice and encourages their ongoing application, combined with accumulated academic knowledge;

7. Requests the State Party to prepare and submit a detailed report on drainage analysis and proposed improvements for the property, making appropriate use of orthophotography and topographic analysis;

8. Acknowledges progress made in implementing previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to prepare and submit a summary table indicating the implementation status and further action required to acquit the recommendations from the 2019 mission and subsequent Committee decisions to date;

9. Takes note of the interventions at the mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II and at the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II, along with the ongoing installation of crack monitors at major monuments and locations and their fortnightly digital monitoring, and encourages the State Party to pursue prompt implementation of geo-radar analysis, test

pits, material testing, and a subsequent structural engineering design for the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II;

10. Requests the State Party to continue supporting the Steering Committee on Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta, so as to ensure access to necessary expertise and facilitate continued monitoring of conservation works;

11. Requests the State Party to ensure adequate financial and human resources, including reinforcement of staffing, to sustain necessary conservation activities at the property, and encourages continued national and international assistance to:

    a) Advance restoration works,

    b) Implement the Conservation Plan, Disaster Risk Reduction Plan, and Management Plan, and

    c) Prepare technical proposals for prioritized monuments;

12. Welcomes the State Party's intention to proceed with a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with paragraphs 163–164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, and encourages the State Party to expedite its submission;

13. **Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

22. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts for the protection, conservation and presentation of the property, including throguh participatory processes;

4. Notes the progress made in updating the Management Plan adopting participatory approaches, and requests the prompt completion of the Management Plan that combines the previously separate Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP), and for the development of a Conservation Plan with a funding strategy; and once ready, these documents be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review;

5. Also requests that the amendments to the Galle Heritage Foundation Act and to the Urban Development Authority regulations for planning and development in the property are finalized as soon as possible, guided by the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape where relevant, including to facilitate funding generation for conservation actions in the property;

6. Notes that the Galle Port development project is currently on hold, and should the development proceed, recalls its request to the State Party to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and to submit information, including plans, timelines and completed impact assessment reports for the revised port project to the World Heritage Centre for review before any decisions on the implementation of the port project are made;

7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

23. Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the elaboration of the Management Plan 2026-2031, comprehensive monitoring and documentation campaign and the creation of a database incorporating 3D scanning of the architectural ensemble of Itchan Kala, and encourages the State Party to clearly relate these works to the defined attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Also welcomes the work so far undertaken on a draft Detailed Development Plan (DDP) for the central part of Khiva, that is both Itchan Kala and Dishan Kala, and its aim to create a single, harmonious, and functional urban structure, but expresses concern that, given the scale and scope of the proposed urban renewal and the complexity of the planning decisions that will be entailed, the DPP as submitted will be inadequate as a planning document, as it fails to relate the proposed changes to the OUV of the property;

5. Requests that the DDP be revised in the form of a coherent planning document that clearly identifies the proposed changes, explains their relationship to the attributes of OUV, so as to demonstrate that the proposed changes would not impact the OUV of the property and how those attributes will be protected, and the role of the proposed buffer zone in protecting OUV, as proposed in the conclusions of the ICOMOS Technical Review; and further recommends that a Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken to identify and assess potential impacts of the changes proposed in the revised Detailed Development Plan; and reiterates its request to the State Party that this revision be carried out in dialogue with the Advisory Bodies;

6. Commends the State Party on integrating increased international expert advice, continued engagement with the International Advisory Committee (IAC) and the build-up of local expertise in conservation techniques through related training programmes and mentoring of conservation works;

7. Requests the State Party to submit information on the progress of the IAC sessions, international partnerships and related training programmes and works, and on the monitoring and works programmes on earthen structures, termite control, and soil moisture issues;

8. Also requests the development of a five-year management plan to guide the conservation and management of the Juma Mosque, and for this plan to be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Also reiterates its requests that the State Party submit a proposed buffer zone with specific management and protection policies and mechanisms to be embedded in the DDP and subsequent urban development approvals processes, which would ensure that the OUV of this property is given primary importance in urban development approvals within the buffer zone, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

24. Chief Roi Mata's Domain (Vanuatu)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Expresses its profound sympathy and deepest condolences to the people of Vanuatu for the loss of life and the damages caused by recent earthquakes, especially that of December 2024, which affected the property, and the earthquake near Espiritu Santo island in February 2026, and welcomes the international cooperation and support provided in response to the disaster and ongoing recovery efforts;

3. Notes with concern the significant geological instability at Fels Cave, including landslides, fractures, and structural fragility exacerbated by the December 2024 earthquake, which has rendered access unsafe and necessitated the temporary suspension of visitation;

4. Commends the State Party for having undertaken a geological assessment and baseline mapping of the Fels Cave prior to the earthquake, supported through an International Assistance project under the World Heritage Fund, which has provided valuable reference documentation for recovery efforts and long-term conservation;

5. Notes with appreciation the approval of the project "Post-earthquake needs assessment and technical assistance for the recovery of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and the Chief Roi Mata's Domain World Heritage Site" under the UNESCO Culture Sector's Heritage Emergency Fund, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts towards effective implementation, coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Office for the Pacific States in Apia;

6. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of progress on the detailed needs assessment of Fels Cave, as well as of any proposals regarding the stabilization, restoration, monitoring system, and visitor management arrangements;

7. Reminds the State Party of the need to conduct Heritage Impact Assessments for any proposed engineered stabilisation measures for Fels Cave and its access track, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

8. Acknowledges the broader environmental and climate-change related factors affecting the property, including increased storms, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and earthquakes, and encourages the State Party to continue strengthening climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and environmental monitoring within the management framework;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

25. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long - Hanoi (Viet Nam)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.92** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in developing and presenting its intentions regarding the recovery and the future configuration envisaged for the property in its revised 'Vision' document, and for further systematising existing knowledge to support the proposed reconstruction of the Kinh Thien Palace and assessments of the degree of reliability of different information sources;

4. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in responding to the Committee's and the Advisory missions' recommendations, and acknowledges receipt of the documentation on the dismantling process of CT04, CT24, and CT25, the updated geometric survey of CT20 and CT21, the amendments to Decision 975/2015 and related visualization;

5. Commends the State Party for its efforts to use the property as a dynamic social, cultural, religious and political space and reviving its important historical and intangible role as a place of gathering and reflection for Ha Noi communities and the Vietnamese people;

6. Welcomes the revised, augmented 'Vision for the Beautification/Landscaping of the Central Axis of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long' covering the entirety of the property with a roadmap for implementation articulated into two phases (2025–2030 and 2030–2035);

7. Confirms its agreement for the implementation of the first phase 2025-2030 of the 'Vision', except for the reconstruction of the Kinh Thien Gate, for which further archaeological and architectural evidence is needed to establish the nature and extent of its recovery, and requests that further detailed documentation of the reconstruction implementation programme be submitted in due time for review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, as set out in the 2025 Advisory mission report and 2026 ICOMOS Technical Reviews, to ensure the protection of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before the start of reconstruction;

8. Notes however that the submitted revised version of the 'Vision', placing greater emphasis on the Lê Dynasty layer over other historically attested periods and envisaging additional reconstructions beyond the Kinh Thien Palace, alongside further demolitions beyond the six sites previously endorsed by the Committee (CT04, CT17, CT24, CT25, CT20, CT21), differs from the one previously supported by the Committee;

9. Considers that the second phase 2030-2035 of the 'Vision' is insufficiently substantiated to be supported at this stage, and that no reconstruction nor dismantling of existing identified buildings should be considered until further archaeological evidence, justification, and impact assessments are provided to the World Heritage Centre for review;

10. Requests the State Party to submit an updated version of the second phase 2030-2035 to a subsequent session of the Committee, once the following have been transmitted to the World Heritage Centre and positively reviewed by the Centre and ICOMOS:

    a) Additional conceptual justification, in particular regarding the new knowledge that may result from an 18th-century period reconstruction at Thang Long,

    b) Archaeological and research evidence that can justify the need for additional demolitions and support potential further reconstructions beyond Kinh Thien Palace,

    c) An assessment of the feasibility of such reconstructions, potential negative direct or indirect impacts on the attributes of OUV of the property, particularly of standing structures,

    d) Exploration of alternative options to reconstruction of additional buildings currently envisaged in the 2030-2035 Vision, and

    e) Consideration of the reconstruction of the Kinh Thien Gate with further archaeological and architectural evidence establishing the nature and extent of its recovery;

11. Recalls its advice that the State Party implement fully the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions of 2023 and 2025 when refining and implementing the 'Vision', also recalls in particular the observations made regarding the new Hoang Dieu 18 Museum concept, and requests that the State Party:

    a) Reconsider the current proposal by reducing the proposed built-up volumes and taking into account the observations and suggestions of the missions,

    b) Prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in World Heritage Context, while reviewing and revising the Museum concept, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and ICOMOS;

12. Requests full graphic and photographic documentation for all buildings envisaged for complete or partial removal, including but not limited to CT10, CT11, CT12, 19C, CT26, and CT30, especially if other buildings are considered for dismantling or removal;

13. Recommends that the Archaeological Strategy be further refined and expanded to establish limits to open excavations, integrate non-invasive archaeological methods, expand research objectives beyond reconstruction, and include a plan for presentation of the excavated areas that will remain visible in the Central Axis;

14. Recommends that the Conservation and Interpretation Strategy be further developed to include clear methodological principles, priorities and an implementation plan to accompany the implementation of the 'Vision';

15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

26. Butrint (Albania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7B.1** and **47 COM 7B.93** adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the appointment of a Community Engagement Officer within the Butrint Management Foundation as a positive step towards strengthening engagement with local stakeholders, and the clarifications provided by the State Party regarding the concept of 'regulated ecotourism in nature'; and requests the State Party to clarify the scope and modalities of the small-scale grant scheme planned for 2026, including the notion of 'tourism-led infrastructure', and to ensure that any such initiatives remain fully compatible with the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Also welcomes the submission of the Archaeological Conservation Management Plan (ACMP), Hydrological & Ecological Plan (HEP), Strategies for Health & Safety, Disaster Management Framework, Site Security Plan, and Traffic, Transport and Visitor Management Study as a substantial and technically valuable body of documentation; notes, however, that these documents need to be structured around the objective of supporting the property's OUV and integrated within the wider framework of the IMP 2020-2030, and also requests the State Party to undertake the necessary amendments in line with the recommendations of ICOMOS Technical Review;

5. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to institutionalise the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes, but expresses concern regarding the prolonged timeline for their finalisation; further requests the State Party to finalise this process as a matter of urgency and, pending its implementation, to ensure that no new permits, approvals or decisions are granted within

the property, its buffer zone or wider setting that may affect its OUV, and to strengthen the management of the buffer zone and wider setting in order to avoid or minimise development pressures on areas that support the maintenance of the property's OUV;

6. Also notes the submission of the HIA and EIA for the proposed Butrint National Park Visitor Centre project, and that these were the subject of a Technical Review by ICOMOS, and invites the State Party to:

   a) Suspend implementation of the project pending the outcome of comprehensive archaeological investigations at the 'Archaeological Gate',

   b) Undertake a rigorous assessment of construction-related impacts,

   c) Reduce the functional programme of both structures and clearly justify them in relation to visitor orientation, heritage interpretation objectives and the conservation and management framework of the property,

   d) Undertake an independent visual impact assessment and integrate its findings into a revised HIA,

   e) Implement in full the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review;

7. Further notes the clarification provided on the boundaries of the World Heritage property in response to the requests set out in the Decisions **46 COM 7B.1** (2024) and **47 COM 7B.93** (2025), and invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**:

   a) A final map clearly showing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone as inscribed, in accordance with Decisions **23 COM VIII.C.2**, **24 BUR IV.A.16** and **31 COM 8B.60**, in order to complete the Retrospective Inventory exercise and for presentation to the Committee at its 49th session,

   b) GIS data showing the boundaries of the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the Butrint National Park, as well as the different zones within the Park;

8. Requests furthermore to the State Party to provide detailed explanations of how those areas of the property and buffer zone that now lie outside the Butrint National Park are protected and managed at different territorial and administrative levels,

9. Notes with concern the information regarding the Ksamil by-pass road project, including the approval of the section located within the buffer zone and the interventions on the ground, including within the property, despite the order issued by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage to halt works in October 2025; urges the State Party to halt any further implementation of, and decision relating to, the Ksamil by-pass project, and to submit, as a matter of utmost urgency, all project documentation, including the corresponding HIA and EIA for both sections of the road, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and based on the methodology set out in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022);

10. Also notes with serious concern the procedural shortcomings in relation to the 'Manastiri Bay Resort' project located in the buffer zone, in particular the failure to initiate archaeological monitoring at the commencement of construction works; and also urges the State Party to halt any further implementation and/or decision, and to submit all relevant documentation concerning this development project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Urges furthermore the State Party to suspend implementation of the hotel development project in Ksamil (lots 7/493 and 7/494) pending the preparation and submission of a revised HIA, together with complete project documentation, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in line with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review;

12. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in accordance with Paragraphs 169 and 170 of the Operational Guidelines in order to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, the effectiveness of its management and protection framework, the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, and the impacts of current and proposed developments on the property's OUV, including the 'Manastiri Bay Resort', the Ksamil by-pass project and the proposed Butrint National Park Visitor Centre; and requests that the mission report be submitted for examination at its 49th session;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, 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 49th session.

27. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.75**, **41 COM 7B.40**, **43 COM 7B.79**, **44 COM 7B.151**, **45 COM 7B.51** and **46 COM 7B.2**, and **47 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to resume and advance the preparation of the pre-final draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property, although concern remains regarding the slow pace of progress in translating stated commitments into concrete results, and requests the State Party, in line with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review, to ensure that, in finalising the IMP, it:

   a) Establishes a single, coherent governance and management model, underpinned by a clear legal status, defined mandates, adequate resources, measurable objectives and effective integration within the existing legislative framework,

   b) Applies a clear analytical approach to the serial nature of the property, based on comparative assessment of the attributes conveying Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in Berat and Gjirokastra, in order to support coordinated yet tailored management responses,

   c) Structures implementation strategies into clearly defined short-, medium-, and long-term phases, ensuring actionable progress rather than reliance primarily on long-term objectives,

d) Repositions the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a core methodological framework of the IMP, including its social, economic, governance and change management dimensions,

e) Clarifies the relationship between the Management Plan for the Tourism Destination Berat (under preparation) and the IMP, and submits the former to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to its final adoption,

f) Provides timely updates and detailed information on the implementation of the finalisation and operationalisation of the IMP;

4. Also acknowledges the State Party's efforts to address unauthorised construction within the property, and requests further that enforcement measures be strengthened, with regular and detailed updates provided on interventions undertaken and on the effectiveness of actions taken to safeguard heritage assets;

5. Notes with concern that no updated information has been provided on progress in integrating Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into national legal frameworks, also requests further updates on this integration, and reiterates its request that HIAs be undertaken to asses both individual and cumulative impacts of development projects already implemented or planned, including the Gjirokastra bypass road and other infrastructure and development projects within or in the wider setting of the property, notably those under the Integrated urban and Tourism development (PIUTD);

6. Notes the suspension of the 'Gjirokastra Castle Sustainable Management and Tourism Valorisation Masterplan' and also reiterates its request that the State Party provide comprehensive information on the proposed way forward and completion of the remaining phases, ensuring alignment with previous ICOMOS technical comments – particularly regarding museum interventions, technical and architectural specifications, the state of conservation of the castle and the findings of the 2022 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment – prior to any decisions that could be difficult to reverse, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Notes with appreciation the suspension of works on the Shkëmbi Road and the Osum River Bank projects pending review of the HIA and the EIA, and further requests to fully implement the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews and subsequently submit all relevant documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in particular to:

a) continue suspending all works on the Osum River Bank project until both the HIA and EIA have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and their recommendations fully integrated,

b) submit a single, technically coherent project covering Phases 1 and 2 of the Shkëmbi Road and a revised HIA accurately reflecting the technical scope of the works and including:

i) an attribute-based assessment,

ii) a clear methodology for determining impact significance,

iii) a robust baseline,

iv) an assessment of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, including traffic and tourism pressures, and

v) a comprehensive Visual Impact Assessment;

8. Further acknowledges conservation interventions on monuments and cultural heritage, as well as ongoing archaeological investigations at Gjirokastra Castle, and invites the

State Party to provide comprehensive information on the progress of fieldwork, its findings and their integration into conservation and management decisions;

9. Also notes with concern that several recommendations of the 2021 Reactive Monitoring mission remain unimplemented, and also reiterates its request that these be addressed in a full and timely manner;

10. Requests furthermore that details of any development projects that may affect the property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible decision, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and reiterates that HIAs are required for projects affecting OUV, in line with Paragraph 118bis and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

28. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.41**, **45 COM 7B.176** and **47 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, respectively,

3. Takes note of the conclusion of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission of November 2025 that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is currently maintained, notes that certain implemented interventions have negatively affected specific attributes conveying OUV and that, in the absence of strengthened safeguards, the cumulative impact of incremental changes could progressively erode these attributes over time, and requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations in full and in a timely manner;

4. Urges the State Party to finalise the draft updated Management Plan for the property, in line with the Operational Guidelines, previous Committee Decisions, the recommendations of the 2023 ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, and also requests that the revised draft be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to its formal adoption and assignment of appropriate legal status;

5. Encourages the State Party to strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms for the property, including through the establishment of a dedicated World Heritage management unit with adequate resources, clarification of roles and responsibilities of the World Heritage site manager, strengthened inter-departmental coordination, and continued reinforcement of advisory and monitoring bodies at national and local levels;

6. Further requests the State Party to revise spatial planning and regulatory frameworks to ensure that planning procedures, controls, and approvals are fully aligned with the updated Management Plan and support the maintenance of the OUV of the property, furthermore that these frameworks include strengthened development control measures alongside the systematic application of mandatory Heritage Impact Assessments explicitly focused on OUV;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to strengthen the protective function of the buffer zone, and to use the ongoing Management Plan updating process to clarify and reinforce the buffer zone's supporting role in safeguarding the property's OUV and, if necessary, to consider revising the buffer zone boundaries through the formal submission of a minor boundary modification, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;

8. Requests moreover the State Party to develop a dedicated World Heritage policy for high-rise and large-scale buildings within the buffer zone and wider setting of the property in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, informed by appropriate studies aligned with the protection of OUV, and to ensure that this policy is fully integrated into spatial planning and decision-making processes for all planned and proposed developments in these areas;

9. Acknowledges the updated information and impact assessments submitted for the renovation and extension of the Salzburg Festival Halls and the BIOGENA project, and noting that ICOMOS will assess the Salzburg Festival Halls project, requests that the final design proposals for these projects be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before any final decision is taken, ensuring that only proposals that avoid negative impacts on the attributes conveying OUV are approved;

10. Considers that the proposed extension of Arenberg Castle should not be pursued in its current location, scale and design, and also urges the State Party to ensure that any future proposal is based on a revised concept supported by a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment demonstrating the absence of adverse impacts on the property's OUV to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible decision;

11. Also acknowledges the importance of flood prevention and mitigation measures in safeguarding the authenticity and integrity of the property in the context of climate change, as well the State Party's commitment to assess any potential impacts of such measures on the property's OUV and also encourages the State Party to advance the planning of such measures while ensuring that they do not introduce new risks to the attributes conveying OUV;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

29. Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) (Austria, Germany, Slovakia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.24** and **46 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,

3. Notes the submission by the State Party of Austria of a minor boundary modification to establish buffer zones for three components that currently lack them, to be examined under Item 8 of the agenda of its 48th session;

4. Welcomes the significant progress achieved in archaeological research, notably at Albing (Austria) and Iža (Slovakia), and encourages the States Parties to prepare and submit, in due course, a request for minor boundary modifications to extend the property so as to incorporate the newly identified elements that contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Notes with appreciation the continued functioning of the transnational 'Bratislava Group' as a scientific advisory platform, including in relation to the other sections of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire, as well as Austria's Scientific Advisory Board at the national level;

6. Also welcomes the establishment of a common web platform for all component parts of the property aimed at improving communication and information sharing, and invites the States Parties to develop this platform into a comprehensive and fully accessible transnational database integrating research results and management information;

7. Notes that the State Party of Austria has initiated steps towards developing a Research Framework for the property, and also encourages the States Parties of Germany and Slovakia to engage more actively in its preparation and implementation in order to ensure a balanced and fully transnational approach;

8. Acknowledges the substantial progress made in developing guidelines for a clear and consistent approach to reconstruction works, and reiterates its request that the draft guidelines be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to their finalisation, without delay;

9. Further welcomes the coordinated disaster-risk assessment and the integration of the property into existing flood and risk management systems, and also invites the States Parties to ensure continued monitoring and coordination in order to ensure the long-term effectiveness of these measures;

10. Notes with concern that, although steps are being taken in the States Parties of Austria and Germany to prevent ploughing and other potentially harmful agricultural activities within component parts and their buffer zones, binding legal mechanisms are not yet in place across the property, and urges the States Parties to establish enforceable protection measures and to explore the use of incentives and coordinated management approaches to ensure the long-term conservation of archaeological remains;

11. Takes note of the information provided on prospective wind energy projects in the State Party of Austria, requests the three States Parties to ensure that renewable energy infrastructure, including wind and solar installations, does not have negative impacts on the property's OUV and that planning frameworks provide for the sustained protection of the attributes conveying OUV, and further invites the States Parties to make full use of the online Guidance on Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context when planning and assessing such developments;

12. Also notes that, while legal frameworks and internal procedures for impact assessment exist, their systematic application in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context has yet to be fully implemented, and also urges the States Parties to ensure the full and consistent enforcement of impact assessments for any proposed changes affecting component parts, their buffer zones and wider settings;

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

30. Fertö / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria, Hungary)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.52** and **46 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the finalisation of the updated joint Management Plan for the property, as well as the reported strengthening of the legal frameworks for World Heritage, encourages the States Parties to continue their close cooperation in the protection and management of the transboundary property, invites the two States Parties to consider strengthening the respective management teams through adequate and permanent funding, and requests the States Parties to develop a combined Stakeholder Engagement Plan to complement the Management Plan;

4. Expresses concern that a new hotel is planned for construction in Neusiedl am See in Austria while a joint inventory of tourism facilities along the lakeshore has yet to be undertaken, reiterates its request to the States Parties to carry out, as a matter of priority, this inventory together with an assessment of the cumulative adverse impacts of the tourism infrastructure on the attributes underlying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests to submit the results of this assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review;

5. Also requests the States Parties to systematically conduct Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) as a pre-requisite for all development projects within and around the World Heritage property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and further requests the submission of HIAs for the new

projects within the property – namely the indoor public swimming pool in the reed belt and the proposed new hotel in Neusiedl am See, the new headquarters building for Seemanagement Burgenland in Oggau in Austria, as well as the revised Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project in Hungary – to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

6. Regrets the decision of the State Party of Austria to retain the proposed hospital location on a greenfield vineyard between the towns of Gols and Weiden am See, in an area directly adjacent to the buffer zone of the property, and notes that the project would have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;

7. Urges the State Party of Austria to prioritise a reassessment of the buffer zone and to consider the creation of an enlarged buffer zone through the minor boundary modification process, in order to enhance the protection of the property's visual and spatial setting and its OUV;

8. Reiterates its advice to the State Party of Austria to develop a framework for assessing the impact of renewable energy infrastructures, based on an inventory of the spatial and landscape attributes underlying the property's OUV, in order to strengthen the protection of the property, its buffer zone and wider landscape setting through appropriate planning instruments, and further advises that this framework should guide all relevant planning and decision-making processes, including those relating to existing installations, repowering proposals and new projects within the visual setting of the property, making use of the Guidance on Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context;

9. Also encourages continued cooperation between the States Parties in exploring potential interventions to increase the water supply to the lake, and, to that end, engagement in a sustained consultation process with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the Ramsar Secretariat;

10. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

31. Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai (Belgium)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the property, as well as the initiative to establish a shared buffer zone for the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral of Tournai' and the Tournai component part of the property 'Belfries of Belgium and France', and encourages the State Party to formalise this shared buffer zone as soon as possible, without reducing the extent of the existing buffer zones, through a minor boundary modification procedure;

4. Also encourages the State Party to strengthen the regulatory framework applicable to the buffer zone as well as to the wider setting of the two properties located in Tournai, in order to effectively preserve their spatial and visual relationships with the urban and landscape context, and requests that planning systems at both local and supra-local levels be fully aligned with the objective of protecting and preserving their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and that impact assessments, carried out in accordance with the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context continue to be systematically integrated into planning procedures in order to avoid any potential negative impacts;

5. Takes note of the ongoing development of a Management Plan for the property, notes that two separate Management Plans are envisaged for the cathedral and the belfry, developed on the basis of their specific characteristics, and further encourages the State Party to harmonise these plans and to establish clear and effective coordination mechanisms, in order to ensure the coherent management of the properties while adequately responding to the Committee's requests;

6. Also takes note of the restoration programme currently underway for the cathedral and also requests that it be integrated into a continuous cycle of monitoring and maintenance, in order to ensure the regular and sustainable management of the property;

7. Further takes note of the reduction in the height of the panoramic roof of the 'Carré Janson', but regrets that Phase 1 of the project is now completed and that additional modifications are no longer possible, and further requests the State Party to submit the plans for Phase 2 of the project, together with the scope of the corresponding impact assessment, to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any authorisation being granted, in order to ensure the project's compatibility with the property's OUV;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for review, the revised version of the planned redevelopment of Museum of Fine Arts in Tournai, together with the updated Heritage Impact Assessment, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to any decision being taken;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

32. Historic Centre of Český Krumlov (Czechia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.101** and **45 COM 7B.182**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with great concern that, despite over 20 years of discussions and the State Party's commitment to fully dismantle the revolving theatre in the castle baroque garden following the expiry of the lease agreement on 31 December 2023, the theatre remains in operation, with activities planned for 2026 by the South Bohemian Theatre Company, and that no clear timeframe has been provided for its dismantling; and underlines the persistent negative impact of the theatre on the property's inherent characteristics;

4. Urges the State Party to ensure the prompt dismantling of the theatre in its current location, and requests the State Party to provide a firm, evidence-based commitment to resolve this issue as a matter of priority, including by submitting a concrete, time-bound plan of actions;

5. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in progressing the project for a new revolving theatre in the buffer zone of the property, to include in the brief for the planned international competition the requirement for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the competition brief, together with detailed project documentation, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its launch; and also requests that the details of the selected project, together with its HIA, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the announcement of the winner;

6. Encourages continued close dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies throughout the design and planning processes for a new open-air theatre in the buffer zone;

7. Encourages, at the same time, the development and implementation of restoration projects for the castle baroque garden and its elements;

8. Reiterates furthermore its request that the State Party seek the advice of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to taking decisions on the overall rehabilitation of the castle grounds and the baroque garden;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, 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 49th session, **noting that this property may require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

33. Le Havre, the City Rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.184** and **46 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Acknowledges the efforts deployed by the State Party to follow up on the recommendations made by the Committee and the missions, and notes with satisfaction the incorporation of the relevant provisions from the Operational Guidelines into the protection instruments, as well as the introduction of height limits of 25 metres and seven storeys in the intercommunal Local Urban Plan (PLUi) for the property and its buffer zone, with a limit of 28 metres set for the plot situated on the axis of the Bassin du Commerce;

4. Encourages the State Party to further develop visibility analyses for the areas adjacent to the Bassin de la Barre and Bassin Vauban, and to define clear principles to prevent potentially negative visual impacts of high-rise buildings on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and recommends that a Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken for projects in the vicinity of the World Trade Centre, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Regrets the long-term negative impact of the Tour Alta on the integrity of the property, whilst acknowledging the difficulties in mitigating its effects, and underlines that this impact can be partially mitigated through architectural and urban planning measures, notably by avoiding any new high-rise construction in the vicinity of the property, particularly in sensitive areas;

6. Welcomes the ban on the night-time lighting of the Tour Alta, but also regrets that the measure to adjust the shade of the surface finishes has not been implemented, and reiterates its recommendation to implement it as soon as possible, particularly during maintenance work, and to incorporate it into the co-ownership regulations;

7. Invites the State Party to ensure that building alignments within the property and its buffer zone are not subject to widespread increases in height, but contribute to a coherent urban interface;

8. Recommends that the State Party, when the opportunity arises, clarify more explicitly in the regulations governing the Remarkable Heritage Site (SPR), the 25-metre and seven-storey limits as a structuring principle of the Perret reconstruction plan, and to adopt, in consultation with the Architect of the Buildings of France, a more flexible approach to the repair and restoration of concrete façades;

9. Notes with satisfaction that the Structural Urban Study has been launched and covers a wider area, whilst observing that it is still at a preliminary stage and that there are no operational measures or timetable for its implementation, and therefore recommends that the State Party:

   a) better coordinate with the work relating to the “Entrée de ville”, with a view to ensuring a coherent approach across the city centre,

   b) define, as a matter of priority, concrete measures to improve the urban integration of the Tour Alta, by improving the permeability of the ground floor, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2023 and 2024 missions and Decision **45 COM 7B.184**;

10. Requests the State Party to clarify the shift from an approach based on environmental performance to one centred on energy performance, and to assess its potential implications for future projects and for the attributes conveying OUV, prior to their integration into management policies;

11. Further requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, a comprehensive list, along with supporting documentation, of large-scale projects and high-rise buildings authorised prior to the amendment of the height regulations introduced in the PLUi, which have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, within the property, its buffer zone and its immediate surroundings;

12. Further encourages the State Party to make full use of the revision of the property's Management Plan to clarify the attributes of its OUV and to incorporate the scale of the reconstructed city, and ensure consistency with regulatory instruments (PLUi and SPR), whilst taking into account the Operational Guidelines, in particular Paragraphs 112, 118bis and 172, as well as the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

34. Nice, Winter Resort Town of the Riviera (France)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.38** and **45 COM 7B.185**, adopted respectively at its extended 44th (Fuzhou / online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,

3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the State Party in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee;

4. Commends the State Party for the actions taken to support the development of traditional skills, as well as for its efforts to enhance and promote the property, in particular through the Nice World Heritage Interpretation Centre;

5. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to complete the inventory of built heritage, as well as the documentation of building interiors, as essential tools for their protection;

6. Also encourages the State Party to strengthen the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property using clear, measurable and regularly updated indicators, in order to enable an assessment of changes affecting the attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) against a clearly defined baseline;

7. Further encourages the State Party to undertake a mid-term review of the Management Plan by the end of 2026 and to incorporate the results of this review into the next report on the state of conservation of the property;

8. Reminds the State Party of the importance of fully complying with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and encourages it to provide timely

notification to the World Heritage Centre in of any project that may have an impact on the OUV of the property;

9. Welcomes the State Party's initiative to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist with the planning for the dismantling of the temporary structures at the conference centre located on Quai Amiral Infernet, at Port Lympia;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

35. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7B.7**, **46 COM 8B.39** and **47 COM 7B.105** adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with satisfaction the completion in 2025 of the second phase of the restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral following the fire of 15 April 2019, and the development of a Master Plan to guide further restoration and conservation work;

4. Takes note of the continued advancement of the project for the installation of contemporary stained-glass windows in six chapels of the southern nave of the cathedral, notes with concern that, while a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been undertaken, its conclusions appear to rely on an interpretation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that may not fully acknowledge the role of Notre-Dame Cathedral as a key attribute, and requests the State Party to suspend implementation of the project and reconsider the replacement of the historic stained-glass windows;

5. Also takes note of the project for the redevelopment and enhancement of the area surrounding the cathedral, and of its appropriately restrained approach, invites the State Party to ensure the high quality of its execution, including the effective performance of its environmental design measures and the maintenance of the area over the long term, and also invites the State Party to keep it informed of progress with implementation, including any proposed modifications to the design, which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Notes the initiative to establish a Remarkable Heritage Site (site patrimonial remarquable – SPR) in Paris encompassing the World Heritage property and its setting, and encourages the State Party to pursue this process as a means of strengthening the protection and management framework;

7. Requests the State Party to progress the development and submission of the Integrated Management Plan, including the Risk Prevention and Management Plan, to the World

Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption, taking into account the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;

8. Also notes the project for the redevelopment of the Place de la Concorde, accompanied by technical studies and reports, and also requests the State Party to provide regular updates on the progress of its implementation, including the submission of revised documentation if modifications to the initial design are envisaged;

9. Further takes note of the Nouvelle Renaissance project for the Louvre Museum, and further requests the State Party to provide detailed information, including an HIA, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decisions are taken that may be difficult to reverse;

10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that HIAs, prepared in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, are systematically undertaken for all major development or restorations projects that may impact the property's OUV, including through the consideration of cumulative, indirect and long-term impacts, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to implementation;

11. Further invites the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information on the proposed construction of a new visitor centre for the National Assembly within the property, including an HIA for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also encourages the State Party to continue complying with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines by notifying the World Heritage Centre, prior to the adoption of any decisions that may be difficult to reverse, of any proposed new constructions or major restorations within the property that may affect its OUV;

12. Further encourages the State Party to further strengthen early, proactive and structured engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding ongoing and planned projects affecting the cathedral, its surroundings and the wider property, in order to support informed decision-making and the effective safeguarding of the OUV;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

36. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.186** and **47 COM 7B.107**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to the development of the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP), notes with concern the delay in its finalisation, requests the State Party to submit, without delay, the final draft of the conceptual framework of the ULUMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and reiterates its request to prioritise the finalisation of the ULUMP and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;

4. Takes note of the State Party's confirmation that the 'Enactment of Special Regime of Regulation of Urban Development and Land Privatisation in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta Municipality' (the Moratorium) remains in force until the Management Documentation for the Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta is adopted and all necessary regulatory, control and monitoring mechanisms are fully operational, and also requests the State Party to ensure its strict and consistent enforcement in the meantime;

5. Encourages the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to continue submitting detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse, and further requests the State Party to ensure that such submissions are supported by Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and include the conclusions of the World Heritage Protection Council of Georgia regarding each project's potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Also welcomes the sustained dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding conservation interventions at the three components of the property, and also encourages the continuation of this consultative approach;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to prepare an updated Management Plan for the property, making use of the new Managing World Heritage Resource Manual, and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity and prior to its adoption;

8. Invites the State Party to proceed with the implementation of the Tbilisi Bypass project and to explore appropriate technical solutions to better integrate into the landscape the section of the highway crossing the buffer zone below Jvari Monastery;

9. Also notes with concern the conclusions of the 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission regarding the revised Tbilisi Wind Power Plant project, requests the State Party not to proceed with the project in its current form owing to its adverse visual impacts on attributes conveying the OUV of the property, and also invites it to explore alternative options that would avoid any adverse impacts on the property's OUV;

10. Also takes note of the conclusions of the 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and further requests the State Party to implement its recommendations in a timely manner in order to address long-standing management and conservation challenges affecting the property and its setting;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

37. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.111**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the submission of the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and the intention to pursue ICOMOS advisory assistance to support its further development and finalisation;

4. Takes note of the State Party's intention to undertake amendments to the national legislative framework relating to World Heritage, and requests the State Party to submit draft provisions to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their finalisation and adoption;

5. Reiterates its serious concern regarding the scale and cumulative impacts of the National Hauszmann Programme, considers that large-scale reconstruction works could prove extremely damaging if pursued without adequate assessment and control, also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on all works completed and underway since the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, and urges the State Party to ensure that, in order to minimise potential adverse impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the need for full demolition and reconstruction of long-lost buildings is carefully reassessed in future phases of the programme, with priority given to more sustainable approaches, including the adaptive reuse of existing and currently vacant structures;

6. Regrets that the Citadel project was completed without timely notification to the World Heritage Centre and without the submission of a Heritage Impact Assessment prior to the commencement of works, and recalls the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, stressing the obligation to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, prior to making decisions that are difficult to reverse, of any planned major restorations or new constructions that could adversely impact the OUV of the property;

7. Also welcomes the translation of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context into Hungarian, and invites the State Party to ensure its systematic and early application to all projects that may affect the property's OUV, including its effective integration into existing planning and decision-making processes;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission in order to improve the state of conservation of the property and strengthen its management framework, including by:

   a) Ensuring the maintenance of the cultural use of the Buda Castle Palace and the residential function of the Castle District,

   b) Undertaking comprehensive assessments of existing building uses, including the effects of functional changes on the historic character and social fabric of the property,

   c) Developing a comprehensive and long-term presentation and interpretation strategy to ensure that the rationale for reconstruction interventions, including the supporting historical evidence and decision-making processes, is clearly communicated and remains understandable to present and future visitors;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

38. Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8E** and **46 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the ongoing process for the review and update of Decree 485/2016 on the World Heritage Management Plan for the Historic Tokaj-Hegyalja Wine Region, reiterates its previous request that the State Party amend the Decree to ensure that the attributes supporting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are consistent with those adopted in the Retrospective Statement of OUV, and requests that the revision also take into account the recommendations contained in the April 2026 ICOMOS Technical Review, and that the draft updated Decree, together with proposed amendments to national World Heritage legislation, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before finalisation, adoption and implementation;

4. Also welcomes the translation of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context into Hungarian, and the State Party's commitment to apply it to projects that may affect the property's OUV;

5. Notes that no further expansion of the Minaro Hotel Tokaj is planned;

6. Also notes that the Kopasz Hill Cable Car project remains on hold and that any revised proposal is expected to take into account the advice provided in the relevant ICOMOS Technical Review, and further requests the State Party, should the project proceed, to submit details of any revised proposal, including an updated Heritage Impact

Assessment (HIA) 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, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to any irreversible decisions;

7. Further notes that there are no current plans to reclassify roads within the property, but that main road 37 is proposed to become a dual carriageway within the property and its buffer zone, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit a full project documentation, including an HIA 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, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to any irreversible decisions;

8. Notes furthermore that a proposal for minor boundary modification is under preparation, and requests furthermore the State Party to follow the process outlined in Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Notes with great concern the potential effects of climate change on the property, including impacts on viticulture, and acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to monitor, manage and prevent the spread of grapevine disease;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, 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 51st session.

39. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.156** and **46 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the State Party for its sustained and effective conservation, restoration, stabilisation and maintenance efforts since 2014, which have successfully addressed previously identified conservation issues, including those affecting buildings considered at risk, and notes that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is currently being maintained;

4. Welcomes the establishment of routine monitoring systems and coordinated processes for regular and extraordinary maintenance across all components of the property, reflecting a holistic approach to its long-term preservation, and requests the State Party to prioritise the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and maintenance strategy for the Torre Annunziata component, supported by adequate long-term resources;

5. Also welcomes the development of the updated Management Plan, which demonstrates the State Party's commitment to conservation, sustainability and community engagement, and provides a comprehensive and methodologically sound framework for the management of the property; nevertheless, encourages the State Party to further strengthen the management system and the operationalisation of the Management Plan through reinforced joint governance and coordination across the property, and through:

   a) Implementation of a formalised cyclical management approach supported by a structured coordination framework involving the two Archaeological Parks and the relevant authorities,

   b) Establishment of measurable performance indicators and clearly defined implementation timeframes for strategic objectives and specific actions of the Management Plan, explicitly linked to monitoring the state of conservation of the property,

   c) Development and implementation of an integrated Visitor Management Plan to ensure the coordinated management of visitor flows across all components,

   d) Establishment of a formalised Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) framework for planned changes and projects that may impact the property's OUV, integrated into decision-making processes,

   e) Reinforcement of management of the property's buffer zone and wider setting, including through the integration of protective measures into municipal planning instruments, strengthened coordination among all relevant authorities, and the systematic application of HIA procedures to planned and proposed changes in these areas;

6. Also notes the submission of a request for a Minor Boundary Modification to further extend the buffer zone to include the Villa Regina at Boscoreale, which will be examined under item 8B of the agenda of the Committee's present session (Document WHC/26/48.COM/8B);

7. Acknowledges the revision of the Porta Nola project to reduce visual impacts, as well as the preparation of a HIA, and also requests the State Party to ensure the strict implementation of enhanced landscape-integration measures during the remaining phases of the project, and to put in place systematic monitoring and proactive management mechanisms to address any potential cumulative impacts arising from interventions;

8. Further notes the supplementary revision of the design of the planned visitor centre at Torre Annunziata, and that the HIA requires further refinement to include a structured analysis of alternative locations and a comprehensive assessment of potential cumulative impacts, in particular in relation to the proposed plans for the nearby Spolettificio; and therefore further requests the State Party to submit the revised HIA, together with detailed design documentation, to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to any final approval and implementation of the project, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Notes furthermore that planned and ongoing projects within and around Herculaneum require sustained vigilance including consideration of potential cumulative impacts, urges the State Party to advance priority conservation actions, in particular the stabilisation of the eastern escarpment and the conservation and reopening of the Villa of the Papyri, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that all planned and ongoing projects affecting this component of the property are subject to rigorous impact assessment, as well as to provide timely notification and updated information to the

World Heritage Centre on key initiatives and major projects in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, 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 51st session.

40. Venice and its Lagoon (Italy)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.27**, **40 COM 7B.52**, **41 COM 7B.48**, **43 COM 7B.86**, **43 COM 8B.46**, **44 COM 7B.50**, **45 COM 7B.189**, and **47 COM 7B.113**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the State Party's continued efforts to implement previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, welcomes the strengthening of governance and the shift towards a more structured and integrated management framework, and requests the State Party to ensure its effective implementation with OUV-focused monitoring tools, cyclical management processes, and participatory governance with inclusive stakeholder engagement;

4. Also welcomes progress in advancing the corrective measures proposed by the 2024 Advisory Mission, as well as in identifying and mapping attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and underlines that this process is essential to ensure effective protection and management of the property;

5. Takes note that the further revised 2024–2030 Management Plan and its Action Plan are aligned with the corrective measures, and also requests the State Party to finalise them, together with the mapping of attributes, in light of the forthcoming recommendations of the Advisory Bodies, prior to their formal adoption, and invites the State Party to ensure that the Management Plan becomes a shared, binding policy framework across all concerned municipalities, providing a unified approach to the protection and management of the property;

6. Also notes the submission of a request for a minor boundary modification to establish a buffer zone for the property, which will be examined under item 8 of the agenda of the Committee's present session (Document WHC/26/48.COM/8B);

7. Acknowledges the ongoing refinement of the Skyline Policy and the introduction of a height limit in in the Municipality of Jesolo, and urges the State Party to:

   a) Submit the further revised version of the Skyline Policy to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

b) Ensure the adoption of the finalised Skyline Policy by all concerned municipalities, and that binding restrictions on building heights and volumes are fully integrated into all relevant municipal planning frameworks to safeguard the visual attributes of the property's OUV,

c) Formalize the mandatory requirement for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in planning instruments for all major development projects in accordance with Paragraphs 112 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines,

d) Ensure that HIAs for all major development projects are undertaken in accordance with the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

8. Also acknowledges the State Party's efforts to reinforce actions addressing climate change-related challenges through the establishment of the Lagoon Authority and the adoption of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (PAESC) by the concerned municipalities, but reiterates its concern that climate change remains a persistent and overarching threat, and also urges the State Party to continue implementing its previous requests, and to:

a) Ensure that all mitigation and adaptation measures, including the operation of the MoSE system, are explicitly aligned with the protection of the property's OUV,

b) Develop mitigation measures that respond to the results of the ongoing long-term environmental monitoring of the Lagoon's ecology;

9. Further requests the State Party to continue reporting, including through notifications under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, on the revised cruise ship navigation model and planned canal maintenance measures, and to ensure that, where proposals advance:

a) The new Port Master Plan, as well as the opening or reopening of waterways within the Lagoon, are informed by a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as previously requested,

b) Any projects for new cruise terminals inside or outside the Lagoon are informed by the SEA and are notified to the World Heritage Centre at an early concept stage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, accompanied by the Environmental Impact Assessment, including an assessment of cumulative impacts on the OUV;

10. Further welcomes efforts to enhance sustainable tourism management; however, further notes that the effectiveness of the access fee system in reducing visitor numbers is not fully demonstrated, and reiterates its requests for the State Party to:

a) Undertake a carrying capacity study for the property to inform future tourism and housing policies,

b) Prioritise the development of a Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property,

c) Implement further measures to manage visitor flows in relation to the quality of life of residents and the retention of the local population;

11. Also reiterates its concerns regarding the cumulative impacts of developments, human interventions, mass tourism and climate change, which may lead to irreversible change to the property's OUV; and notes furthermore that, while the reported measures indicate commitment from local authorities, their effectiveness depends on demonstrable results, and therefore stresses that these risks can only be adequately mitigated if management approaches are translated into binding and enforceable regulatory frameworks at all

levels of governance, and if the updated governance model ensures that the Management Plan functions in practice as a genuinely shared policy and planning framework, supported by regular reporting on the implementation of corrective measures, so as to avoid conditions that could justify inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Paragraphs 177 and 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

41. Modernist Kaunas: Architecture of Optimism, 1919-1939 (Lithuania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.19**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing actions to address recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription;

4. Welcomes the work undertaken on the inventory of buildings and structures dating from 1919-1939 within the property and the establishment of the GIS database containing baseline information on the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to ensure its long-term relevance by supplementing the database with information on to the state of conservation of the attributes and their restoration history;

5. Notes the work undertaken on the individual conservation plans for three protected areas within the property, also welcomes the provided timeline for their completion, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to develop a single integrated conservation plan for the entire property that sets out conservation measures for all categories of attributes;

6. Commends the inclusion of additional modernist buildings and ensembles in the National Register of Cultural Heritage and the financial and technical assistance made available to private owners for building maintenance, and recognises the need to continue strengthening management instruments to ensure adequate protection of privately-owned buildings not included in the Register;

7. Further notes the ongoing revision of the management plan, including the updated monitoring system, expected to be completed by March 2026, and further requests the State Party to submit the draft management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its formal adoption;

8. Further welcomes the introduction of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as a legal requirement and also encourages the State Party to ensure that HIA procedures and reporting formats are fully consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

9. Notes furthermore with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to raise public awareness of the values of the property and to consult a wide range of stakeholders in the context of updating the Management Plan, and invites the State Party to establish formal procedures for continued public participation in the management of the property to support its long-term protection;

10. Recommends that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the proposed extension of the buffer zone as a Minor Boundary Modification, and to further consider a minor boundary modification aimed at including all the necessary attributes within the inscribed property;

11. Requests furthermore that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, any development proposals on the right bank of the Nemunas River between M. K. Čiurlionis Bridge and the Vytautas the Great Bridge, together with HIAs prepared in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, focusing on attributes conveying the property's OUV and clearly demonstrating any potential adverse impacts on the property's integrity and authenticity, including on landscape panoramas;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

42. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),

3. Notes with concern that the ongoing geopolitical situation continues to affect the effective management of the transboundary property, in particular due to the lack of transboundary cooperation;

4. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party of Lithuania in developing the Management Plan for the component of the property located on its territory, and urges the State Party of the Russian Federation to submit a Management Plan for its component for review, with a view to enabling, when conditions permit, the integration of conservation and management approaches across the property, including disaster risk management, in order to reduce the risk of cumulative or irreversible deterioration of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Underscores the need for coordinated expertise and approaches for dune restoration across the property and considers that this remains a significant and ongoing conservation challenge;

6. Notes the ongoing dune protection work in the Russian Federation, which has stabilised approximately 76% of dune areas, but expresses concern that around 9-10 km remain vulnerable to storm damage; also notes that both traditional and modern construction methods are used, and requests the State Party of the Russian Federation to detail information on the nature, location and effectiveness of modern construction interventions, noting that hard engineering solutions such as concrete retaining structures may disrupt natural sand movement and adversely affect coastal habitats;

7. Welcomes the legal framework established in the component of the property located in Lithuania to ensure the systematic and ongoing strengthening of the protective dune ridge, and urges furthermore the State Party of the Russian Federation to establish a comparable framework to ensure consistent protection of the dune system across the entire property;

8. Reiterates its request for the development of a coordinated restoration policy for the shores and fore dunes, applicable throughout the property, which should address both natural processes and human pressures, and should prohibit or strictly limit construction on the shores or fore dunes in order to preserve the unique landscape of the Spit, in line with the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission;

9. Expresses also concern that the Urban Plan for the Zelenograd Municipal District of the Kaliningrad Region (of which the Spit forms a small part), approved in September 2025 without prior submission to the World Heritage Centre for review, designates the village of Rybachy as an ‘economic zone’ allowing development of up to 15 metres in height, and also requests the State Party of the Russian Federation to submit full details of the Urban Plan and to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess its potential impact on the property;

10. Also expresses concern at the apparent scale and scope of the planned tourist development in the village of Rybachy and further requests the State Party of the Russian Federation to submit details of this development together with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review, before any irreversible commitments are made;

11. Urges moreover the State Party of the Russian Federation to consider revising the zoning designation for Rybachy, and requests furthermore consideration of the preparation of a Sustainable Tourism Development Plan that would support the conservation of the property’s cultural landscape, including through the use of vernacular buildings in Rybachy and elsewhere in the property, the involvement of local communities, and respect for the distinctive attributes conveying the property’s OUV;

12. Reiterates its request to the two States Parties to address any remaining recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, including consideration of appropriate buffer zones and development of an education and information strategy;

13. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

43. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.51**, **45 COM 7B.191**, **46 COM 7B.11** and **47 COM 7B.115**, adopted respectively at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Reiterates its appreciation to the State Party for inviting and facilitating the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, and invites the State Party to implement its recommendations;

4. Commends the State Party's engagement and willingness to improve the protection and management framework for the property and the recognition of the need to establish more coherent and aligned territorial planning and protection instruments;

5. Welcomes the State Party's investment in the preparation of a comprehensive Heritage Protection Study and a revised Management Plan to address the long-term challenges affecting the protection and management of the property, and requests that these documents be submitted, in draft form, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their finalisation and before lifting the temporary suspension of planning permits, taking fully into account previous Committee decisions, mission recommendations and ICOMOS Technical Reviews, including through:

   a) The clear identification of the attributes conveying Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other heritage, in order to operationalise their protection,

   b) The preparation of a buffer zone study aimed at reinforcing the protective function of the buffer zone,

   c) The establishment of mechanisms to align all spatial planning instruments and protection measures for the property and its buffer zone with the upcoming Heritage Protection Study, including clear procedures for permitted development,

   d) The strengthening of governance arrangements for the property,

   e) The establishment of robust procedures for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), including the assessment of cumulative impacts,

   f) The establishment of monitoring mechanisms for development projects and other factors affecting the property, together with appropriate responses,

   g) The definition of principles for the conservation of historic buildings, together with a system to verify their application in restoration projects,

   h) Continuing the preparation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan,

   i) The preparation of a Sustainable Tourism Management Plan, including consideration of alternatives to cruise ships docking in Kotor Bay;

6. Further invites the State Party to further align the Spatial Plan of Montenegro with the recommendations of the April 2026 ICOMOS Technical Review, in order to strengthen its role in guiding the Heritage Protection Study and subordinate planning instruments, support an integrated nature-culture approach consistent with the property's OUV, and establish an inter-municipal framework to improve coordination of protection measures, including through the removal of references to the Luštica peninsula transport corridor following the abandonment of this option and the Verige bridge project;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the State Party's decisions to abandon the Verige bridge project and the Luštica peninsula transport corridor, as well as to prohibit new concessions and extensions of existing concessions for the exploitation of mineral resources, and invites furthermore the State Party to provide regular updates to the World Heritage Centre on the status and operation of existing concessions;

8. Further requests that the Sustainable Tourism Plan remains subordinate to and aligned with the overall Management Plan and forthcoming Heritage Protection Study, and encourages the State Party to adopt a broader sustainable development approach that recognises the contribution of heritage to community well-being beyond tourism alone, while ensuring the protection of OUV;

9. Urges the State Party to ensure that development proposals are managed in a manner fully consistent with the protection of the property's OUV, in particular by:

   a) Maintaining the temporary suspension of new planning permits and retrospective applications for illegal buildings until the Heritage Protection Study and revised Management Plan are finalised and operationalised,

   b) Providing updated information and relevant documentation to the World Heritage Centre concerning proposals for the Jugooceanija and former Fjord Hotel sites, as well as any other projects with the potential to adversely affect the property's OUV in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

   c) Refraining from proceeding with the Hotel Orahovac project pending review of the updated project documentation by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,

   d) Ensuring that cumulative impacts arising from development projects are systematically and adequately assessed within the forthcoming Heritage Protection Study and all relevant impact assessment processes, including through the establishment of a regular and proactive framework for cumulative impact assessment, enabling the continuous monitoring, evaluation and management of impacts on the property's OUV over time;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the recommendations of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

44. Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia (Romania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8B.25**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Acknowledges the progress made in developing key mechanisms to support the effective management of the property, including the ongoing updating the General Urban Plans;

4. Encourages the State Party to complete the strategies scheduled for completion in 2027, particularly the specialist guide and toolkit for integrating heritage considerations into territorial and urban planning, the Research Strategy, the Conservation and Enhancement Strategy and associated guide and toolkit, the Strategy for Actors' Involvement, and the Communication Strategy;

5. Welcomes the initiation of the process to update the National Historic Monuments List and requests the State Party to accelerate its completion, considering its importance for informed management and decision-making;

6. Also welcomes the measures underway to update relevant General Urban Plans by 2027, but notes with concern the absence of progress in developing deposit models and cellar surveys in urban and peri-urban areas, which are essential for understanding the distribution of buried remains and for informing effective Urban Plans, and considers that these surveys should be assigned high rather than medium/low priority;

7. Invites the State Party to develop more detailed timetables for further implementation of the individual site and cluster management plans, the full roll-out of the state of conservation monitoring files, the development of the central digital information portal to support monitoring, and the dissemination and implementation of the Interpretation Framework, including measurable milestones and targets, to support the systematic and timely delivery of the Management Framework's key objectives;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, with supporting documentation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

45. Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),

3. Notes the conclusions of the 2019 and 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions that Lakhta Centre 1, an 87-storey, 462 m commercial office tower, has had a negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and expresses its deep concern that the tower was constructed without the comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) requested by the Committee and without the submission of the relevant project documentation for review prior to implementation;

4. Considers that, should the proposals to construct two additional towers with heights of 555 m and 703 m respectively, primarily within the boundary of the property at Lakhta, proceed, this would constitute an ascertained danger to the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and justify the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger; strongly urges the State Party not to approve either the Lakhta Centre 2 or the Lakhta Centre 3 proposals and, should further development at Lakhta be contemplated, requests the State Party to develop a new proposal for the land parcels through an iterative HIA process that places avoidance of negative impacts on the property's OUV at its centre, and to submit details of such a proposal, accompanied by the iterative HIA, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

5. Further notes with concern that a number of projects with potential impacts on the property's OUV were initiated before notification to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and before the completion of HIAs as required under Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, thereby limiting opportunities for preventive review and, in several instances, resulting in adverse impacts on the property's OUV;

6. Also considers that:

   a) The Wedding Palace project, while aligned with the State Party's regulatory system, will have a negative impact on the property's OUV,

   b) The proposal to construct a contemporary 174.5 m bell tower for Smolny Cathedral based on an unexecuted eighteenth-century design, but not using traditional materials and not on its original site, would reduce the authenticity of the property,

   c) Planned urban development associated with the Planetograd project appears to encroach upon the 'Blockade Ring' component and risks diminishing its legibility within the landscape;

7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that:

   a) The Wedding Palace project and Smolny Cathedral bell tower project are abandoned,

b) As a matter of urgency, the relationship between the Planetograd development and the 'Blockade Ring' component are clarified, detailed mapping and planning documentation is provided to the World Heritage Centre, and the project is revised as necessary to ensure that the legibility and integrity of this attribute are not adversely affected;

8. Further notes with concern the conclusions of the January 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission that substantial structural challenges remain in the protection and management of the property and its setting, and further requests the State Party to:

a) Review the effectiveness of the existing legal and regulatory framework, including Saint Petersburg Law No. 820-7, in safeguarding the property's OUV, and submit the proposed amendments to Federal Law No. 73-FZ to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their adoption,

b) Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of World Heritage properties through amendments to relevant federal legislation, including the incorporation of key World Heritage concepts such as OUV, buffer zones and HIAs,

c) Establish an effective management authority with responsibility for the property as a whole,

d) Develop and adopt a comprehensive Management Plan for all components of the property,

e) Develop proposals for buffer zones for all components of the property, based on comprehensive analysis of the property's protection requirements, its territory and its immediate and wider setting, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines,

f) Ensure timely notification of proposed projects to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

g) Ensure that HIAs are systematically undertaken prior to the approval of major development proposals, and their conclusions given a meaningful role in project design,

h) Ensure that future revisions of the Master Plan for Saint Petersburg fully incorporate the conservation of the property's OUV and submit any revised plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its adoption;

9. Welcomes the reported successful restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse projects, including at New Holland and Tsarskoye Selo, which demonstrate the State Party's capacity to deliver high-quality conservation work contributing to the property's authenticity, notes furthermore the project for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Main Imperial Stables and the ongoing conservation work at the 'Physiologist I.P. Pavlov Scientific Campus', and encourages the State Party to ensure that:

a) The Main Imperial Stables project is subject to a comprehensive HIA prior to its implementation, including for the proposed glazed courtyard roofs and the requalification of the Moyka riverbank,

b) The conservation work at the 'Physiologist I.P. Pavlov Scientific Campus' is informed by scientific and technical studies;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to develop a time-bound action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 and 2026 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions and to submit it as an annex to its next report on the state of conservation of the property;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

46. Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora (Ukraine)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.62,** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Recalls its invitation to the World Heritage Centre to use remote sensing techniques to gather information on the state of conservation of the property, welcomes UNESCO's partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT in this regard, invites the World Heritage Centre to continue such monitoring activities, and calls for strengthened financial support to sustain these efforts, in particular through contributions to the World Heritage Fund, as well as through voluntary contributions by Member States and partners;

4. Takes note with utmost concern of the findings of satellite monitoring since 2014, indicating that the property is under threat as a result of a significant loss of authenticity and integrity arising from new construction and associated extensive archaeological excavations, and that the property's setting has also been compromised by large-scale development and archaeological activities;

5. Also notes with utmost concern that the State Party does not currently have access to the property and is therefore unable to ensure its protection, conservation or effective management in accordance with Paragraphs 96-98 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Considers that the property is confronted with both ascertained and potential danger, as defined under Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. **Decides, in conformity with Article 11.4 of the Convention and Paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines, to inscribe Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

8. Requests the State Party, when circumstances permit, to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), together with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at a subsequent session;

9. Urges all parties currently associated with the state of conservation of the property to refrain from any action that would cause further irreversible direct or indirect damages to the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, as well as to sites on Ukraine's Tentative List also located in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine), temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, namely 'Bagçesaray Palace of the Crimean Khans and the

Historical surroundings of Crimean Khans' capital in Bakhchysarai', 'Cultural Landscape of 'Cave Towns' of the Crimean Gothia', 'Astronomical Observatories of Ukraine' (one of the four components of which is located in Crimea: Crimean Astrophysical Observatory), and 'Complex of the Sudak Fortress Monuments of the 6th - 16th c. and Trading Posts and Fortifications on Genoese Trade Routes. From the Mediterranean to the Black Sea', and, as relevant, to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect the property;

10. Also calls upon the international community to strengthen cooperation in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural property originating from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine);

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

47. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **32 COM 8B.72**, **43 COM 7B.94**, **44 COM 7B.161**, **45 COM 7B.205**, and **47 COM 7B.135**, adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the significant progress made in the conservation of the property's physical fabric, including ongoing works at Westminster Abbey and the continuation of the Restoration and Renewal Programme for the Palace of Westminster, as well as progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission;

4. Also welcomes:
   a) The re-establishment of the Steering Group,
   b) The ongoing revision of the Management Plan, including the identification of attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
   c) The strengthening of guidance for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) requirements and their integration into the revised Management Plan;

5. Notes that the framework for managing change affecting the property's OUV relies on non-statutory guidance and policy-based instruments rather than binding legislative provisions, and that the multi-level governance structure may limit enforceability and consistency in decision-making;

6. Encourages the State Party to ensure strengthened coordination and the consistent application of policies relating to the protection and preservation of the property and its wider setting across administrative boundaries;

7. Also notes the ongoing review and preparation of key planning instruments and urges the State Party to ensure that the protection of the property and effective management of its wider setting are embedded as fundamental objectives in those planning instruments;

8. Further notes the State Party's position that a formal buffer zone is not necessary, given the existing planning controls; notes, however, that a number of development proposals have been approved despite objections raised by Historic England, concerns expressed by ICOMOS through its Technical Reviews, and previous requests by the Committee, thereby raising questions regarding the effectiveness of the current planning framework in safeguarding the property's OUV;

9. Notes with concern the continued challenges relating to the management of the property's wider setting, and the State Party's position that planning decisions require balanced judgement which may allow other public interest considerations to outweigh adverse impacts on OUV, considers that this approach may not sufficiently ensure that the protection of OUV is prioritised in decision-making, also urges the State Party to make full use of the ongoing review of England's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to strengthen the integration of World Heritage protection, including clearer mechanisms to ensure that OUV is adequately embedded in planning decision-making processes; and requests that any further planning instruments under revision be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to formal adoption, in order to enable the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide timely technical input and support the State Party in this process;

10. Reiterates its strong support for the concept of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, but recalls its serious concerns that the State Party continues to pursue its location in Victoria Tower Gardens, despite Decisions **43 COM 7B.94**, **44 COM 7B.161**, **45 COM 7B.205** and **47 COM 7B.135**, in which the Committee considered that the current design would have a significant adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and requests the State Party to develop and submit an alternative, less impactful design, through an iterative HIA process, to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies informed prior to the submission of any planning application;

11. Considering the ongoing revision of key planning instruments, together with similar development pressures affecting the 'Palace of Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church', requests the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to the property, to address the issues above, to be undertaken at appropriate stage, and before any irreversible decisions are taken;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report by **1 February 2027**; and, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

48. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.56**, **42 COM 7B.32**, **43 COM 7B.95**, **44 COM 7B.61**, **45 COM 7B.62** and **46 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the progress made in strengthening the protection and management system for the property, in particular through the establishment of a new partnership governance structure comprising an Executive Board and Expert and Stakeholder Group, bringing together expertise and stakeholder and community representation;

4. Notes positively the progress made in updating the property's Management Plan, including the commitment to submit the draft revised Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to finalisation and adoption, and requests the State Party to ensure that the revised Plan effectively supports the protection and preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including through the integration of mechanisms to assess cumulative impacts;

5. Takes note that the Setting Study was amended following advice provided through a Technical Review by ICOMOS and subsequently integrated into the management system of the property and its wider setting through adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and also requests the State Party to ensure that, in the application of this SPD, priority is given to the retention and protection of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property;

6. Also welcomes the findings of the 2025 Condition Survey and the reported improvement in the condition of the property and its monuments since 2010, and encourages the State Party to continue to use the survey as an important baseline for the management of the property and as a key resource informing the ongoing revision of the property's Management Plan;

7. Also notes positively the progress of the new educational facilities at Stonehenge and the State Party's commitment to provide updates to the World Heritage Centre on the completion of the works and the associated archaeological reporting, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Acknowledges the decision by the State Party to cancel funding for the proposed A303 Improvement Scheme and notes that the Development Consent Order for the project has been legally revoked, thereby removing a major and long-standing threat to the property's OUV, nevertheless, further requests that the State Party ensure that any future proposals or alternative schemes relating to the A303 corridor are notified to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to any decision that could be difficult to reverse;

9. Recalls that the continued presence of busy main roads crossing the property, in particular the A303, is identified in the property's Statement of OUV as having an adverse

impact on its integrity and on visitors access to attributes conveying its OUV, and considers that, notwithstanding the revocation of the A303 Improvement Scheme, the development of a sustainable, long-term solution to address these impacts remains necessary, to be pursued through continued dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

49. Tower of London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **27 COM 7B.83**, **28 COM 15B.103**, **29 COM 7B.89**, **30 COM 7B.74**, **31 COM 7B.90**, **32 COM 7B.112**, **33 COM 7B.127**, **35 COM 7B.114**, **36 COM 7B.91**, and **38 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling that between 2003 and 2014, it repeatedly expressed concern regarding the adverse impact of construction projects – including high-rise buildings – in the immediate vicinity of the property, and further noted that incremental developments around the property had adverse visual impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its integrity, particularly in the absence of a formally established buffer zone for its protection;

4. Acknowledges the 'Tomorrow's Tower' master programme, the proposed Moat Legacy Project, and the conservation, presentation, and visitor management actions undertaken by Historic Royal Palaces, including ongoing maintenance and conservation works as well as projects to improve access and interpretation;

5. Welcomes the preparation of a new Setting Study and the ongoing revision of the property's Management Plan, with a view to strengthening its overall management framework, including through:

   a) The incorporation of requirements for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), including robust assessment of cumulative impacts,

   b) The reinforcement of monitoring and management of change within the property's wider setting;

6. Notes the continued application of the existing planning framework, including the London Plan, relevant local plans, the London View Management Framework and associated guidance, as well as the ongoing revision of several key planning instruments; however, expresses concern that the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2025 and October 2024

of the draft City Plan 2040 identified shortcomings, including insufficient methodologies for assessing cumulative impacts, reliance on clustering of tall buildings, and insufficient safeguards to ensure the protection of the property's OUV;

7. Notes with concern that, although development proposals have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, several projects identified as potentially harmful or requiring reconsideration – including 1 Undershaft, 70 Gracechurch Street, 60 Gracechurch Street, 85 Gracechurch Street, and 63 St Mary Axe – have nonetheless been approved, and that in some cases planning decisions appear to have been taken without full consideration of advice provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Considers that the continued approval of large-scale developments with adverse impacts on the property's OUV and cumulative impacts arising from high-rise developments in the wider setting remain the principal threats to its OUV;

9. Urges the State Party to make full use of the ongoing review of England's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to strengthen the integration of World Heritage protection, including clearer mechanisms to ensure that OUV is adequately embedded in planning decision-making processes; and requests that any further planning instruments under revision be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to their formal adoption, in order to enable the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide timely technical input and support the State Party in this process;

10. Also requests that the State Party ensures that the draft City Plan 2040 and other relevant planning instruments strengthen the protection of the property's OUV, including through improved understanding of the property's setting, and strengthened methodologies for assessing cumulative impacts;

11. Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider an appropriate buffer zone for the property and strengthening mechanisms for assessing and managing cumulative impacts and to ensure effective control of tall-building development in its wider setting;

12. Recalls that, in Decisions **29 COM 7B.89**, **30 COM 7B.74** and **33 COM 7B.127**, it considered, in the absence of substantial progress, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and expresses deep concern that these issues continue to pose risks to the property's OUV;

13. Also considers that the ongoing revision of key planning instruments, together with development pressures, affects the 'Tower of London' property and therefore requests the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to this property, to be undertaken before 1 February 2027;

14. Requests furthermore that the mission:

    a) Assess the property's state of conservation and ability to convey OUV,

    b) Evaluate projects undertaken and planned within the property,

    c) Assess the level of change in the wider setting since inscription,

    d) Provide guidance on the definition of a potential buffer zone or other forms of protection for the setting for the property,

    e) Evaluate the effectiveness of the planning and development control systems in avoiding individual and cumulative impacts on OUV,

f) Provide guidance on all the key planning instruments under revision in relation to their effect on World Heritage sites in London,

g) Evaluate the extent to which advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies is integrated into decision-making processes;

15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, 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 49th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV, including its possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

50. Sítio Roberto Burle Marx (Brazil)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.19** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit in due time the state of conservation report, which was requested at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) and reiterates the totality of the requests and recommendations of its previous decision;

4. Recommends that the State Party prioritise the detailed delineation of the attributes of the property and their degree of intactness, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if the State Party so requests, 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 they are so requested, and also requests the State Party to submit these plans and regulations as soon as they become available to the World Heritage Centre;

6. Further requests the State Party to control urban development pressure, ensure protection of views from the property into the surrounding landscape, and undertake Heritage Impact Assessments in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, as required;

7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

51. Churches of Chiloé (Chile)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.20**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission report and the successive Committee decisions, takes note of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission report and requests the State Party to implement all its conclusions and recommendations in the best delay;

4. Expresses its utmost concern about the lack of an effective mitigation plan for the Castro Shopping Mall and the lack of progress made in the designation of an appropriate buffer zone and Intervention Guidelines for the Castro component of the World Heritage property and considers that the buffer zone of Castro should include the urban coastal edge, including the landscape defined by the meseta with particular attention to safeguarding its skyline and the visual approach from the sea;

5. Urges the State Party to establish a mitigation plan in the form of a Civic Agreement among all parties involved in the management and conservation of the property to finalise effective protection of the buffer zones and corresponding Intervention Guidelines for all components of the property and integrate OUV-focused impact assessment procedures into develoment processes and legal protection mechanisms in such a way that they prevent constructions that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Recommends the State Party to anticipate development pressures on the Chiloé Island through developing policies, programmes and tools to ensure that controlled urban expansion, building heights, and land speculation are aligned with the preservation of the OUV of the property;

7. Also recommends the State Party to continue the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan and to consider the wider landscape setting of the property and the intangible heritage that is particular to the OUV of this property;

8. Considers that in the absence of an effective mitigation plan as mentioned in Paragraph 4 above, in particular for the Castro component of the property, it will be considered at its 50th session if the property, **considering its urgent conservation needs, requires a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

52. Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia (Colombia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.43**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),

3. Notes with concern the acknowledgement by the State Party of significant protection and management challenges related to pervasive, cumulative threats to the property arising from external factors, such as mining and urban expansion, but also from lack of effective mechanisms to ensure coffee cultivation prevails within the property, underpinned by traditional practices and the distinctive way of lie of the cafeteros, in a context where policy mechanisms are needed not only at municipal, but also at regional and national levels.

4. Welcomes the numerous and important mitigation measures adopted by the State Party, as well as other beneficial initiatives reported, such as the development in 2024 of Technical Parameters to Guide Interventions in the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia by the Ministry of Culture and the National University of Colombia, particularly the inclusion of provisions related to impact assessment;

5. Also welcomes the updating of the Management Plan with a comprehensive set of policies, objectives, strategies, and actions aimed at safeguarding the property's Outstanding Universal Value within a framework of environmental, social, cultural, and economic sustainability, requests the State Party to submit a copy of the updated plan to the World Heritage Centre for review, and further requests that provisions requiring the conduct of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) studies for projects or activities that may affect the property's values be formally incorporated into the updated Management Plan;

6. Also notes that legislative initiatives to exclude the component parts of the serial property and their buffer zones from large-scale mining activities have been introduced in successive legislative periods but have not yet been adopted; and requests furthermore the State Party to adopt these legal measures and proceed to their implementation;

7. Considers that, while these initiatives are welcome, they are insufficient to address the acknowledged potential threats to the property, particularly the reduction in land area cultivated for coffee cultivation since inscription, urban expansion, the weakening of traditional practices, and large-scale mining;

8. Encourages the State Party to continue the extensive analysis of the diverse factors negatively affecting the property;

9. Urges the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as circumstances permit, in order to define more clearly the various threats to the property and to provide advice on precisely how these might be addressed;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027,** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

53. Historic Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.118** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Noting that the Master Plan 2025-2035 is now in the approval process, urges the State Party to approve the Master Plan 2025-2035 and to provide information about the measures that will be taken to ensure its implementation, financing and inter-institutional management,

4. Also noting that the Metropolitan Development Plan 2025-2045 is expected to be approved after the current Master Plan approval process, requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in case any modification would be introduced during the approval process of the Metropolitan Development Plan 2025-2045;

5. Reiterates the urgency to proceed with the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines to formalise the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;

6. Urges the State Party to conclude the declarations as national heritage of the Archaeological Landscape of the Lari-Lari-Los Tucos Ravine, the Archaeological Cultural Landscape of Toccrahuasi and Carmen Alto and the Cultural and Archaeological Landscape of the Chilina River Valley and Las Rocas Ecological Park;

7. Welcomes that the Vía Troncal Interconectora project is in the process of redesign, that the new design will not affect the archaeological landscape of Lari Lari – Los Tucos, and further requests the State Party that the new design be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context;

8. Also welcomes that the State Party has continued its public awareness activities among local communities and residents, and encourages the State Party to continue these activities;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure the full implementation of the mitigation measures included in the 2017 Heritage Impact Assessment of the Chilina Bridge and the Via Troncal Interconectora, and the recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to ensure the preservation of the future buffer zone;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

54. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.149**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Encourages the State Party to finalize the new Management Plan (2024-2028) within the second 'Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program' (PURP II) and requests the State Party to send this Plan to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Notes with appreciation that in the framework of the PURP II, a review is foreseen of the legal and institutional frameworks for the conservation and management of the property, with a view to strengthening the application of a joint urban vision and urban development plan and clarifying roles and responsibilities of the institutions involved;

5. Regrets that in spite of the proposal prepared in 2023, no action has been taken concerning the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river nor concerning the draft extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone and urges again the State Party to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Welcomes the Palmentuin Management and Maintenance Plan (2024-2029), notes that its full implementation is not possible due to limited funds and that rehabilitation of the water management system and park infrastructure are currently the priorities and also encourages the State Party to follow the recommendations of the technical review of May 2025, particularly to undertake an integrated rehabilitation;

7. Highly regrets the recurrent destruction by fire of the wooden architecture of Paramaribo, welcomes the numerous actions of the State Party to strengthen fire risk assessment and management and develop an Emergency Action Plan and further encourages the State Party to continue to improve fire risk preparedness measures;

8. Urges the State Party to take into account the recommendations of the July 2025 ICOMOS technical review of the proposed twelve-story tower of the DSB bank, which concluded that the project would have an irreversible negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and immediately affect the nearby Saint Peter and Paul cathedral-basilica;

9. Also urges the State Party, for the Yogh Office Tower project, to take into account the recommendations of the January 2026 ICOMOS technical review and to reduce the height of the project to the height of the recently built Yogh Headquarters, and to halt construction until a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) with particular focus on the visual impact on the integrity of the property is undertaken;

10. Strongly regrets, despite the Committee's last Decision **47 COM 7B.149** urging the State Party to halt the construction, reduce the scale and scope of the design, undertake a HIA on any new design, and provide such new design and HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, that the construction of:

a) The National Assembly Hall, behind the buildings at Hench Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, is nearly complete without a HIA nor adjustment of the size and scope of the design as recommended in the technical reviews of May and September 2023, and the Report of the January 2024 Advisory mission,

b) The Yogh Parking Garage, just outside of the property boundary in the area proposed for extension of the buffer zone, is fully complete, with no HIA nor changes to the height of the building, in spite of the 2024 technical review recommending the building not exceed the lower volume of the nearby Yogh Hospitality Hotel;

11. Notes that the National Assembly Hall building, in this location, does not harmonize with the rest of the historic urban landscape recognized as part of the property's OUV;

12. Considers therefore that these two buildings affect the historic urban landscape of the property, resulting in a significant loss of historical authenticity and integrity and represent an ascertained danger to the OUV of the property in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

13. **Decides to inscribe the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) on the List of World Heritage in Danger** and requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to establish a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

AFRICA

55. Royal Court of Tiébélé (Burkina Faso)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8B.9**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations, particularly the documentation of motifs, the awareness-raising actions, and the measures taken to identify sites for the supply of traditional materials;

4. Notes in particular the information-gathering mission concerning the material supply sites, and encourages the State Party to pursue and update this initiative in order to ensure the supply of compatible materials in the long term;

5. Expresses its satisfaction with the ongoing revision of the management and conservation plan and the site manager appointment process under way, and requests the State Party to finalize this process as soon as possible in order to ensure fully functioning management and effective coordination of actions once the new management and conservation plan is finalized, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for examination;

6. Further requests the State Party to incorporate the following in particular in the new management and conservation plan:

   a) A system for the coordination and regular update and consolidation of the repertory of motifs and attributes, allowing for a clear distinction between ancient and newly created motifs,

   b) Operational control and monitoring measures regarding the use of new techniques and new materials, to supplement the awareness-raising actions, in order to prevent any negative impact on the authenticity of the property,

   c) A sustainable tourism strategy,

   d) A risk management system specific to the property,

   e) A system to monitor the state of conservation including measurable indicators,

   f) The provisions applicable to future projects that may impact the property, including the procedure concerning Heritage Impact Assessments and the arrangements for informing the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Notes that the water issues, particularly the rising damp observed in the walls, are reported, and that their treatment is planned within the framework of a project concerning the pipe and sewage system and the installation of a drainage system, and requests the State Party to submit additional information on this project to the World Heritage Centre, including the diagnostic, the technical aspects, the timeline and the expected effects on the state of conservation of the property, for examination;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

56. Aksum (Ethiopia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **44COM 7B.3**, **45COM 7B.123**, and **46COM 7B.21**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/ online, 2021), 45th extended (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's report that the majority of monuments in the property were not harmed during the armed conflict;

4. Deplores the reported looting of the Aksum museum, and encourages all State Parties and actors to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage affecting the property, in line with the provisions under the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the 1954 Hague Convention) and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), and as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, specifically with regards the Aksumite coins looted from the Aksum Museum;

5. Takes note of the technical information annexed to the State Party's reports containing details of the proposed consolidation of Stele III, as well as the weakened structural condition of the Mausoleum and Tomb of the Brick Arches in the Main Stele Field, also takes note of the concerns on the proposal expressed by ICOMOS in its Technical Review, and requests the State Party to:

   a) Engage with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS before starting the implementation of the consolidation project in its current form,

   b) Ensure temporary shoring of underground structures,

   c) Ensure the continuous monitoring of Stele III,

   d) Develop alternative proposals that respond to the guidance included in the ICOMOS Technical Review, and

   e) Submit these alternative proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review;

6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:

   a) Develop, as a matter of urgency, the previously requested detailed boundary delineation maps of the property and its buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre for review,

   b) Submit the revised design for the façade modification of the Church Museum to the World Heritage Centre for review;

7. Also welcomes the State Party's submission of the Action Plan for the implementation of past mission recommendations and Committee requests as well as the invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS/ ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property, and urges that the mission visit the property as soon as possible to:

   a) Assess the state of conservation of the property, including its management and human and financial resourcing,

   b) Assess the implementation of the Action Plan and provide recommendations on its further development,

   c) Evaluate the effectiveness of the 2007 Master Plan, the 2010 Thematic Master Plan and 2016 Structure Plan, and the Management Plan in the current situation and provide guidance on their revision and the need for other thematic plans or strategies, if needed,

   d) Provide guidance on the consolidation of the Tomb of the Brick Arches, Mausoleum and Stele III and other conservation needs at the property,

   e) Provide guidance on controlling development pressures in the property and its buffer zone,

   f) Assess the legal context for the conservation area;

8. Invites the State Party to undertake further efforts for the mobilization of funding for conservation support, and encourages the International Community to assist the State Party with technical and financial support to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

57. The Gedeo Cultural Landscape (Ethiopia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.6**, adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing immediate actions to address the extensive and on-going factors that were seen to negatively impact the viability and resilience of the traditional agroforestry practices that underpin the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property at the time of inscription;

4. Appreciates the ongoing work on developing a Sustainable Land Use Plan (SLUP), the essential tool needed to protect traditional practices and achieve a balance between the many competing needs at the property, whilst aiming to improve prices for high-quality organic coffee, and raise the overall standard of living for communities;

5. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to initiate and complete the development of the SLUP, encourages it to expedite this work, and further recommends that the State Party explore collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to strengthen the process and the resulting document for the management of complex dynamic cultural landscapes such as Gedeo;

6. Also welcomes the initiatives so far undertaken to plant around 41 million indigenous seedlings, including Enset seedlings to reduce incentives for land-use change, and high-yield coffee seedlings to increase productivity and encourage export of high value fair trade, single location coffee, as well as initiatives to support livestock rearing and beekeeping, but considers that these initiatives need to be framed within the SLUP;

7. Commends the progress made in the implementation of the Management Plan and notes with satisfaction that the property office now has a site manager, a conservation expert and other support staff accountable to the Culture and Tourism Bureau of the South Ethiopia Regional State;

8. Further notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to sustain intangible cultural heritage by integrating aspects of indigenous knowledge into the formal schooling system and encourages it to continue with the efforts aimed at the transfer of knowledge related to traditional agroforestry practices and the traditional ways of life;

9. Further takes note of the ongoing construction of the information centres and visitor facilities at the prehistoric archaeological sites within the property, and also requests the State Party to provide more detailed information on these projects, including how the centres will be used to communicate the OUV of the property, rather than be confined to just the archaeological sites, to indicate how this initiative can be further developed within an overall Tourism Strategy for the property in the context of the SLUP, and to ensure that the development of further facilities within the property and its future buffer zone be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments and informed by condition assessments of the archaeological sites before approval or construction;

10. Further welcomes the work undertaken by the State Party to monitor the property, its conservation status, land-use changes, and agroforestry practices, and recognises the need to continue efforts to establish a more extensive, detailed, and at least partly community-based monitoring system that would be based on adequate data, encompass all the attributes of the property, and would align with measures to address the underlying threats;

11. Notes furthermore the clarifications regarding the methodology used for boundary delimitation and welcomes the possibility to re-evaluate the current perimeter when new spatial data becomes available;

12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider establishing a proper buffer zone encompassing adjacent areas inhabited by the communities practicing the Gedeo traditional agroforestry and equipped with complementary restrictions placed on its use and development, in order to provide the Gedeo Cultural Landscape with additional management against developmental pressures and effective functionally to protect its OUV;

13. Acknowledges the progress that has been made since inscription, but given the enormous task that was, and still is, needed to reverse the downward trends impacting the property, considers that regular reporting is desirable and further requests the State Party to submit an interim report on progress by **1 December 2026**;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, 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 51st session.

58. Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.5**, **45 COM 7B.125,** and **46 COM 7B.22** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 46th (New Delhi, 2024), sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's expressed engagement with past Committee requests and mission recommendations, including the progress made in the delineation of property boundaries, buffer zones, and demarcation of property components on the ground, and reiterates its request that the State Party engage with the World Heritage Centre to initiate a minor boundary modification process under paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, and await approval of the boundaries by the Committee before adopting these legally;

4. Welcomes also the State Party's commitment of significant current and future funding to conserve the property, as well as the support provided by international partners, notably France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the European Union, for the State Party's conservation efforts at several property components;

5. Notes the limited progress made in implementing past Committee Decisions and mission recommendations, which highlights the urgency of action required to reverse the imminent threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), its attributes, and its authenticity and integrity, including through strengthening the protection and management system, and urgently requests that the State Party initiate the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan 2024-2029, including through the establishment of the Steering Committee, and develop an Action Plan and timeline for their implementation, and submit such an Action Plan and timeline to the World Heritage Centre for review;

6. Also requests the State Party to give the securing, stabilisation, and conservation of the physical fabric of the property components preference over other projects in the application of conservation funding and actions and to continue to demarcate the property components, even as an interim measure, where boundaries have not yet been delineated;

7. Encourages again the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre updated completed survey reports and related documentation of all 28 components, which would allow the Advisory Bodies to offer closer assistance on that process, and further requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to the World Heritage

Centre, as outlined in paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, for approval by the Committee, before adopting these in its national legal system;

8. Expresses satisfaction that the development project at St. George's Castle at Elmina has been cancelled and that at Fort St. Anthony at Axim suspended, allowing for the assessment of future proposals, but notes with concern that the site of Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo is still used as a contractor's yard, and that the Jamestown Fishing Harbour Project was completed in 2024 but was not subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), despite past requests to the State Party to halt it, and requests furthermore that the State Party urgently halt the use of Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo as a contractors yard and urgently assess the impacts of the operation of the fishing harbour at James Fort in Jamestown on the structural integrity of the fort;

9. Expresses its grave concern at the state of conservation of the property's components, also notes that the annexes submitted on the ongoing conservation of six components do not provide technical information on the planned intervention, requests moreover the State Party to urgently submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies technical documentation of the proposed interventions at these six forts;

10. Also expressing its concern at the considerable delays observed at the institutional level, recalling again its request for an increased mobilisation of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, and strongly urges the State Party to enter 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 the establishment of a campaign can be developed for the long-term sustainable conservation of the property, which would include capacity building activities;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

59. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 8B.23** and **46 COM 7B.23**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005), and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the continued implementation of the recommendations presented by the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission despite economic and socio-political constraints, and encourages the State Party to continue to pursue their implementation;

4. Welcomes the submission of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), also notes that the CMP has been subject to a review by ICOMOS, and requests the State Party to

revise it following the advice provided by ICOMOS in its forthcoming Technical Review before its implementation;

5. Also welcomes the reported project to develop detailed site mapping and a composite GIS database, including a Condition Assessment and Conservation Plan, as well as the ecological restoration planning and a Climate Risk Assessment currently being undertaken, as well as the additional condition assessments of all cultural features and also requests for the State Party to ensure that the updated CMP and the included Conservation Strategy and Methodology fulfil the request recorded by previous decisions of the Committee;

6. Recalls that the large component of 20th century sculptures in the Grove are key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and calls on the State Party to ensure that the form, material and technical authenticity of these artworks are respected by scientifically determined conservation processes grounded in documentary evidence, and to this end recommends that the State Party augment the photographic archive of artworks to include copies of photographs taken from the 1960s to the 1980s, when the majority of artworks were created;

7. Further notes with concern the reports of further buffer zone encroachment, recalls that the purpose of a buffer zone is to support the effective protection of the nominated property by giving an added layer of protection to the property through complementary legal and/or customary protection placed on its use, and urges the State Party to prioritize the development of a legal and customary framework for the buffer zone, rather than seeking to reduce its area that could encourage further encroachment, and reiterates the need to prepare detailed maps of the property and its buffer zone for use in the management of the property, and clearly demarcate the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone in the physical landscape;

8. Further recalling that the ecological restoration of the primary forest of the property was identified as a principal management goal at the time of inscription, encourages the State Party to continue its work in this regard, including through partnerships, and to put in place a formally approved strategy to stimulate the traditional norms and practices and reverse decline, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre;

9. Acknowledges the ongoing discussions with the sub-national and national governments regarding the relocation of the tarmac road from the property, but expresses concern that the complexity of this issue increases over time as settlement patterns develop due to the road's continued use, calls upon 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 to the World Heritage Centre before entering into contracts for their implementation;

10. Further notes again the ongoing discussions regarding the allocation of proceeds and funding from the annual festival for the conservation and management of the property, and encourages again the State Party to pursue these efforts, including by exploring fundraising opportunities and the use of proceeds from tourism at the site, and integrating this in the CMP;

11. Recalling that the waters of the sacred Osun River are used by devotees of the annual Osun Festival, reiterates its requests that testing of the water of the Osun River for pollutants be undertaken on a regular basis, and that the outcomes of past and future tests be shared with the World Heritage Centre, and encourages again the State Party

to take concrete steps, if necessary, together with traditional religious leaders, to ensure a safe use of the water by festival participants;

12. Welcomes the emphasis on community engagement, but as a number of key issues relating to the conservation of artworks, encroachment of the buffer zone, and water pollution need the involvement of local authorities as well as the support and commitment of national agencies, urges the State Party to ensure such structures are in place;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

60. Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites (South Africa)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8B.11** adopted during the 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the progress made in addressing the key issues of the Committee including operationalising the overarching and component site level management authorities and initialization of the procurement processes for establishing multidisciplinary technical team and service provider to support the revision of the Integrated Conservation Management Plan and Site Management Plans; encourages the State Party to ensure inclusion of overarching strategies for interpretation, education, sustainable tourism and visitor management and requests the State Party to ensure that the operationalisation of management authorities is accompanied by clearly defined roles, reporting mechanisms and coordination protocols between the different institutions involved, and to provide an indicative timeline for the completion of these processes;

4. Also requests the State Party to undertake the priority conservation work at Walter Sisulu Square, The Great Place at Mqhekezweni, Sharpeville, Z.K Matthews House and the boundary fence of the Phelindaba cemetery component site and to provide an updated timeline for the completion of these conservation interventions;

5. Commends the State Party's efforts in mobilizing the additional agencies to strengthen institutional collaboration and resource mobilization for the property and further requests the State Party to capitalize on the planned review of the property's management plans to strategically address the reported challenges related to sustainable financing of the property;

6. Notes with concern the issues raised regarding the physical condition of the J. L. Dube Ohlange component site, and requests furthermore the State Party to report on the outcomes of the planned inspection of the site and to outline any conservation measures that may be required to ensure the continued protection of the component part;

7. Takes note of the reported fires at the University of Fort Hare site, along with the verification of the safety of the building structures, and urges the State Party to develop the disaster risk management plans for all individual components that make up the property and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review;

8. Also takes note of the State Party's commitment to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment prior to the approval of the proposed hotel development at the Liliesleaf component site and also encourages the State Party to undertake the assessment in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any decision being taken;

9. Further encourages the State Party to adopt exemplary approaches to allow all component sites of this large, complex, and fragmented property of memory to project their full meaning in relation to Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation, so that in total they can be seen to reflect Nelson Mandela's legacy;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

61. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Rep of Tanzania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.51**, **44 COM 7B.12**, **45 COM 7B.37** and **46 COM 7B.24** adopted at its extended 42nd (Manama, 2018), 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th sessions (New Delhi, 2024) respectively,

3. Welcomes the continued commitment of the State Party towards the conservation and management of the property, including efforts made in improving urban management, notably mobility measures aimed at reducing pressure on the historic urban fabric, as well as the completion and submission of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the Darajani Bazaar and the Malindi Bus Stand projects, which will be subject to technical review by ICOMOS;

4. Notes with concern that the property continues to face significant challenges arising from conservation needs of its built fabric, as well as cumulative impacts of ongoing and planned development projects, and that the scale, complexity and simultaneity of interventions, together with the continued loss and conversion of public open spaces, raise serious concerns regarding the capacity of existing management systems to ensure effective oversight and coordination;

5. Commends the State Party's continued efforts in the rehabilitation of key heritage buildings, notably the ongoing works at the House of Wonders, supported by Oman, and the Majestic Cinema, supported by Japan, Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands, also

welcomes the State Party's commitment to submit documentation on these projects before each rehabilitation stage, and encourages the State Party to ensure that these interventions are fully aligned with the recommendations provided through the ICOMOS Technical Review and Advisory missions, and are implemented in conformity with the requirements of the Convention;

6. Expresses concern regarding the reported major transformation of the Old Fort, regrets that the State Party has provided no information or clarification despite the formal request for information transmitted to the State Party under Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests the State Party to engage with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies before further implementation of transformation actions at the Old Fort, and to submit as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, comprehensive documentation, including detailed project designs and a HIA, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also notes with concern that the revised Stone Town Conservation and Heritage Management Plan (STCHMP) is yet to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the revised STCHMP, taking into account the ICOMOS Technical Review, and ensuring that the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is central to its objectives and that HIAs are fully operationalised as a core conservation tool;

8. Further notes with concern that the Safe Mobility Program for Stone Town, including its five-year implementation plan, has not yet been submitted for review, despite repeated requests by the Committee in its previous Decisions, considers that current reported measures remain fragmented and insufficient to constitute a comprehensive and coordinated mobility framework, and also reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit the Safe Mobility Program and its implementation plan to the World Heritage Centre for review to enable an assessment of their long-term effectiveness in relation to the property's OUV;

9. Appreciates the State Party's continued engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including through the invitations of past Advisory missions to the property, also expresses its concern that past Committee Decisions and mission recommendations are not yet systematically implemented, also recalling that the State Party, subsequent to a request of the Committee, established a cross-cutting tasks team to address past Committee decisions and mission recommendations, also requests that the State Party revitalise the cross-cutting task team to establish effective coordination and communication, develop an overarching strategic framework to guide ongoing and proposed developments, to ensure and monitor implementation of past Committee Decisions and mission recommendations and ensure the timely submission of comprehensive project documentation to the World Heritage Centre;

10. Encourages the State Party to consider the appointment of a cultural heritage coordinator within the established site management authority, to oversee technical works and projects, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Convention and to serve as a liaison between the site management and the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Decision: 48 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.68, 41 COM 7B.34, 43 COM 7B.36, 44 COM 7B.77, 45 COM 7B.104, 46 COM 7B.44,** and **47 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the progress reported by the States Parties of Albania and North Macedonia, including advances in legislative initiatives in North Macedonia, preparation of corrective measures in Albania, measures to improve waste and water management and continued scientific monitoring, notably in fisheries management in North Macedonia;

4. Notes with utmost concern that overall progress in addressing the ongoing degradation of attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains limited, and reiterates its request to the States Parties to implement the outstanding recommendations of the 2017, 2020 and 2024 Reactive Monitoring missions;

5. Urges the States Parties to further reinforce transboundary dialogue and coordination at both high institutional and operational levels, including with regard to the consideration of alternative routing options for Corridor VIII;

6. Notes with concern the continued delays in preparing the pre-feasibility study for the alternative route of the Railway Corridor VIII, as well as the associated studies and impact assessments, and invites the States Parties to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any decisions that may be difficult to reverse, and to refrain from implementing the project until such review has been completed;

7. Welcomes the establishment of a coordination body in North Macedonia and also welcomes the preparation by Albania of a time-bound set of corrective measures, and reiterates its request to upgrade the status of the Strategic Recovery Plan (SRP), including through strengthened governance arrangements, and to accelerate the implementation of urgent measures to address existing threats to the OUV;

8. Regrets the absence of progress in preparing a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess cumulative impacts on the property's OUV of all infrastructure and development plans, and again reiterates its request to the States

Parties to urgently undertake such an SEA, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Also welcomes the initiation of conservation works at the Lin Paleo-Christian Church and efforts to strengthen the protection of Lin and its Peninsula, including the adoption of Council of Ministers Decision No. 197 of 26 March 2026, designating Lin as an Urban Architectural Ensemble with an associated buffer zone and approving a preservation, protection and management plan that introduces stricter land-use and landscape provisions and mandatory Heritage Impact Assessments for transformative interventions in line with UNESCO guidance, but regrets the insufficient response to ongoing development pressures, including tourism-related developments, and the lack of progress in implementing previous requests to revise and downscale the Tushemisht development, amend the Pogradec General Local Plan to exclude urbanisation in ecologically sensitive areas, including between Tushemisht and Drilon Springs, and to halt further development of the Drilon–Tushemisht Waterscape project and the Pogradec bypass road pending the completion and submission of impact assessments, including cumulative impacts, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit, and reiterates its requests to the State Party of Albania in this regard;

10. Requests the State Party of North Macedonia, in line with its previous requests, to:

    a) Expedite the assessment of the impacts of illegal constructions, based on clear criteria, and implement remedial measures, including removal where appropriate,

    b) Suspend amendments to Detailed Urban Plans and approval of Local Development Plans outside settlements until the SEA demonstrates no adverse effects on the attributes underpinning the property's OUV,

    c) Urgently advance the preparation of General Urban Plans for Ohrid and Struga, as well as spatial planning instruments for non-built-up areas, ensuring full alignment with the property's OUV, in parallel with the comprehensive SEA and taking into account its findings;

11. Takes note that a draft law to designate Studenčišča Marsh as a Nature Park is under preparation and that urbanisation is not permitted within the marsh; however, also regrets the continuation of the 'Gorica 3' complex, given its scale and potential negative impacts on the OUV, and furthermore reiterates its request to the State Party of North Macedonia to halt such development activities pending the completion and submission of SEA and project-specific impact assessments;

12. Further welcomes efforts by the State Party of North Macedonia to strengthen legislative frameworks and prepare a new strategic policy document, and also urges the State Party to expedite the adoption of key legal instruments, including the designation of Lake Ohrid as a natural monument and Studenčišča Marsh as a Nature Park;

13. Notes ongoing wastewater infrastructure upgrades and monitoring efforts by both States Parties, however, expresses concern at the slow pace of implementation, and also requests the States Parties to accelerate integrated waste and wastewater management, prioritise funding for approved projects, and expedite completion of key infrastructure to address pollution affecting the lake ecosystem;

14. Notes with appreciation progress regarding Galičica National Park (GNP), including proposed zoning revisions, visitor management planning and measures to regulate off-road vehicle use; however, notes with concern that inconsistencies arising from

overlapping legislation and limited enforcement capacity continue to constrain effective management, and requests furthermore the State Party of North Macedonia to:

a) Complete the revision of the zoning system to allow natural processes to occur across 75% of the park,

b) Ensure effective implementation of the visitor management plan to ensure tourism in GNP is sustainable and in line with the protection of the OUV,

c) Strengthen ranger authority and enforcement capacity,

d) Enforce strict regulation of off-road vehicle use and progressively phase out such activities;

15. Acknowledges the completion of the Sateska River redirection, and urges furthermore the State Party of North Macedonia to finalise the related operational and management arrangements to ensure its effective operation;

16. Also notes with utmost concern that, while acknowledging the recent steps undertaken by both States Parties to strengthen governance, planning and protection, overall implementation of corrective measures, recommendations of the 2020 and 2024 missions and the Strategic Recovery Plan remains insufficient, and that cumulative and ongoing impacts arising from weak transboundary governance, the absence of a comprehensive SEA, unresolved urban planning and illegal construction, continued development pressures, and delays in wastewater and waste management are causing serious deterioration of the property's OUV;

17. Recalls that, in its Decisions **45 COM 7B.104** (2023), **46 COM 7B.44** (2024) and **47 COM 7B.54** (2025), the Committee has repeatedly noted the severe and multiple threats affecting the property, and that, in 2025 it considered that the conditions for the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger had been met in accordance with paragraphs 179-180 of the Operational Guidelines, and reiterates the need for the States Parties to take urgent and sustained action to address the factors affecting its OUV;

18. Welcomes the high-level written commitments by the State Party of North Macedonia, notes the commitment of both States Parties to address the factors affecting the property, and requests the States Parties to submit documentation of these commitments to the World Heritage Centre;

19. Requests the States Parties, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2029** a joint report on the corrective measures for the transboundary property, based on the recommendations of the 2020 and 2024 Reactive Monitoring missions, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of the measures implemented, and also requests the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to examine the level of progress achieved by the States Parties and to assess the overall state of conservation of the property;

20. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2030**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the findings of the 2029 Reactive Monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 53rd session.

63. Laponian Area (Sweden)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **CONF 201 VIII.B** (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 urged 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 Decisions **45 COM 7B.32**, **46 COM 7B.45** and **47 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively;

3. Recalls with significant concern that the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that the proposed Kallak mining project, located near the property within a critical reindeer migration corridor, would pose a significant threat to the cultural and natural values of the property, in particular to the Sámi reindeer transhumance system, which is a key attribute of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), also recalls the Mission's conclusion that any proposed mitigation measures would be insufficient to avoid these impacts and could therefore threaten the long-term sustainability of Sámi reindeer herding, a living cultural practice underpinning the property's OUV, and again urges the State Party not to grant the environmental permit required for mining to proceed;

4. Takes note that a World Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed mining project, initiated in 2024, remains underway and is expected to be finalised in 2026 in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decision on the environmental permit required for mining to proceed, and requests the State Party to ensure that the outcome of such review, together with any related Committee decisions, is duly taken into consideration in the environmental permit application process;

5. Also notes with concern that test drilling at Allivaara, in the vicinity of the property, continues under an exploration permit in the absence of an impact assessment;

6. Takes note of the establishment of a dedicated working group to address the Committee's requests and the recommendations of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, including the development of a Sustainable Development Strategy to respond to growing pressures on the property and its setting, and continues to encourage the State Party to ensure that this Strategy is developed in full consultation with the concerned Sámi Indigenous Peoples, and to submit the draft Strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation;

7. Expresses concern at the limited progress in implementing the Committee's previous requests, in particular with regard to undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment

(SEA), despite the continued emergence of development projects within and in the setting of the property, and therefore reiterates its request for the State Party to:

a) Undertake, as a matter of priority, an SEA for the property to assess the cumulative impact of all major development projects on the OUV of the property,

b) Ensure that all planned developments are assessed for their potential impacts on the property's OUV through Heritage and/or Environmental Impact Assessments conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and based on a clear identification of the attributes underpinning the property's OUV,

c) Submit these assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken;

8. Further notes with concern the reported impacts of climate change on the property's ecosystems and Sámi reindeer husbandry, and encourages the State Party to ensure that climate change considerations are effectively integrated into planning, monitoring and management processes for the property;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the planned revision of the Management Plan addresses the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, clearly defines the attributes underpinning the property's OUV, and aligns management, legal protection and decision-making processes, and also encourages the State Party to submit the revised draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;

10. Welcomes the Swedish Government's initiative to commission the Swedish Agency for Public Management to review existing protection and management measures to ensure the sustainable and long-term conservation of the property, and reiterates its call upon the State Party to continue clarifying legal protection measures and governance responsibilities for safeguarding the property's OUV, and to ensure their alignment with national legislation, as well as international obligations under the Convention and relevant human rights standards;

11. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any further consideration of mining permits and major infrastructure developments guarantees the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Sámi Indigenous Peoples, and to integrate FPIC procedures into decision-making processes for all future major infrastructure and industrial projects, in accordance with international standards, including the Convention;

12. Strongly encourages the State Party to submit, in consultation with the concerned Sámi Indigenous Peoples, a request for a minor boundary modification to establish a buffer zone explicitly linked to the protection of the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, noting that the protection of reindeer migration corridors and winter grazing areas in the setting of the property remains inadequate;

13. Reiterates its request to the State Party to address all remaining recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and to provide an update in its next report;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, 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 49th session.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Decision: 48 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.78**, **45 COM 7B.99**, **46 COM 7B.46**, and **47 COM 7B.56** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Regrets that the Tren Maya (Tramo 7) and associated infrastructure were completed and became operational without an integrated assessment focused on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property having been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation, as repeatedly requested by the Committee;

4. Further regrets that the State Party has still not undertaken the requested Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate the strategic alignment and cumulative impacts of the Tren Maya project and other related developments, whilst multiple development projects advanced, reminds the State Party that the absence of a formal SEA framework under national legislation does not prevent the State Party from undertaking an assessment with the scope and purpose requested by the Committee, and urges again the State Party to prioritize undertaking the SEA in line with the principles of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes that mitigation and monitoring programmes have been established for the Tren Maya, CATVI and the Mundo Maya Calakmul Hotel, and requests the State Party to continue their implementation and to submit information on their implementation status and effectiveness, including monitoring results and indicators, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also requests the State Party to continue monitoring visitation trends and their potential impacts on the property, including cumulative effects associated with increased access and related developments, and take an adaptive approach to ensure visitor access and numbers are continuously monitored;

7. Also takes note of the ongoing update of the Management Programme for the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and the Management Plan for the property, including the reported zoning changes reclassifying a significant area from restrictive use to preservation, and further requests the State Party to finalize and submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Regrets that the Mundo Maya Calakmul Hotel within the property is now built and operational despite concerns raised over the project, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that its operation continues to be closely monitored, particularly in

relation to water use, ecological integrity, visitor management and cumulative effects, and to submit the relevant monitoring and mitigation effectiveness;

9. Notes the importance of mural paintings in conveying the property's OUV and requests the State Party to strengthen the current conservation and monitoring programmes to avoid deterioration associated with environmental factors, also by including preventive conservation and environmental monitoring measures in the future Calakmul Action Plan;

10. Also notes with appreciation that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in September 2025 and that its findings will be presented to the Committee at its 49th session;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

65. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.35**, **39 COM 7B.36**, **41 COM 7B.36**, **43 COM 7B.37**, **44 COM 7B.172**, **45 COM 7B.100** and **47 COM 7B.57** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses again its concern about the current daily visitor admission levels, which still exceed those approved under the 2015 carrying capacity study, reminds the State Party that central aspects of the conditions to increase visitation are still lacking, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on a technical assessment with quantitative information, demonstrating compliance with the conditions to increase visitation, including effective implementation of dispersal strategies, infrastructure adaptation, independent monitoring, and adequate staffing;

4. Requests further information on the multisectoral agreement to prepare a new carrying capacity study for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (SHM) and the Machu Picchu National Archaeological Park (PANM), also reminds the State Party that conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and visitor safety should be the determining aspects in establishing carrying capacities for World Heritage properties, and also requests the State Party to submit the new carrying capacity study for review by the Advisory Bodies before any final decisions are made;

5. Welcomes the progress reported in updating the Master Plan of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu 2026-2030 (Master Plan), and urges again the State Party to finalise

the process and to submit the documents to the World Heritage Centre once completed for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Further requests the State Party to confirm the status of the Public Use Plan and clarify if the new Master Plan substitutes the foreseen document;

7. Takes note of the development of specific internal guidelines for the preparation, evaluation, and follow-up of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and recalls again that any project that might affect the OUV of a property has to be subject to a proper assessment under the obligations of the Convention and the Operational Guidelines, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

8. Noting that the HIA for the Chinchero International Airport – Cusco identified several significant potential impacts on the OUV and highlighted the urgent need for mitigation measures to be implemented prior to any airport operations, also reiterates its request for the State Party to finalize the Action Plan detailing the mitigation measures for the construction and operation of the Chinchero International Airport – Cusco, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre imperatively and urgently for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Encourages the State Party to coordinate the efforts with the work of the Machu Picchu District Technical Committee for Rural Land Use Planning and further requests the State Party to provide an update on these processes;

10. Requests moreover a report on the advances of the Visitor Centre project, and further reminds the State Party of the importance of ensuring that participatory planning processes follow international norms and standards, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Also welcomes the intention to strengthen decision-making and enhance institutional articulation in the Machu Picchu Management Unit), in order to improve its operational capacity;

12. Notes positively the progress towards establishing the Machu Picchu–Choquequirao Biosphere Reserve, and also encourages the State Party to continue this process;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

AFRICA

66. Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.15**, **42 COM 7B.64**, **44 COM 7B.71, 45 COM 7B.28, and 46 COM 7B.47**, respectively adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), its 42th session (Manama, 2018), its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party to strengthen the governance and management of the property, particularly through the revision of the partnership agreement with African Parks, the recruitment and training of new eco-guards, the signing of collaboration protocols with the National and Nomadic Guard of Chad and the Forest and Wildlife Guard, and the creation of a Department of Cultural Heritage;

4. Takes positive note of the absence of vandalism incidents reported within the property since 2017 and encourages once again the State Party and its partner to continue their efforts, particularly equipped with sufficient financial and technical resources to ensure the preservation of the property's major attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Also takes note of the ongoing revision of the property's boundaries to include the northern part of the massif, particularly important rock art sites such as Niola Doa, expresses its concern that, at the time of submission of the report, the draft amending decree on the creation and boundaries of the property is still in the preparation stage and the updated map announced in the report has not been provided, recalls that it is important that this process to revise the boundaries be participatory, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **46 COM 7B.47**, and urges once again the State Party to consult the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to guarantee that all the important zones are included and that an appropriate buffer zone is planned, and to submit, at the latest by **1 February 2027** and in accordance with paragraphs 107 and 164 as well as Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, a minor boundary modification request for examination by the Committee, prior to its implementation at national level;

6. While noting the publication of brochures on the property's biodiversity and the inventory of 1,921 archaeological sites, regrets the absence of these documents and the associated research reports annexed to the report, and also requests the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, accompanied with additional explanations on their contribution to the implementation of the previous decisions of the Committee, in particular those connected to the detailed information on the state of biodiversity, including on the botanical inventory and flagship species such as the relic crocodile population, including its genetic viability;

7. Appreciates the initiatives to reintroduce red-necked ostriches and addax carried out as part of a community-based approach, but expresses its deep concern in light of the 40% mortality rate observed among reintroduced addax, raising questions as to the prior

identification of suitable zones for reintroduction and to the monitoring of individuals after their release, and further requests the State Party to step up finalization of the feasibility studies underway and not to carry out new reintroductions until all of the recommendations from these studies have been fully implemented, in order to increase the chances of long-term success of this vital conservation operation for the property's OUV;

8. Also regrets the persistent delays observed in the strategic planning, particularly with regard to the finalization of the management plan, the action plan and the roadmap aimed at implementing the previous decisions of the Committee, recalls that these documents are vital for efficient management of the property and reiterates once again its request to the State Party to accelerate these processes, to finalize these planning tools in accordance with Decision **46 COM 7B.47** and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available;

9. Also recalling that, following the heavy rain that affected the property in 2024, emergency assistance request No. 3528 was approved to allow for an assessment of the damage and the urgent needs on the ground, requests furthermore the State Party to submit a report on the implementation of this project, including a specific analysis of the impacts of the flooding on the property's OUV and the measures implemented, notably following the assessment mission conducted by the State Party in November 2025;

10. Further notes the willingness expressed by the State Party to host the joint Reactive Monitoring mission within the property, and invites the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, and ICOMOS to work closely with the State Party in order to organize this mission as soon as possible;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

67. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Rep of Tanzania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B. 67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.30**, **46 COM 7B.48**, and **47 COM 7B.60** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively;

3. Notes the reported findings of the two Presidential Commissions of Inquiry which conclude that the current Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM) is no longer sustainable and place emphasis on voluntary relocation as a principal response, and considers that any move away from a multiple land use management approach would constitute a major change in the management framework for the property, which should not be undertaken without full and effective consultation with all stakeholders and rightsholders, including

those who oppose relocation, and without prior review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the full reports of the Presidential Commissions of Inquiry, and strongly requests the State Party not to take any decision to move away from a multiple land use management approach, before any contemplated changes are considered through the previously requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the State Party's willingness to invite the requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and also requests that this mission be undertaken as a matter of utmost priority;

6. Also notes with appreciation the progress update to implement the recommendations of the 2017 ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission and the 2019 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure their implementation in full and keep the World Heritage Centre informed;

7. Welcomes the State Party's confirmation that the Lodoare Gate–Golini road through the property will be reclassified from a trunk road to a park road, however notes with concern that the required operational action plan to manage road use continues to be pending, and requests furthermore the State Party to:

   a) Submit a completed action plan to manage road use, and an update on its implementation,

   b) Provide a progress report on the phased implementation of the road project,

   c) Ensure the Project Environmental and Heritage Monitoring Committee that will be appointed to monitor the road upgrade, considers all attributes of Outstanding Universal Value to avoid any negative impacts,

   d) Demonstrate the effectiveness of traffic control measures in preventing increased transit traffic through the property;

8. Expresses concern over the translocation of southern white rhinoceros into the property in the absence of confirmation that the concerns raised by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) have been addressed, and requests moreover the State Party to clarify how these concerns were addressed, detail the measures taken to ensure the best practice, and ensure that any future translocations are undertaken in line with written technical advice from the AfRSG;

9. Also notes the initiation of a landscape study at Laetoli which will investigate ecological, archaeological and historic features, expresses again its concern that a temporary enclosure and climate control trials have commenced at the Laetoli footprint site G, and reiterates its requests that the State Party:

   a) Submit, as soon as possible, further details of the experimental project at site G to the World Heritage Centre,

   b) Engage the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the evaluation of further conservation actions before any decisions are made on the conservation, and presentation of the footprints at the site;

10. Further notes the reported efforts to address poaching and invasive alien species, but regrets the lack of measurable indicators to assess their effectiveness, and additionally requests the State Party to provide:

    a) Quantitative trend data for poaching incidents and enforcement outcomes,

    b) proposed monitoring indicators for invasive species with baseline data,

    c) assessment of the effectiveness of current control measures;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

68. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Reiterates its serious concern that the ongoing political instability, economic crisis and conflict in Yemen continue to pose significant challenges to the effective protection and management of the property, and notes with appreciation the State Party's continued commitment to safeguarding the property under exceptionally difficult circumstances;

4. Welcomes the financial and technical assistance provided by various conservation partners, and calls upon the international community to support the State Party's efforts to safeguard the property;

5. Notes with serious concern the conclusions of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that, while the property continues to retain the exceptional biodiversity for which it was inscribed, key terrestrial and marine ecosystems that constitute part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are deteriorating and the property's integrity is facing threats due to the cumulative impact of development pressures, invasive alien species (IAS), pollution, climate change, and unsustainable resource use, and that whilst a legal framework is in place, protection and management remain weak and insufficient, and that these threats could pose a serious potential and ascertained danger to the property if left unresolved;

6. Notes the conclusion of the 2025 mission that the property continues to retain the exceptional biodiversity for which it was inscribed, the attributes of OUV remain present, and most of the identified threats are largely reversible provided that they are addressed promptly and the necessary capacity and resources to improve the state of conservation of the property are available, and therefore does not recommend inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, but considers that the urgent conservation needs of the property require a broad mobilization of resources and support to preserve its OUV, and also notes that a new Reactive Monitoring mission by 2030 would allow the Committee to assess the implementation of the mission recommendations and progress made to address the threats to the OUV and reverse the deterioration of the state of conservation, and whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger if its state of conservation does not substantially improve;

7. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2025 mission, including the following priority actions:

   a) Finalize and secure legal approval for an archipelago-wide Vision, General Management Plan, Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP), and Development Master Plan, ensuring political support and compatibility with World Heritage requirements;

   b) Immediately halt all unapproved projects, and conduct retrospective assessments of any impacts on the OUV of the property from existing developments undertaken without a prior impact assessment, and implement remediation and restoration where required;

   c) Enforce a moratorium on unauthorised construction, land allocations and construction of walls in the property, and reverse unlawful land allocations and acquisitions, particularly in sensitive coastal and plateau areas;

   d) Operationalise biosecurity and IAS management by implementing the IAS Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring adequate pathway controls and quarantine facilities are in place, and actively managing outer islands;

   e) Establish island-wide systems for waste management, with priority given to urban centres and settlements responsible for the increasing waste load;

   f) Scale up habitat restoration and recovery, and strengthen measures to regulate grazing, fuelwood collection, and fisheries in line with the property's ecological carrying capacity; at the same time, support sustainable livelihoods for local communities, building on traditional and knowledge and customary practices, and ensure they benefit equitably from conservation and tourism;

   g) Integrate cyclone and risk preparedness, climate monitoring, and adaptation measures into property management in order to reduce vulnerability of both ecosystems and communities;

   h) Reinforce the conservation and management system, institutional presence and co-management, including to strengthen the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and local government authority on the management of the property, with permanent presence in high-pressure areas and expanded co-management agreements with local communities;

8. Acknowledges with appreciation the State Party's efforts to reinforce compliance of development activities with the relevant legal, planning and zoning framework, but notes with concern the development of several large-scale infrastructure projects within and adjacent to the property without full Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) or approval, reiterates its request to the State Party and all stakeholders involved in such projects to ensure that related impact assessments are implemented, as required by

national laws, and conducted in line with the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any irreversible decision and begin construction;

9. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to mobilise resources, including through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to improve the property's protection and management and to support sustainable livelihoods, and also requests the State Party to ensure that these activities are aligned with World Heritage requirements, including safeguards and impact assessments for activities that may affect the property and its OUV;

10. Invites the State Party and its conservation partners to ensure that all planned activities, such as the preparation of an ecosystem restoration assessment, atlas on biodiversity and landuse, and other studies, take into consideration the attributes and threats relevant to the protection of the property's OUV, and are developed in partnership with relevant scientists, managers and local communities, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as relevant, and inform the development of the requested General Management Plan, CZP, and other strategic documents;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

69. Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7B.62** and **47 COM 7B.2** adopted at its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's ongoing commitment and enhanced collaborative efforts towards the long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through strengthening resilience-based management of the Reef and addressing the Committee's concerns relating to climate change, water quality, land-clearing and sustainable fisheries management;

4. Notes with utmost concern the continuing negative impacts on the OUV of the property from declining hard coral cover across the Reef following the 2024/2025 mass coral bleaching events and requests the State Party to provide a full assessment of the impact of the most recent mass coral bleaching event to the World Heritage Centre, including cumulative impacts of climate change and other disturbance factors, as soon as it becomes available;

5. Notes with appreciation the finalization of the Reef 2050 Catchment Water Quality Strategy which includes new end-of-catchment load reduction targets for each of the Reef catchments based on the best available science and knowledge, and requests the State Party to:

   a) Accelerate the implementation of the Strategy to meet the Targets as soon as possible, and by 2032, in line with the recommendations made in the 2026 Scientific Report on the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Targets,

   b) Report on implementation and clearly communicate the progress made in improving water quality flowing into the Reef, including through the Reef Water Quality Report Card,

   c) Ensure that implementation is supported by sufficient and sustained funding, and interim milestones towards 2032;

6. Notes with appreciation that the crown-of-thorns (COTS) Control Program has proven to be an effective management action underpinning the protection of the OUV of the property, that this expertise has been shared internationally, and encourages the State Party to continue restoration efforts while supporting other countries in need;

7. Welcomes the reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to tighten restrictions on clearing native vegetation in the Reef catchment, the strengthened partnerships with regional communities and industries to encourage stewardship, and numerous programs focusing on restoration and remediation of gully, streambank, coastal, riparian and wetland areas to address low water quality concerns;

8. Welcomes ongoing initiatives to ensure full compliance with Queensland's Reef Protection Regulations, apply enforcement procedures equally to all industries and enhance protection of remnant and high-value conservation areas and encourages the State Party to:

   a) Implement enhanced regulated standards and expand evidence-based best management practice programs, in line with the results from the statutory review of the regulated standards for sugarcane, bananas and grazing under the Reef regulations,

   b) Develop regulated minimum practice standards for other agricultural commodities produced in catchments that discharge to the Reef,

   c) Increase compliance activity and enforcement procedures along with regular reporting obligations;

9. Requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of the impact of maintenance dredge spoil dumping within the property, to guide and inform enhanced measures to avoid any negative impacts of dredge spoil on the OUV including its conditions of integrity, and recalls the recommendation of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake the comprehensive and transparent scientific assessments recommended in the Maintenance Dredging Strategy;

10. Welcomes the ongoing efforts to increase the sustainability of fishing in and adjacent to the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the property is fully gillnet-free by mid-2027, and requests the State Party to continue with the timely implementation of the mandatory independent monitoring program for trawl fisheries;

11. Welcomes the development a traceability system for Queensland's coral harvest fishery and the shift towards more coral captive breeding, recalls the recommendation of the

2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake a comprehensive review of current coral harvesting practices, and requests the State Party to:

a) Undertake an updated ecological risk assessment, considering the changing ecosystem,

b) Release an updated harvest strategy,

c) Report on the outcomes to the World Heritage Centre to ensure that coral harvesting does not negatively impact the OUV of the property;

12. Notes with appreciation the State Party's effort to address climate change, reiterates its request to the State Party to set further ambitious targets to limit temperature increases consistent with limiting global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to align its policies accordingly, and encourages the State Party to establish effective mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts of extreme weather events on the OUV of the property;

13. Welcomes continued support provided by the State Party to the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Taskforce in leading the delivery of the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan, as well as the greater involvement of Traditional Owners in policy, governance, and project implementation through a co-management approach;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2028**, a progress report, with a particular focus on the implementation of the Reef 2050 Catchment Water Quality Strategy, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and by **1 December 2029**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 52nd session, with the possibility of inviting an IUCN Advisory mission in 2028 or 2029, as relevant, to assess the progress in implementation and provide any specific advice to the State Party, as needed.

70. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.64**, **41 COM 7B.25**, **43 COM 7B.3**, **44 COM 7B.91** and **45 COM 7B.14** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 41st (Kraków, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment and efforts to implement the protection of the property and fully implement the recommendations of the 2019 UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to continue to implement the mission recommendations;

4. Notes with appreciation that the State Party continues to implement the Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) for the South-West region of Bangladesh, that

the SEMP informs decision-making in relation to industrial development, and further appreciates the State Party for its confirmation that no major dredging or construction project that could impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has been undertaken by the Mongla Port Authority, and that the State Party recognises the importance of addressing the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of development in the region on the property;

5. Recalls the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the South-West region of Bangladesh, that the scale of potential degradation of the OUV of the property through proposed development scenarios remains unknown, and reiterates its request for the State Party in line with paragraph 5 of Decision **45 COM 7B.14**;

6. Further welcomes the proposed replacement of the planned second unit (block B) of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (MSTP) with a solar PV power plant instead of coal-fired power plant and the completion of its feasibility study, also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the technical details of the project, when available, and ensure that the potential impacts of the proposed project are appropriately assessed during implementation;

7. Takes note of the confirmation that the National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCOP) is being successfully implemented, and further requests the State Party to finalise and implement the localized contingency plan to mitigate impacts in case of emergency;

8. Also notes with appreciation ongoing transboundary coordination for the Sundarbans through the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group, the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, and SUNDAR-BAY project activities, and encourages the States Parties of Bangladesh and India to continue strengthening cooperative action for the eco-hydrology of the property and the adjoining Sundarbans National Park in India;

9. Further notes with appreciation the various ongoing measures being implemented for the conservation of the property, and that the draft 2025-2035 Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Sundarbans has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders including local communities (e.g. forest-dependent livelihood groups), and encourages the State Party to finalize and implement the 2025-2035 IRMP to support the effective management of the property;

10. Notes that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was commissioned to assess the impacts of rapid growth and accompanying infrastructural and other developments, including industrialisation, expanded transport networks and urban growth in the South-West region over the next twenty years, and that the SEA examined the impacts of curent and planned future developments over the next twenty years in the South-West region arising from policies, plans and programmes across multiple sectors;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report by **1 February 2029** prior to the submission of a state of conservation report by **1 February 2032**, considering medium growth scenario towards implementing the Strategic Environmental Management Plan by 2041 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 54th session.

71. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

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**, **45 COM 7B.83** and **46 COM 7B.63** 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), 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts to strengthen management measures to address poaching including patrolling, enforcement, public awareness, staff recruitment, establishment of new anti-poaching camps, and a planned management framework restructuring to improve efficiency, and requests the State Party to continue such measures;

4. Also notes with appreciation the confirmation that long-term species monitoring is being implemented in the Manas Tiger Reserve, and that the monitoring of key wildlife species in the property indicates a clear upward trend in populations, and also requests the State Party to continue the long-term monitoring of species in the property to inform ongoing management priorities;

5. Recalling the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding for a carbon financing initiative that would leverage carbon markets to generate revenue to reinvest in conservation management, community development, and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, encourages the authorities to continue this initiative;

6. Acknowledges that there continues to be no further agricultural encroachment in the property, but that encroachment remains unresolved due to socio-political sensitivities involving the rights of Indigenous communities, and reiterates its request for 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;

7. Notes with significant concern that invasive species continue to impact the grassland-woodland ecosystem of the property and that nearly half of the grassland in the Manas National Park and the Manas Tiger Reserve is reported to have been lost, and notes the reported need for sustained management efforts supported by sustainable funding, and further requests the State Party to finalize, as a matter of priority, the pilot studies on invasive plant management and that their findings inform the finalization and implementation of the Action Plan to address invasive species in the property;

8. Also encourages the States Parties of India and Bhutan to continue transboundary cooperation at the field level for the conservation of the wider Manas landscape, and regarding the possible consideration of a revised proposal for the extension of the property;

9. Also takes note that an online joint meeting between the States Parties of India and Bhutan, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN was convened in November 2024 to

discuss the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, in which it was agreed to hold further discussions on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in subsequent meetings once the necessary documents were obtained and shared;

10. Notes with concern however that no further information regarding the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project has been transmitted, and requests furthermore:

    a) The States Parties to submit information on whether the ongoing operation of the project negatively impacts the OUV of the property, including any relevant documents such as the aforementioned EIA and EMP, and, if so, what mitigation measures are being implemented,

    b) That a follow-up joint meeting between the States Parties of India and Bhutan, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN be convened online no later than **1 December 2026** to discuss the above;

11. Requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on the progress made in addressing Decision **41 COM 8B.36** on extending the boundaries of the property;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

72. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

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** and **46 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 46th (Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the submission of the 2021-2030 Management Plan for the property (English translation), and requests the State Party 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. Also notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to ensuring all developments within or around the property (including in the 'Special (Use) Zone') are consistent with World Heritage requirements and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for submission to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for review, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

5. Takes note that the construction of the Enarotali-Ilaga-Mulia segment of the Trans Papuan Highway crossing the property continues to remain halted until its impact on the

OUV has been fully assessed and mitigation measures are completed, that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Sugapa-Ilaga-Mulia segment is being revised to address the concerns raised in Decision **46 COM 7B.65**, and that a Cumulative Impact Assessment and a Rehabilitation Action Plan are being prioritized for submission to the World Heritage Centre by 2027, however noting with concern that 10,973.78 ha of the property ('Rehabilitation Zone') along the Trans-Papuan Highway including the Habema-Kenyam segment has been degraded due to the impact of strategic insfrastructure including road construction, also requests the State Party to finalise the aforementioned processes for submission to the World Heritage Centre, ensuring that the findings of the cumulative impact assessment includes an assessment of existing road development and a timeline for the rehabilitation of all areas inside the property that have been damaged by road construction, and inform the individual EIAs for each road segment, and that no decisions are taken before both the EIAs and cumulative impact assessment have been completed, ensuring that the option that protects the OUV of the property is taken;

6. Further notes with appreciation the reported implementation of ecosystem restoration activities with local Indigenous communities, particularly the inventory of Nothofagus species, ongoing restoration of the Habema-Kenyam road segment, and successful restoration of 325.91 ha of the property by 2024, in spite of operational challenges including funding and technical capacity, and urges the State Party to continue its restoration efforts including through prioritizing the most vulnerable areas to further degradation;

7. Also takes note of the monitoring of Nothofagus species, including an inventory and identification of human impacts on tree health and viability (e.g. road construction, infestation or logging), considers that continued monitoring and research will allow the authorities to inform necessary management response measures, and encourages the State Party to continue monitoring and to request International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to support a thorough study on Nothofagus mortality in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

8. Reiterates its request for the 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;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

73. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2, 37 COM 7, 39 COM 7B.14, 45 COM 7B.17, 46 COM 7B.66,** and **47 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its 34th (Brasília, 2010), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the State Party's acknowledgement of the absence of reporting in response to the 2021 World Heritage Centre letter and subsequent Committee Decisions **45 COM 7B.17** and **46 COM 7B.66**, and notes with appreciation the submission of updated information on the state of conservation of the property in January 2026;

4. Recalls that the 2015 landmark closure of the property to commercial fisheries and the reversed fishing license designed to compensate foregone fishing revenue did not provide the expected benefits and were therefore repealed in 2021;

5. Acknowledges the State Party's intergovernmental commitment to implement a science-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approach to manage the Phoenix Islands as a multiple-use area for both conservation and sustainable use, with zoning for conservation (no-take areas), commercial fishing, low-volume high-end ecotourism, and scientific research, which is intended to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and expected to be finalised by December 2026;

6. Notes with concern however that the implications of the transition to an MSP approach on the OUV remain unclear whilst the MSP process is underway, and that further technical and financial support is required to assess such implications, and requests the State Party to:

   a) Ensure that the ongoing MSP process is science-based and takes into consideration the potential implications on the OUV of the property including the attributes that underpin criteria (vii) and (ix), integrity, and protection and management, so that decision-making ensures the continued protection of the OUV of the property,

   b) Ensure that the potential development of activities related to particularly sensitive ecosystems that constitute important attributes underpinning the OUV, such as commercial fishing on deep sea seamounts, or in relation to exploring marine genetic resources, are carefully considered and not permitted if there would be any negative impact on the OUV,

   c) Not permit any extractive activities (e.g. deep-sea mining and exploration) within the property, and

   d) Provide a clear overview of how the MSP approach is anticipated to ensure the protection of the OUV of the property whilst ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources and local livelihoods;

7. Continues its call to States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to refrain from any unsustainable fishing practices within the property that could negatively impact on its

OUV, and to assist the State Party with the necessary financial and technical support to assess the implications of removing the no-take protection status on the OUV;

8. Notes that the proposed development of ecotourism has the potential to provide additional sustainable livelihood opportunities, and requests the State Party to ensure that any proposed infrastructure development including on Kanton Island (reinstating airstrip, jetty upgrade, eco-lodge accommodation) is first assessed for its potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

9. Welcomes that the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property is in planning for 2026, and requests the mission to:

   a) Assess the state of conservation of the property including any implications of the decision to change the no-take regime to an MSP approach for the property, as well as progress in the ongoing MSP process including measures to ensure the protection of the OUV;

   b) Evaluate whether, in conformity with Paragraphs 177 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger,

   c) Make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is protected whilst ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources and local livelihoods;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

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

Decision: 48 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.89**, **45 COM 8B.3**, **45 COM 8D**, **46 COM 7B.67** and **47 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts to strengthen inter-provincial coordination between Quang Ninh Province and Hai Phong City authorities including a new 2025 Coordination Regulation, and requests the State Party to finalize the establishment and operationalization of an integrated management body for the property and the integrated management plan for the property and to submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre;

4. Also notes with appreciation the reported commitment to a sustainable tourism approach for the property, the progress in development of individual tourism management measures for Hai Phong City and Ha Long Bay, and that a carrying capacity study for the Cat Ba Archipelago is in development;

5. Takes note of the State Party's ambition to position the property as a leading international tourism destination and that infrastructure expansion on the Ha Long Bay coast (buffer zone) and on Cat Ba Island (e.g. Central Bay and Amatina projects) is considered to be in line with planning regulations, enhances landscape quality and reduces visitor pressure on the property, however notes with concern that the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission considered the scale and pace of tourism and urban development in the buffer zone and wider setting to be of serious concern, already affecting visual integrity, coastal landscapes, and marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and that while initiatives aimed at improving tourism quality, strengthening pollution control, and developing carrying capacity studies are encouraging, current planning and assessment mechanisms are insufficient to address cumulative impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

6. Welcomes the confirmation that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been initiated to assess cumulative impacts on the OUV from tourism and industrial development projects located in the property, its buffer zone and adjacent areas, the outcomes of which intend to inform effective management planning and strategic decision-making, support the development of regulations for environmental management and protection of the property, and guide implementation of environmental monitoring and observation activities, including consolidation of studies on water quality and marine ecosystems in the property, and that all projects in the property, buffer zone and wider setting will be subject to impact assessments in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (Guidance and Toolkit);

7. Also takes note of the submission of a map for the entire property including delineation of its boundaries, buffer zone, and land use regime, and also requests that this inform the effective protection and management of the property;

8. Further notes with appreciation the ongoing implementation of various measures to address waste and other forms of environmental pollution, however also notes with concern that the aforementioned map shows that large areas within the property, its buffer zone and the wider setting, including forest and mangrove ecosystems, have been degraded, and further requests the State Party to provide detailed explanation of the degraded areas;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, including as follows:

    a) Urgently undertake Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit, for the ongoing major projects in the buffer zone and wider setting of the property, including the Amatina Project, the Central Bay Project, the Domino Project and the Lach Huyen International Seaport to assess their impacts on the OUV of the property, or retroactively assess impacts on the OUV where construction has commenced, and to:

        i) not permit any development to continue if it would have a negative impact on OUV,

        ii) where negative impacts have been identified, ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are urgently implemented to avoid further negative impacts on OUV, and

        iii) report on progress to the World Heritage Centre.

    b) Ensure that all proposed projects that are planned within the property, its buffer zone or the wider setting are subject to ESIAs, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit, to assess their potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including

the identification of project alternatives and a 'no project' option, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

c) Inform the World Heritage Centre of any projects that may impact the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

d) Prioritise implementation of the SEA, requested by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **46 COM 7B.67**), in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to evaluate cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property from existing and planned tourism, industrial and other infrastructure development projects located within the property, its buffer zone, and the wider setting, to inform effective management planning and strategic decision making, given the serious threats that these pose to the OUV, and to not permit any further developments that may impact OUV until the SEA has been undertaken.

e) Establish specific and enforceable regulations for the buffer zone, including detailed land-use designations and planning controls to ensure that the buffer zone provides an effective additional layer of protection that contributes to the protection of the OUV of the property, and reflect these in the Master Plan.

f) Implement an integrated sustainable tourism management approach for the entire property to effectively address increasing tourism pressure on the OUV of the property, including to:

   i) ensure the assessment of the carrying capacity for the property (requested by the Committee since Decision **46 COM 7B.67**) is understood as a dynamic management process focussed on regulating visitor flows, spatial and temporal distribution and visitor experience quality (including psychological capacity), and not on a fixed numerical threshold,

   ii) finalise the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy (STDS) based on the carrying capacity,

   iii) finalise an Integrated Visitor Management System (IVMS) for the entire property.

g) Implement a coordinated and integrated management approach for the property including to finalise and operationalise the Integrated Management Plan for the entire property through a participatory and inclusive process and operationalise the joint 'Management Board of the Ha Long Bay – Cat Ba Archipelago World Heritage property'.

h) Ensure effective pollution and waste monitoring and management measures for the property, buffer zone and wider setting including in relation to waste collection and treatment, periodic water quality monitoring, and implementation of a wastewater treatment system for Ha Long City.

i) Extend the boundaries of Cat Ba National Park to align with those of the World Heritage property as requested by the Committee at the time of the extension, to give adequate legal protection to the whole property and enhance effective management;

10. Further notes with concern the mission conclusion that without urgent action to strengthen strategic planning, undertake an SEA, rigorously apply impact assessment processes, and ensure fully integrated management across the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting, the long-term conservation of the property's OUV cannot be assured, and that this may lead to the property facing potential danger from major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in accordance with

Paragraph 180(b) of the Operational Guidelines in future, and requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on implementation of the above;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

75. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.21**, **46 COM 7B.50** and **47 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with concern that the prevailing geopolitical situation continues to adversely impact the effective protection and overall management of the transboundary property as a whole, including through the continued presence of border barriers and associated infrastructure and security operations within the property, which exacerbate ecological fragmentation, as well as through the continued lack of transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Belarus and Poland;

4. Regrets that transboundary cooperation remains not feasible, including at the technical level, and reiterates its request to the States Parties of Belarus and Poland to resume technical cooperation to facilitate the development and implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, as soon as conditions allow;

5. Takes note of the ongoing efforts by the State Party of Poland to implement the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations in relation to the part of the property located in its territory, including measures addressing hydrological continuity, invasive alien species control, and research and monitoring of key species, and requests the State Party to continue implementing such measures, and to finalise and report on the proposed guidelines for a comprehensive ecosystem monitoring programme and associated corrective measures, expected by 2026, which should further strengthen monitoring and mitigation; however, notes with serious concern the further reinforcement and modernisation of border infrastructure, including the upgrading of barriers and associated facilities, which is contrary to the recommendations of the 2024 mission;

6. Also takes note of the information provided by the State Party of Poland regarding the ‘National Deterrence and Defence Programme - East Shield’ and the reported efforts to minimise its environmental impacts on the property; however reiterates its utmost

concern regarding the potential impacts of this planned major infrastructure on the property, notes that limited information has been provided on the concrete safeguards to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and urges the State Party to ensure that the highest level of precaution is applied, that all necessary measures are taken to avoid adverse impacts of security-related activities, that the programme is subject to a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that relevant information regarding measures to avoid impacts on OUV is submitted for review by IUCN prior to any further implementation;

7. Notes with appreciation the confirmation that the revision of the Management Plan (MP) for the part of the property in Poland has taken into account the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, as well as feedback from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and further requests the State Party of Poland to finalise and implement the MP as a matter of priority, ensuring that it guides subsequent planning instruments, including Forest Management Plans;

8. Also notes with appreciation the efforts by the State Party of Poland to address fragmentation within the property, including analysis of the road network, restricted access to many roads, planned decommissioning of road sections, and the continued removal of forest fencing, and requests furthermore the State Party of Poland to continue efforts to reduce fragmentation and restore ecological connectivity, including in relation to the Narewkowska road, and to halt works on Road No. 687 within the property and to submit comprehensive details of the project, including an assessment of its potential impacts on the property's OUV, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Also notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts by the State Party of Belarus to implement the 2024 mission recommendations in relation to Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park (BPNP) (area of the property in Belarus), including the indefinite ban on wolf hunting, ongoing scientific research on wild ungulates, and actions to restore hydrological processes, including in the Dikoye swamp and the Narewka river, and requests furthermore the State Party to continue these efforts in line with the mission recommendations;

10. Further takes note that the Management Plan for the BPNP is being updated following its expiry in 2025, and requests furthermore the State Party of Belarus to finalise this process as a priority, consulting the Managing World Heritage Resource Manual and to submit the English translation of the draft plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

11. Acknowledges the progress made by both States Parties in implementing recommendations of the 2024 mission, including in relation to restoring hydrological processes and reducing habitat fragmentation, reiterates that the restoration of ecological connectivity across the entire property remains essential to safeguarding its OUV, and reiterates its request to both States Parties to fully implement the remaining recommendations of the 2024 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, as soon as transboundary cooperation becomes feasible,

    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;

12. Requests furthermore the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in the first trimester of 2027, in order to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the 2024 mission and re-evaluate whether the property meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

13. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027** 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 49th session.

76. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.23**, **46 COM 7B.51** and **47 COM 7B.22**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Appreciates the States Parties' trilateral efforts in the joint management of the property and their continued cooperation in addressing key conservation challenges affecting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and encourages the States Parties to further strengthen transboundary coordination;

4. Welcomes the progress reported in relation to climate change adaptation and monitoring, including the update of the Trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; however, notes with concern the increasing interactions between climate change and other pressures affecting the property, and requests the States Parties to ensure that the combined effects of these pressures are comprehensively addressed in planning, impact assessments and decision-making processes, so as to safeguard the property's OUV;

5. Notes with appreciation the confirmation from the State Party of the Netherlands that the gas extraction project in the Ternaard field, which extends beneath the property, will not proceed, as well as the suspension of operations at Ameland-East, and also requests

the States Parties to ensure that ongoing and future extractive activities do not adversely affect the property's OUV, taking into account cumulative and long-term impacts, including those related to climate change, and to continue to provide updates on individual projects to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Notes the conclusions of the new studies on the "hand-on-tap" method used to regulate gas and salt extraction and associated subsidence, which indicate that the currently applied approach is conservative, and further requests the States Parties to ensure that any future adjustments to this method are undertaken in accordance with the precautionary principle and do not adversely affect the property's OUV;

7. Also welcomes the development of a Trilateral Strategy on Renewable Energy Infrastructure and requests furthermore the States Parties to submit it to the World Heritage Centre once adopted; also notes with concern that planned renewable energy infrastructure projects may affect the property's OUV, and requests moreover:

   a) the States Parties to provide information on the implementation of the Trilateral Strategy in future state of conservation reports, in order to demonstrate that it is being implemented in a manner fully consistent with the protection of the property's OUV;

   b) the State Party of the Netherlands to ensure, through the forthcoming Heritage Impact Assessment process for the selected Schiermonnikoog Wantij route within the PAWOZ-Eemshaven programme, that potential adverse impacts on the property's OUV are adequately assessed and mitigated prior to making any decisions that are difficult to reverse,

   c) the State Party of Germany to ensure that the impacts of its offshore grid planning, including the proposed routing through the property via Langeoog, are appropriately assessed and that adverse impacts on the property's OUV are avoided;

8. Reiterates its previous requests to the States Parties to ensure that impact assessments are undertaken for all relevant planned and proposed activities and developments within and around the property that may impact the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and also encourages the use of the Guidance on Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context, and continued efforts towards a consistent and harmonised approach to impact assessments across the transboundary property, including through a common approach to assessing potential impacts on the property's OUV, supported by measurable indicators;

9. Requests the States Parties to ensure that the implementation of national or regional frameworks, including EU Directive 2023/2413 aimed at accelerating approvals for renewable energy projects, does not compromise the protection of the property's OUV, or the effective application of impact assessment procedures under the Convention;

10. Also requests the State Party of Denmark to provide clarification regarding reported dredging activities in the Grådyb tidal inlet and the associated erosion affecting the Skallingen peninsula, including any potential implications for sediment dynamics, geomorphological processes, and rare or characteristic habitats and species that contribute to the property's OUV;

11. Also notes the progress in the development of the joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) but, noting that its completion is not foreseen before 2028, also reiterates its previous request for the States Parties to prioritise its completion and further

requests the State Parties to ensure that its findings effectively inform planning and decision-making concerning ongoing and future developments, that the SEA evaluate whether additional protective measures, including a formal buffer zone or other mechanisms, may be required to ensure the protection of the property's OUV;

12. Expresses concern regarding the continuing uncertainty surrounding the cumulative impacts of multiple pressures affecting the property's OUV, as well as indications of increasing ecosystem stress and ecological degradation, and requests furthermore the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2027 to assess the state of conservation of the property specifically in relation that to cumulative impacts on its OUV, with a focus on the effectiveness of existing management, governance and assessment frameworks in addressing multiple interacting pressures, and to provide guidance on priority actions required to ensure the effective long-term protection of the property's OUV;

13. Requests moreover the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an interim report on the implementation of the above, including updated information on the condition and trends of the attributes underpinning the property's OUV, in order to support the preparation of the aforementioned mission;

14. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

77. Volcanoes and Forests of Mount Pelée and the Pitons of Northern Martinique (France)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.4**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in strengthening the protection of the property since its inscription, notably through the initiation of the process of geosite designation by prefectural decree for the protection of geotopes and the considerable extension of the Pitons du Carbet réserve biologique intégrale, and requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any difficulties that may lead to delays or substantial changes in the implementation of these measures within the indicated timeframe;

4. Also welcomes the State Party's initiative to strengthen regional cooperation for the conservation of species, habitats and geological values, and encourages the States Parties of Dominica and Saint Lucia to support and formalise this cooperative dynamic in order to contribute to a coherent regional approach to the long-term conservation of shared natural values.

78. Central Sikhote-Alin (Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 8B.9**, **44 COM 7B.105** and **45 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. **Notes with appreciation** the continued implementation of management and conservation measures across the property, including coordination among the component parts of the serial property through the inter-agency Coordinating Council, ongoing ecological monitoring and research, tourism management, conservation measures in support of the Amur tiger, and environmental education and cultural activities;

4. **Encourages** the State Party to continue strengthening the integrated management of the serial property, including by extending key strategic and management instruments, including the Ecotourism Strategy, as appropriate, to encompass all component parts of the property;

5. **Notes with serious concern the ongoing mineral exploration activities undertaken under the Glukhoe subsoil licence within the buffer zone of the property,** including in areas that may affect critical upstream waterbodies and ecological integrity and connectivity, **as well as the reported violations of the licence conditions, urges the State Party to ensure that there are no violations of mining conditions, and that no mining-related activities are undertaken until** a comprehensive impact assessment has been carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and stresses that such activities which may adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property should not be authorised;

6. Also recalls that any weakening of the legal protection regime applicable to the property or its buffer zone in order to facilitate mining-related activities would be incompatible with the protection requirements of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Noting that an adequate and fully operational buffer zone is needed to protect the property from external threats, r**eiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the process of designating an adequate buffer zone for the property is undertaken in a coordinated manner across all component parts and to finalise the formal designation of buffer zones for the whole property, consistent with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines and in line with Decision 42 COM 8B.9, welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to advance this work, and urges its completion as a matter of priority;**

Also reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the extension of the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve and, once completed under national legislation, to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to align the boundaries of the World Heritage property with those of the extended reserve and to formalise under the Convention the buffer zones designated for all component parts of the property;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

79. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.16, 44 COM 7B.106, 45 COM 7B.95** and **47 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the exclusion of the proposed Altai Main Gas Pipeline from the federal territorial planning scheme, thereby addressing long-standing concerns regarding the potential adverse impact of this project on the property;

4. Expresses concern that the 'Altaisky Zapovednik and Buffer Zone of Lake Teletskoye' component part of the property remains without an adequate legal protection regime, and urges the State Party to clarify how legal protection that meets the requirements of Paragraph 97 of the Operational Guidelines and conditions of integrity will be secured, and to provide a clear timetable for establishing such protection for all areas of the property, including this component part;

5. Welcomes the State Party's consideration of granting protected zone status to the entirety of Lake Teletskoye within the Altaisky State Nature Reserve, as this would contribute to more coherent and effective protection and management arrangements, as highlighted by the 2007 and 2012 Reactive Monitoring missions;

6. Requests the State Party to ensure that any proposed tourism-related infrastructure within or in the vicinity of the property, including projects envisaged under the federal interregional tourism planning framework, is subject to prior assessment of potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that any negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are avoided;

7. Recalls its position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status and that mining activities in the vicinity of World Heritage properties may pose a threat to their OUV and notes that the licence for the Brekchiya gold deposit has been revoked and that the subsoil-use licence for the Maly Kalychak deposit remains valid until August 2027;

8. Notes with concern the reported violations of the subsoil-use conditions under the subsoil Maly Kalychak licence, and also requests the State Party to provide detailed clarification on the nature of these violations, the activities undertaken at the site, and the monitoring, assessment and mitigation measures implemented to ensure that the property's OUV has not been adversely affected;

9. Requests furthermore that the State Party ensure that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, is undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to the approval of any mining-related activities, including surveying, exploration or exploitation, that may adversely impact the property and its OUV;

10. Further welcomes the continued transboundary cooperation within the framework of the Great Altai Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, and encourages again the States Parties of the Russian Federation, China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia to continue exploring the feasibility of a potential further extension of the serial property to include components located in China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia;

11. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including clear requirements for integrity, protection and management, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session, and requests moreover the State Party to continue to cooperate with the World Heritage Centre to conclude the retrospective inventory of the property's boundaries;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

80. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

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

81. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 8D, 42 COM 7B.79, 44 COM 7B.109, 45 COM 7B.26, 46 COM 7B.53** and **47 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the implementation of measures to improve coordination and initiate work towards unified management planning and standards for the property, and requests the State Party to provide a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan addressing the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit the integrated management plan to the World Heritage Centre once available, for review by IUCN;

4. Notes progress in tourism planning and visitor management for individual components of the property, including the development of tourism master plans and carrying-capacity studies, and also requests the State Party to expedite the preparation of a comprehensive Tourism Development Master Plan for the property as a whole, based on consolidated data and clearly defined carrying-capacity thresholds consistent with the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Takes note that the Three Volcanoes Park project would reportedly be located outside the property and that the revised master plan remains under review, reiterates its requests that the master plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, including detailed information on its design, location and spatial relationship to the property, and urges the State Party to ensure that the master plan is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, taking into account the principles and approaches set out in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to undertake and submit project-level Environmental Impact Assessments, as appropriate, prior to the approval or implementation of any developments that may adversely affect the property;

6. Recalls that the boundaries of the South Kamchatka Nature Park (SKNP) were modified at the national level in 2021, resulting in the removal of legal protection from part of the property, which the Committee has previously considered to constitute a clear potential danger to the property under Paragraph 180(b)(i) of the Operational Guidelines, notes the opportunity provided by the ongoing establishment of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park, reportedly at the final stage of approval, to restore and strengthen the legal protection of the property, also urges the State Party to provide, by **1 February 2027**, clear and comprehensive evidence of the establishment of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park comprising the entire territory of the South Kamchatka and Kluchevskoy Nature Parks as included in the property at the time of inscription, including the Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays, and considers that, in the absence of such confirmation, the property be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

7. Urges the State Party to provide detailed information and justification regarding:

   a) the designation, legal status, boundaries and permitted activities within all components of the property and their buffer and protected zones,

   b) the functional zoning in place in all components of the property, including details of boundaries, regulations and special protection regimes applicable to the different zones, recalling the conclusion of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission that the zoning did not meet the requirements for protecting the OUV of the property,

   c) how the overall protection regime ensures the effective protection of the property in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;

8. Also notes that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, invited again by the State Party, remains to be scheduled due to logistical constraints and will be organised as soon as feasible, and also considers that, in the interim, the adequacy of the property's legal protection, the compatibility of tourism-related developments with the conservation of its OUV, including the "Three Volcanoes Park"

project, and progress in implementing the 2019 mission recommendations, can be assessed on the basis of information provided by the State Party;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, an updated draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including requirements for integrity, protection and management, for examination by the World Heritage Committee, and to continue cooperating with the World Heritage Centre to conclude the Retrospective Inventory of the property's boundaries;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th 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**.

82. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **32 COM 7B.25, 42 COM 7B.80, 43 COM 7B.18, 44 COM 7B.110, 45 COM 7B.27, 46 COM 7B.54** and **47 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024), and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, respectively,

3. Notes the information provided by the State Party on the boundaries, zoning and regulatory frameworks of the Mount Adygea and Upper Tsitsa River Nature Parks, however, expresses concern that the applicable regimes allow, within economic zones, the construction of linear and hydraulic infrastructure, as well as sanitary logging, which may not be compatible with the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to restore the legal protection and management regime of the affected areas to at least the level in place at the time of inscription;

4. Notes with appreciation the establishment of a protective zone around the Caucasus State Nature Biosphere Reserve, and also requests the State Party to submit detailed information on the legal and regulatory regime, as well as the management measures applicable within this zone, in particular in the northern sector, in order to demonstrate that they are consistent with the protection requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines;

5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the ongoing process of establishing a buffer zone around the entire property, in consultation with regional and local authorities, and to submit a high-resolution map of the proposed boundaries and management provisions to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to its formal adoption;

6. Expresses serious concern that the proposed boundary delineation presented as a clarification would exclude areas that are recognised as constituting part of the property and contributing to its OUV, including the Lagonaki Plateau, areas of the Guzerypl and Khamyshki forest divisions and part of the Bolshoi Tkhach Nature Park, and considers that the proposal would constitute a substantive modification of the property's boundaries and therefore cannot be accepted as a boundary clarification;

7. Also notes the submission of the 2020 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the proposed Lagonaki resort, and also considers that it constitutes a preliminary project-specific appraisal and therefore does not fulfil the Committee's request for an SEA to guide sustainable socio-economic development, including tourism, for the property and its wider setting;

8. Notes with concern that plans for the development of the Lagonaki all-season mountain resort remain under consideration, recalls that the Committee has repeatedly considered that large-scale tourism infrastructure within the property, including on the Lagonaki Plateau, would represent a threat that could have deleterious effects on the property's inherent characteristics, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, hence meeting the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges again the State Party to immediately cease all works at Lagonaki Pateau and to not proceed with the construction of the resort within the property;

9. Takes note of the numerous proposed and existing infrastructure projects within and in the vicinity of the property, urges the State Party to adopt an overarching strategic approach to sustainable socio-economic development, including tourism, for the property and its wider setting, and reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake an SEA in line with its previous Decisions and the recommendation of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission;

10. Further requests the State Party to ensure that no irreversible decisions are taken regarding tourism development within the property or its vicinity until the property boundaries have been clarified through the Retrospective Inventory process and the SEA requested by the Committee has been completed, and recalls that all development proposals that may have an impact on the property's OUV should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

11. Also urges the State Party again to immediately halt the Lagonaki-Guzerypl road project and to undertake an EIA in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context before any further works are undertaken;

12. Notes the limited information provided on invasive alien species, also requests furthermore the State Party to provide updated information on the implementation of invasive species control programmes;

13. Further notes that the recommendations of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission remain to be fully implemented, reiterates its request to the State Party to implement them as a matter of priority, and further requests the State Party to provide a comprehensive update on their implementation in its next report;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its

49th session, **with a view to considering the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

83. Doñana National Park (Spain)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.27, 38 COM 7B.79, 39 COM 7B.26, 41 COM 7B.9, 43 COM 7B.20, 44 COM 7B.191, 45 COM 7B.97** and **47 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Acknowledges the continued efforts of the State Party to address the long-standing conservation challenges affecting the property, particularly in relation to strengthening groundwater governance, hydrological monitoring, restoration measures and inter-institutional coordination, including through the control of illegal abstractions, the operationalisation of Groundwater User Communities (CUMAS), and the further development of monitoring and planning tools;

4. Notes again with utmost concern that three of the five groundwater bodies remain in poor quantitative condition due to ongoing over-exploitation, despite the continued efforts by the State Party, and strongly reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement, as a matter of urgency, all recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular those related to the assessment of groundwater recharge rates and the establishment of enforceable and sustainable extraction thresholds;

5. Welcomes the progress achieved in establishing and operationalising CUMAS, including the approval of the statues for the Marismas y La Rocina and Almonte groundwater communities, as well as the approval of the action programme for the La Rocina groundwater body, and again strongly encourages the State Party to continue and strengthen its efforts to enhance groundwater governance, in particular by finalising and implementing action programmes for all remaining groundwater bodies declared at risk, supported by a clear legal framework and fully integrated into the overall hydrological management system of the property, with a view to demonstrating measurable progress in reducing groundwater abstraction;

6. Encourages the State Party to prioritise the finalisation and operationalisation of the system of indicators aligned with the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, ensuring that clear baselines, thresholds and long-term monitoring parameters are established, and to submit the refined indicators to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

7. Notes positively the conservation-oriented management of Veta la Palma, as well as the progress towards the establishment of a buffer zone for the property, and requests the State Party to prioritise the formal submission of the proposed minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre;

8. Notes with concern that the ecohydrological model requested by the Committee has not yet been finalised, recalls again the need to clarify the relationship between hydrology and ecology to define the property's water requirements for maintaining its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and therefore strongly urges again the State Party to expedite its completion and operationalisation, in line with the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive monitoring mission, in order to inform adaptive management and climate resilience measures;

9. Regrets the continued delay in finalising the Climate Change Adaptation Programme, and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise and implement this strategic framework without delay, including through concrete adaptation and mitigation measures, clearly defined objectives and water use reduction targets necessary to maintain the property's OUV;

10. Takes note of the reported increase in wintering bird numbers over the last two years, however, also requests the State Party to further assess the underlying factors contributing to the longer-term declining trend, including the role of hydrological and habitat changes within and around the property, and to develop and implement targeted management measures to support the recovery and long-term viability of these populations;

11. Also regrets that its request for a specific assessment of the potential impacts of the Aznalcóllar mining project on the property's OUV, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, has not yet been addressed, and further requests the State Party to submit the complete Environmental Impact Assessment, together with a specific assessment of the project's potential impacts on the property's OUV, including the potential impacts of mine discharges on water quality, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

12. Also takes note of the information provided regarding the delimitation of the Maritime-Terrestrial Public Domain in the Doñana marshes, including the clarification that the demarcation is intended to formally recognise the existing extent of the Maritime-Terrestrial Public Domain rather than establish a new legal regime; however, notes that concerns remain regarding the potential long-term implications for the hydrological and ecological management of the property, its OUV and related planning instruments, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide further clarification and to ensure that any future interpretation or implementation of the delimitation remains fully compatible with the protection of the property's OUV;

13. Reiterates its view that, if the decline of the Doñana aquifer (Almonte-Marismas detritic aquifer) is not reversed through rapid and effective implementation of conservation actions, including the full implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, continued degradation could result in significant adverse impacts on the OUV of the property and have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in conformity with paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, which may create the conditions for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

84. Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.98**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Expresses its concern that the 2021 eradication attempt of the invasive non-native house mouse (Mus musculus) was unsuccessful, and that a resurgence of mouse predation on seabirds has been documented, which remains the single largest driver of seabird population declines and wider ecosystem impacts within the property;

4. Appreciates the State Party's continued commitment to pursuing house mouse eradication and its engagement with the global eradication community, including through convening an international workshop, to identify lessons learned and priorities for further trials, research and mitigation measures;

5. Notes with concern that a future eradication effort remains dependent on securing financial resources and that the property therefore remains vulnerable to continued predation of seabirds and associated ecosystem impacts, strongly urges the State Party to secure the necessary funding as soon as possible and to accelerate, to the greatest extent feasible, the timeline for the next eradication attempt that is currently envisaged for trials between 2028–2030, and requests that the planning and implementation of the renewed eradication attempt be informed by recent scientific findings, supported by adequate technical preparations and logistics, and accompanied by interim measures to minimise impacts on seabirds and associated ecosystem processes until eradication is feasible;

6. Notes that efforts to contain procumbent pearlwort (Sagina procumbens) continue to be implemented to prevent its further spread, however, reiterates its request to the State Party to conduct an analysis of the impacts of this species on endemic plants and associated invertebrates, and develop a long-term containment plan;

7. Also notes that no further risks associated with the sunken fishing vessel have been identified and that the State Party considers the issue to be resolved, and also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre, should any such risks arise in future;

8. Commends the State Party for its continued monitoring efforts for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and further notes that no mortalities have been detected to date, and further requests the State Party to continue monitoring and implementing response measures as needed;

9. Notes with serious concern that the biodiversity values and the exceptional natural beauty underpinning the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are reported in the 2025 IUCN World Heritage Outlook to be deteriorating, and that the State Party recognizes that the latter provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date property-wide assessment of issues and threats affecting the property's OUV, therefore requests furthermore the State Party to provide an update on the measures being taken to address the additional threats to the property's OUV identified in that context, including water and solid waste pollution, illegal fishing, and accidental seabird by-catch on fishing lines;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

85. Península Valdés (Argentina)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

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

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

Decision: 48 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.2, 46 COM 7B.55,** and **47 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, respectively,

3. Welcomes the continued implementation of the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan and the ongoing cooperation between the States Parties of Mexico and the United States of America (USA) for species conservation, and requests the two States Parties to continue the technical cooperation and the implementation of the Recovery Plan;

4. Acknowledges the continuation of species monitoring efforts and encourages the States Parties of Mexico and the USA to explore options to strengthen population monitoring, including the resumption of systematic surveys when conditions allow, in order to improve understanding of population trends;

5. Also encourages the States Parties of Mexico and the USA to strengthen their collaboration in addressing shared conservation challenges, in line with Article 6.3 of the Convention, to ensure the long-term conservation of the property's OUV;

6. Reiterates again its concern about the impacts on the property of the border wall constructed in the 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 Prieto National Wildlife Refuge, with the exception of two mountainous areas;

7. Also 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;

8. Takes note that the ongoing research on the ecological effects of the border wall on mammal communities will be reported in 2027, and reiterates its request that the report findings are submitted to the World Heritage Centre once available and to ensure they inform targeted mitigation and connectivity restoration efforts;

9. Also notes with concern the continued delay in the development of the requested Action Plan to restore ecological connectivity, and also reiterates its request to the State Party of the USA 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 without further delays and no later than **1 December 2026**;

10. Further 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;

11. Notes once more 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 further reiterates its request to 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;

12. Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to organize the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, regrets the continued delay in its implementation, and reiterates its requests to the State Party of Mexico to organise the mission as a matter of urgency, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, considering that the State Party of the USA has communicated it cannot take part at this time, 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;

13. Expresses concern regarding the Centauro del Norte "Tramo II" gas pipeline project and considers that the information currently available does not provide sufficient clarity on its potential impacts on the property's OUV, and also requests the State Party to ensure that a comprehensive assessment of these impacts with a participatory process that guarantees the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the Indigenous Peoples in accordance with international standards, is undertaken before any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session, **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.**

87. Canaima National Park (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.199**, **45 COM 7B.71** and **47 COM 7B.41** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the reported implementation of management measures within the property, including joint initatives with Indigenous communities, fire response and recovery actions, surveillance activities and tourism control mechanisms;

4. Notes with concern the recurrence of fires within the property and urges again the State Party to adopt and implement an integrated and effective fire prevention and management strategy, including measures addressing underlying drivers and long-term resilience;

5. Regrets that the State Party continues to fail to provide clarification on whether the planned and existing mining operations within the Orinoco Mining Arc National Strategic Development Zone (ZDENAMO) rights areas close to the property have been subject to impact assessments, which fully assess the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and urges the State Party to submit the requested clarification to the World Heritage Centre, and to ensure that all proposed mining projects, which could potentially impact on the OUV of the property, be assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

6. Also notes with concern the continuation of illegal mining activities within the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to provide further information on the current extent and status of any illegal mining activities in the property to the World Heritage Centre, ahead of the Reactive Monitoring mission requested since 2021, and also urges the State Party to take immediate and effective action to halt such activities and rehabilitate affected areas;

7. Further notes with significant concern that the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee continues to not be invited, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, without further delay, the requested Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to:

    a) Assess, including through on-the-ground visits where feasible, the degree to which the property's OUV, including its integrity, might have been affected by illegal mining activities,

    b) Review the planned and ongoing legal mining activities in the parts of ZDENAMO located in the vicinity to the northern border of the property and assess whether they might result in any potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property and provide advice to the State Party in ensuring that assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property is integrated into existing national regulations for mining;

8. Requests the State Party to clarify how tourism control mechanisms and visitation regulations have considered and ensured the OUV of the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to report on its actions to prevent, detect and respond to invasive species that may be spread by increasing tourism;

9. Considers that, in the absence of the requested information and implementation of the Reactive Monitoring mission, and considering the multiple threats affecting the property, it is not possible to fully assess the state of conservation of the property, and recalls that continued delays may increase the risk of potential or ascertained danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to submit an official proposal for clarification of the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines concerning Minor Boundary Modifications;

11. Reiterates its request that the State Party urgently invites the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee since 2021 in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and provide the necessary recommendations for improvement;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

AFRICA

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

Decision: 48 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7B.56** and **47 COM 7B.42**, adopted during its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,

3. Again deplores the continuing insecurity in the north of Benin and in the transfrontier zone of the complex, as well as the many victims among the Benin army following the attack of April 2025, expresses once again its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all of the property's conservation and security support staff, and notes with compassion the continued efforts of the States Parties to maintain a presence on the ground, albeit minimal in some areas;

4. Welcomes the continued anti-poaching and surveillance efforts and the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 mission, as well as the additional capacity-building of the teams on the ground, stresses, however, that a more accurate estimation of the

actual surveillance coverage of the entire property (mapping, area actually covered in each country) is still needed in order to objectively assess the efficacy and progress of these efforts, and requests the States Parties to provide clarification on this subject, while also stepping up transboundary cooperation actions in order to improve the security of the property and protection of the key attributes of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Notes that the aerial inventory could not be conducted in 2025 in light of the security context, but that specific analyses were carried out on damalisks and hippotragues, populations of which decreased in 2024, encourages the State Party of Benin to further investigate these analyses, reiterates its request again to the States Parties to carry out an aerial inventory covering the entire property as soon as the security situation permits, using the same methodology as for the 2019 and 2024 inventories, in order to ensure scientific comparability of data and monitor trends in key species, and also requests that they step up regional discussions to understand the underlying causes of transhumance and to find sustainable solutions with all of the stakeholders involved;

6. Also welcomes the operationalizing of the Executive Secretariat of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (SE-WAP) and the continued strengthening of the West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA), takes positive note of the diversification of public and private resource-mobilization mechanisms, and urges the States Parties to align financing priorities with those linked to the security and protection of the property's OUV, while also ensuring better coordination and synergy between the ongoing initiatives;

7. Appreciates the continued suspension of the translocation projects in Benin and the commitment of the State Party to share the results of any preliminary studies with the World Heritage Centre for examination by the IUCN before any reactivation, but stresses that the internal translocation and captive breeding programme reported raises a number of technical questions regarding the location of said 600ha boma in relation to the boundaries of the property, the preliminary risk assessment and studies, and the post-translocation monitoring strategy implemented, and further requests that the State Party of Benin provide a detailed update on these specific points in order to ensure compliance with good practices.

8. Also notes the implementation and monitoring of the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) initiated in 2024 for the Niger-Benin oil pipeline project and the Banikoara–Kérémou–Burkina-Faso border road construction, also urges the States Parties to continue these actions and to ensure that they do not have a negative impact on the property's OUV, in accordance with the recommendations of the evaluations carried out by the IUCN on these two projects;

9. Notes with appreciation the submission by the State Party of Benin of a request for a minor boundary modification of the property in order to incorporate the Seri zone, adjacent to the Benin component of the property and forming part of the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve;

10. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to follow closely the evolution of the situation on the ground, and to carry out the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in its Decisions **45 COM 7B.3**, **46 COM 7B.56** and **47 COM 7B.42**, in order to assess the measures undertaken by the States Parties to restore security, strengthen the management of the property and determine whether the OUV remains under threat, as soon as security conditions permit in the three countries;

11. Finally requests that the States Parties submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session, **considering once again that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

89. Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua (Congo)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.1** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the effective cancellation, as of 25 March 2024, of one of the two mining permits that partially overlap the property's buffer zone, specifically the one known as 'Obakadzokou', as well as the ongoing efforts to cancel the second permit, commends the State Party for this progress whilst recalling that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, and requests the State Party to finalize the ongoing procedures for the cancellation of the second permit 'Ngoyiboma lebay' in order to ensure that there are absolutely no mining permits within the property and its buffer zone;

4. Notes that only one of the six logging concessions located within the property's buffer zone is currently certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and also requests the State Party to ensure that all remaining concessions move towards FSC certification in accordance with Decision **45 COM 8B.1**, and to establish buffer zones between logging activities and the boundaries of the nominated property in order to reduce edge effects on the wider ecosystem;

5. Notes with concern that sustainable funding remains insufficient to address the threats facing the property, including cross-border poaching and invasive plants, welcomes, however, the State Party's initiative leading to the approval, in 2025, of a request for international assistance for the project 'Strengthening surveillance against gold panning activities on the outskirts of the Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua', the results of which should contribute in part to reducing this threat on the periphery of the property, and encourages the State Party and its technical and financial partners to ensure that sustainable funding is put in place as soon as possible in order to safeguard the OUV of the property;

6. Expresses its deep concern at the reported allegations of human rights violations committed by eco-guards against the indigenous Baka community within the property, as well as at the findings of the independent investigation commissioned by the entity responsible for the delegated management of the property (African Parks), which corroborated some of these allegations;

7. Takes note of the State Party's official response to the World Heritage Centre's letter regarding these allegations, which outlines the implementation of several strategies aimed at ensuring respect for human rights in the management of the property, as well

as the commitments made by the on-the-ground management partner, African Parks, including the recent development of an integrated management plan known as the Bomoko Project (meaning 'together' or 'unity') to rectify internal malfunctions, take immediate measures to address the identified human rights violations, and ensure respect for human rights in all its activities, and further requests the State Party, in collaboration with its on-the-ground management partner, to submit a detailed report on the effective implementation of the recommendations arising from the independent inquiry, on the effectiveness of the complaints management mechanism and of the Associations for Monitoring and Sustainable Development (ASDD), as well as on actions related to the Bomoko initiative in the promotion and protection of the rights of the Baka people;

8. Also takes note of the information provided regarding the control of invasive plants and infrastructure development, expresses its concern at the uncertainties surrounding the completion of the Development and Management Plan (DMP) reported to be under development at the time of the property's inscription, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide an update on the progress of this process and, where appropriate, to ensure that the future DMP adopts a proactive, participatory and inclusive approach involving, in particular, the Baka people, and contributes not only to the protection of the property's OUV and to combating external pressures, but also to improving the living conditions of indigenous peoples and local communities;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the points mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

90. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7A.14,** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Welcomes the ongoing implementation of the recommendations made by the 2025 UNESCO/IUCN joint Reactive Monitoring mission and encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to fully integrate all of these recommendations in order to improve the management of the property following its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

4. Notes with appreciation the submission to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) of a "zero export quota" concerning the commercial trade of all Dalbergia spp. (rosewood and palisander) and Diospyros spp. (ebony) specimens, including pre-Convention stocks, derivatives and finished products, as well as the transmission of the updated report on illegal trade including data from 2021 to 2025, takes notes of the concrete actions undertaken to combat the illegal exploitation of precious woods at national level and requests the State Party to provide updated information on the exploitation and illegal

trade of palisander at national level while also continuing its close collaboration with CITES;

5. Takes note of the progress made in the fight against deforestation within the property, encourages the State Party to continue to reinforce patrols with park agents (AGPs), local communities (CLPs) and mixed brigades, and to extend the use of drones to all components of the property, and also requests that it submit the consolidated data provided by 'Global Forest Watch' on the deforestation rate for each component of the property for the years 2025 and 2026 in the next report on the state of conservation of the property;

6. While noting the maintenance of the lemur trap observation index below the five-trap threshold per 1,000 km for the entire property, is concerned by the significant increase in the lemur trap observation index, particularly in Zahamena, and further requests the State Party to strengthen the anti-poaching measures, notably through ground and aerial surveillance, the effective implementation of the agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the Ministry of Justice (MINJUS), and through the permanent deployment of at least one Judicial Police Officer (OPJ) in each component of the property;

7. Takes note of the decline in gold mining in Ranomafana, while regretting the absence of information on ruby exploitation in Zahamena National Park and requests furthermore the State Party to provide a detailed report on the implementation of the Ranomafana gold mining operation (2024-2028), as well as a detailed update on mining in Zahamena and to ensure that all mining activity within the property or its buffer zone be halted in accordance with the Committee's position on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage status;

8. Notes that the road projects around the property, including the Antananarivo-Toamasina road, are indicated as on standby, and urges the State Party to conduct the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) so that these projects can be carried out in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken;

9. Also appreciates the submission of the Development and Management Plan (DMP) for four components, Masoala, Ranomafana, Zahamena and Andringitra, and also encourages the State Party to finalize the approval of the remaining two DMPs and to prepare an Integrated Management Plan for the entire property as soon as possible;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

91. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.83**, **45 COM 7B.8,** and **46 COM 7B.58** adopted respectively at its extended 44th (Fuzhou / online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions and its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Takes note of the State Party's sustained efforts to control the threat posed by the spread of invasive species within the property, in particular through the approval of the five-year management plan for these plants, actions to remove Tamarix senegalensis, clear waterways, and control other species, notably Ludwigia erecta, Pistia stratiotes, and Salvinia molesta, and requests the State Party to strengthen collaboration with its technical and financial partners to ensure the preservation of the property's integrity, including through ongoing Norwegian funding via UNESCO, as well as the future "Priority Conservation Project for the Djoudj National Bird Park and its surrounding areas regarding wastewater" submitted to LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats;

4. Also takes note of the adoption of a revised guide to standardize the collection and storage of ecological data within the property, and of the count of 471,441 waterbirds during the International Waterbird Census (IWC) in January 2025, representing a reported relative increase of 84% between 2020 and 2025, exclusively for the January IWC each year, recalls, however, that the State Party, in its previous reports, regularly provided information on the annual results of ecological monitoring, and also requests the State Party to adopt a consistent approach in the presentation of ecological monitoring results, in order to facilitate the monitoring of trends in abundance and species diversity within the property over the long term;

5. Welcoming the inclusion in the 2022–2026 Development and Management Plan (DMP) of all the key issues identified by the 2022 reactive monitoring mission, notably water management, disaster risk management, and invasive plants, as highlighted by the IUCN review, emphasizes that this DMP expires in 2026, and also encourages the State Party to implement a comprehensive evaluation of its implementation, in order to inform the preparation of its update upon its expiry, and further requests that the future DMP adopt a proactive, participatory, and inclusive approach, accompanied by a monitoring and evaluation system based on clear indicators covering all the major challenges affecting the property, with adequate financial and technical resources, whilst ensuring consistency with all existing or draft management documents;

6. Whilst noting the discussions between the State Party and the agency responsible for the construction of the 'Rice Loop Road Construction Project' (AGEROUTE) to mitigate the project's impacts, as well as the updating of the cartographic database and the demarcation of the outer boundaries of the buffer zone, regrets that the revised versions of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Biodiversity Action Plan have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as explicitly requested, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken on the commencement of the project;

7. Also emphasizes the availability of funding for Phase 1 (PDZAM-1) of this project, and urges the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information on the progress of this project as requested in Decision 46 COM 7B.58;

8. Notes the recent efforts to revive the establishment of an inclusive Management Committee and to establish an early warning system for monitoring pollution, and requests furthermore the State Party to finalize and make operational the Buffer Zone Management Committee, with a dedicated budget, by the end of 2026, and to implement without further delay the water quality monitoring system, including monitoring of heavy metals and pesticides;

9. Expresses its concern at the delays in implementing certain recommendations of the 2022 reactive monitoring mission and several requests from the Committee and also urges the State Party to continue implementing all the recommendations of the 2022 mission, as highlighted in the mission's report and reiterated in Decisions **45 COM 7B.8** and **46 COM 7B.58**;

10. Recalling the Committee's previous concerns regarding the risk that the property may soon meet the criteria for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, is concerned about the persistence of various threats to the ecological integrity of the property and its OUV, notably water pollution, the proliferation of invasive species, noise pollution, the development of road infrastructure, and insufficient human resources, and requests moreover the State Party to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 mission and to address these threats with particular and urgent attention, with the assistance of all its technical and financial partners, including UNESCO and IUCN, amongst others;

11. Finally, requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the points mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

92. Serengeti National Park (United Rep of Tanzania)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.76** and **46 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the ongoing efforts by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and encourages the State Party to continue the full implementation of these recommendations to ensure the continued improvement of the state of conservation of the property;

4. While noting the continuous cooperation between the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to develop a Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP) for the Mara River Basin, expresses its concern that no concrete progress has been made since

2022, and requests its urgent finalization and effective implementation, ensuring that Minimum Environmental Flows are closely monitored and regulated;

5. Appeciates the continued dialogue between the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to ensure the proposed dam projects on the Mara River will not proceed, but notes that the report provides no update on the status of the proposed dam projects upstream in Kenya, previously identified as direct threats to the property, urges the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to continue discussion and confirm in writing that all these dam projects will not proceed, given their potentially irreversible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the ecological functioning of the Greater Serengeti Mara Ecosystem (GSME);

6. Takes note of the completion of the community resettlement associated with the inclusion of Speke Gulf to the Serengeti National Park in accordance with Tanzanian Law, and also requests the State Party to provide a detailed confirmation that the resettlement programme followed a human rights-based approach;

7. Also welcomes the completion of the Sustainable Nature-Based Tourism Model consultancy, and expresses again its concern about the growing impacts of tourism inside the property, noting the conclusion of the 2024 mission that there is increasing evidence that the current tourism footprint is already starting to impact the OUV of the property;

8. Further requests the State Party to ensure that the revised General Management Plan (GMP) considers Decision **46 COM 7B.59** and to set quantifiable and measurable Limits of Acceptable Use (LAU) as recommended by the 2024 mission;

9. While taking note of the reported temporary halt of new infrastructure construction within the property pending the completion of the GMP, further regrets that the State Party continues to advance infrastructure projects such as the golf course at Fort Ikoma and the Golini-Seronera road hardening, without an adequate assessment of their impacts on the OUV;

10. Reiterates its request that all construction work on the golf course project at Fort Ikoma be temporary halted, noting that although located outside the property, it is situated on a key wildebeest migration route, until the revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), conducted in line with Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in World Heritage Context is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, before any decision on further work;

11. Requests furthermore that no certificate for the commencement of work for the proposed Mugumu Airport project be issued until a robust EIA, conducted in line with the aforementioned guidance, has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;

12. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to postpone the road hardening project Goleni – Seronera - Fort Ikoma, and to downgrade the status of the Karatu-Nyamuswa road as a trunk road, as recommended by the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission;

13. Encourages the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya, in light of the increasing number of infrastructure and development proposals within and in the wider settings of the property, to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment that assesses the cumulative impacts of tourism on the OUV of the property in order to inform future activities;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

93. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.10** and **46 COM 7B.60** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th sessions (New Delhi, 2024) respectively,

3. Welcomes the continued cooperation between the States Parties, supported by their partners, to strengthen the protection of the property through joint measures, including invasive species control, monitoring, fire management, enhanced conservation actions, and law enforcement;

4. Expresses concern that possible cumulative impacts from infrastructure and tourism developments within the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting, where applicable, continue to pose a significant threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, a situation exacerbated, among other things, by the fact that the States Parties continue to receive development project proposals, and invites the States Parties to continue to provide details on any ongoing or future development projects that will be under consideration as soon as information is available;

5. Regrets the continued delay in completing and submitting the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), despite repeated requests and the recommendations of the 2022 mission, and urges again the States Parties to expedite its finalization with technical guidance from IUCN, as well as its official submission, while ensuring that its conclusions and recommendations are fully integrated into all planning, zoning, and development decision-making processes affecting the property, its buffer zone and wider setting;

6. Notes with regret that, at the time of producing this Decision, no update was provided regarding the letter (Ref: CLT/WHC/AFR/24/151) on the third-party concerns related to permits for two commercial tourism developments in highly sensitive zones on the Zimbabwean component of the property, expresses its concern about the potentially irreversible impacts of these projects on the integrity and the visual attributes of the property, and urgently requests the States Parties to provide updates on the above-mentioned letter and report on the monitoring and mitigation measures in place to ensure that the infrastructures do not negatively affect the OUV of the property;

7. Also notes with regret that the construction of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel proceeded without fully meeting approval conditions at the national level and following the Committee's request to halt further activities until the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) had been submitted and reviewed, and reiterates its requests to the States Parties to implement the 2022 Reactive monitoring mission recommendation to develop a comprehensive Environmental and Social Management plan, which the States Parties indicated in their 2024 report was already being

developed, ensuring that the mitigation measures put in place take into account the visual integrity and cumulative effects of the project and address its negative impacts on the property's OUV;

8. Also reiterates its request to the States Parties to ensure that any project located within the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting, where applicable, with potential impacts on the OUV, is subject to assessment through ESIA or HIA in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted for review prior to any decision;

9. Expresses continued concern regarding the likely negative impact of the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES), on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and further reiterates its request that the revised ESIA be in line with the abovementioned guidance, including a rigorous assessment of alternative scenarios that minimize negative impacts on the OUV, as recommended by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to taking any decision that is difficult to reverse;

10. Appreciates the submission of the draft Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) 2025-2030, underlines that further amendment is needed to detail the zoning system of the property to function as an effective regulatory tool, as well as the operational, regulatory, and monitoring aspects, and requests the States Parties to further revise and submit the updated version of the JIMP to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to its validation and future implementation, by:

    a) Incorporating clearly defined safeguards and thresholds to mitigate against developmental pressures for the protection of the property's OUV, and zoning of the property, including well-prescribed limits of acceptable use and permissible activities (including tourism and development infrastructures), in line with the objectives of protecting the OUV and in line with past Committee decisions,

    b) Developing finer-scale maps of the zoning system to avoid any ambiguity in its implementation,

    c) Establishing enforceable visitor management mechanisms and strictly controlled areas in sensitive zones,

    d) Developing and operationalizing the research and monitoring framework, including the provision of detailed methodologies, the clear allocation of responsibilities, and the establishment of mechanisms to ensure that monitoring results effectively inform adaptive management,

    e) Strengthening the consideration and management of cumulative and transboundary impacts on the OUV of the property, particularly of major developments and ongoing urban growth, including their potential effects on hydrological regimes, geomorphological aspects, and visual integrity,

    f) Ensuring that the JIMP is supported by adequate and sustainable financing to ensure its effective implementation, and monitoring for the long-term protection of the OUV;

11. Reiterates furthermore its request to the States Parties to submit a request for a boundary modification in accordance with the Operational Guidelines to set the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, aligned with past Committee Decisions and the property's Statement of OUV, and encourages the States Parties to seek further technical guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as required;

12. Also requests that information on the current status of all proposed development projects reported by the States Parties, including their precise location and scale, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as such information becomes available, with particular attention to tourism developments;

13. Recommends both States Parties to invite the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to the site for an on-the-ground boundary verification and for guidance on outstanding matters;

14. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an interim report including a copy of the updated JIMP, taking into consideration the comments outlined above, and by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

94. Tyre (Lebanon)

Decision: 48 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 7B.176**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Expresses its deep concern that hostilities in Lebanon have continued to pose a threat and cause damage to the property;

4. Commends the efforts made by the State Party to strengthen protection mechanisms for the property; and takes note of the provisional inscription of 'Tyre archaeological sites' on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision **4 EXT.COM 4.32**);

5. Takes note of the State Party's request to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

6. Considers that the conditions required to ensure the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are no longer present, and that the property is threatened by both ascertained and potential danger, in accordance with Paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. **Decides to inscribe Tyre on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

8. Urges all parties involved in the hostilities to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including under Article 6(3) of the Convention, by taking all possible measures to protect it;

9. Requests that the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the situation on the ground allows, to assess the state of conservation of the property and to develop, in consultation with the State Party, a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a programme of corrective measures, together with a timeframe for their implementation;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, as well as on Decision **47 COM 7B.176**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8. Nomination Process

Decision: 48 COM 8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/8,

REVISION OF PARAGRAPH 61.C) OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

2. Recalling Resolution **25 GA 8**, adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties at its 25th session (UNESCO, 2025), decides to amend Paragraph 61.c) of the Operational Guidelines as follows:

> the following order of priorities will be applied in case the overall annual limit of 35 nominations is exceeded:
>
> (…)
>
> xiii) when applying this priority system, date **and, only when strictly necessary, the hour** of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as a secondary factor to determine the priority between those nominations that would not be designated by the previous points.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR STATES PARTIES WITH NO PROPERTIES ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

3. Recalling Decision **46 COM 11** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

4. Welcomes the launching of the new Capacity-Building Programme for States Parties with no properties on the World Heritage List, thanks the Director-General for his initiative and takes note of the approach focusing on providing support to the concerned States Parties in building the technical expertise and institutional continuity required to manage the processes guiding the implementation of the Convention independently over time;

5. Commends the concerned States Parties and the World Heritage Centre for the fruitful online consultations undertaken;

6. Recommends the World Heritage Centre to ensure that the Four-year Programme in alignment with relevant strategies, includes defined regional and national priorities, measurable outcomes, implementation timelines, institutional responsibilities, financing requirements, monitoring indicators, and developed for and in direct cooperation with the concerned States Parties;

7. Also recommends the World Heritage Centre to ensure that the implementation of the Capacity-Building Programme builds also upon existing regional expertise and mechanisms in order to maximise efficiency, avoid duplication and strengthen long-term institutional capacities within the regions concerned;

8. Calls upon States Parties, including well represented States Parties, to financially support the implementation of the new Capacity-Building Programme by considering making supplementary voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund;

PENDING ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE OUTCOME OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE EXTENDED 45TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

9. Expresses its gratitude to all States Parties providing financial contributions for the implementation of the activities requested by the Open-ended Working Group established by the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, notably Belgium, Cambodia, Ireland, Oman, Poland and the Republic of Korea, but notes with concern the lack of necessary financial support to enable full implementation of all these activities;

10. Also recalling Decision **47 COM 11** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025), reiterates its call on States Parties to support the requested activities through extrabudgetary funding; and, where appropriate, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, through voluntary in-kind contributions including technical expertise, knowledge sharing and institutional cooperation;

11. Reminds the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in preparing a phased, costed and prioritised implementation plan for the update of the Gap Analysis, with clearly defined regional outputs and timelines, to explore the use of Regular Programme resources alongside extrabudgetary contributions;

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

12. Reaffirming that the Preliminary Assessment was established as a dialogue-based mechanism intended to strengthen early technical exchanges between States Parties and the Advisory Bodies, and to improve the quality of future nominations;

13. Encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to identify practical measures that could further strengthen the dialogue-based and capacity-building objectives of the Preliminary Assessment mechanism, and to report thereon to the Committee at its 49th session;

14. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in preparing the Preliminary Assessment guidelines, as envisaged under Decision **47 COM 11**, to draw up on the experience gained during the transition period, with a view to strengthening the consistency, transparency and dialogue-based implementation of the Preliminary Assessment mechanism;

15. Takes note of the Preliminary Assessment requests received by 15 September 2025 presented in Annex 1 of Document WHC/26/48.COM/8, also notes with concern the significant regional disparities in completeness, including the high proportion of incomplete requests as reflected in the document, and also encourages the World Heritage Centre to consider early feedback mechanisms to enable States Parties to correct requests by 15 October, prior to a final determination on completeness;

UPSTREAM PROCESS

16. Also welcomes the submission of the Upstream Process requests received by the 31 March 2026 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;

17. Also decides that, where no reply is received from the concerned State Party within twelve months following the first communication of the World Heritage Centre to initiate the process, and after at least two reminders have been issued, the Upstream Process request may be phased out after informing the State Party, allowing for exceptional circumstances;

18. Further decides that Upstream Process requests submitted by States Parties with no properties inscribed on the World Heritage List shall be given priority over requests submitted by other States Parties and invites the concerned States Parties to submit requests for International Assistance to support the implementation of such Upstream Process requests;

19. Notes that several Upstream Process requests submitted between 2018 and 2020 remain pending, and further recommends the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare, in consultation with the concerned States Parties, a proposed timeline addressing the pending requests;

20. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to strengthen collaboration with Category 2 Centres and regional institutions, in the implementation of Upstream Process requests, including through assistance, where appropriate, in order to address the existing backlog;

21. Also invites States Parties to contribute extrabudgetary resources for the overall coordination and capacity-building support of the Upstream Process;

22. Further requests the 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 49th session, including information on actions taken to clear the existing backlog;

NOMINATIONS NOT EVALUATED FOR THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

23. Noting that following its submission in 2020, it has not been possible to undertake the necessary technical evaluation mission to Lake Chad Cultural Landscape due to security reasons, decides furthermore to maintain the nomination in abeyance rather than phase it out and requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria to:

    a) Periodically review the security conditions and feasibility of undertaking the evaluation,

    b) Explore appropriate alternative, phased or complementary evaluation modalities where technically feasible,

    c) Ensure that its future examination does not impinge on the national or overall quota of nominations, and

    d) Report on progress to the Committee at its 50th session;

24. Also decides that the nomination shall not be subject to a new Preliminary Assessment solely as a consequence of delays resulting from the security situation that prevented its evaluation;

25. Further decides that the nomination of the Hisham's Palace/ Khirbet al-Mafjar (State of Palestine), which was submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025), but which could not be evaluated due to security reasons, be examined at the 49th session of the Committee, should security situation allow the technical evaluation mission to be undertaken, without impinging on national and overall quota of nominations (Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines), in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines;

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED BY 30 JANUARY 2026 FOR EXAMINATION BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

26. Also noting that nominations received by the deadline of 30 January 2026 were the last to be accepted without first undergoing the Preliminary Assessment procedure, and that,

following the completeness check, 12 of them were considered to be incomplete, and recognizing that, in the absence of specific transitional arrangements for nomination dossiers found incomplete following this final submission deadline, decides furthermore, on an exceptional basis, that these nominations may be resubmitted by the 1 February 2027 deadline without having undergone the Preliminary Assessment and shall be evaluated in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines;

27. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to develop a clear completeness check procedure for nominations, and provide clarity between the completeness check and evaluation of dossiers, and a report on the item for examination at the 49th session;

28. Recalls Decision **18 EXT.COM 4** and further requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to make proposals in view to include the "Guiding principles for Sites of Memory Associated with Recent Conflicts", into draft document for the next substantive revision of the Operational Guidelines.

8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2026, in conformity with the Operational Guidelines

Decision: 48 COM 8A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.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. Also encourages States Parties to provide accurate central point coordinates for sites to be included in their Tentative Lists and also to verify the coordinates of sites already included;
5. 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: 48 COM 8B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/8B,

2. Approves the name change to Monastery of Horezu *as* proposed by the Romanian authorities. The name of the property becomes **Hurezi Monastery** in English, and **Monastère de Hurezi** in French.

II. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIERS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL SITES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST PROPOSED FOR EXAMINATION IN 2026

NOMINATIONS TO BE PROCESSED ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS

Decision: 48 COM 8B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add.2 and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2.Add.2,
2. Inscribes the **Boma–Badingilo Migratory Landscape, South Sudan**, on the World Heritage List, according to the emergency procedure, on the basis of **criteria (vii), (ix)** and **(x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Boma–Badingilo Migratory Landscape (BBML), covering approximately 11,250,000 hectares in South Sudan, encompasses Boma National Park, Badingilo National Park and the wider floodplain and savanna landscapes that together sustain one of, if not, the world's largest remaining terrestrial mammal migrations. Located at the interface between the Sudd wetland system and the East Sudanian Savanna, the property comprises an extensive mosaic of seasonally flooded grasslands, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands and savannas that support large-scale ecological processes driven by seasonal rainfall and flood dynamics.

The property supports the movement of millions of migratory ungulates across a vast and largely unfenced, unimpeded landscape. The migration remains ecologically functional and continues to operate across extensive seasonal habitats and migration corridors, making it one of the last remaining examples of a large-scale terrestrial migration system functioning at a landscape scale.

In addition to its migratory wildlife, the property supports important populations of numerous large mammal species, together with significant populations of waterbirds and raptors associated with the floodplain ecosystem. The property's exceptional scale, ecological connectivity and relative intactness underpin ecological and biological processes that have become increasingly rare globally.

Criterion (vii): The Boma–Badingilo Migratory Landscape contains one of, if not, the world's most spectacular remaining wildlife migrations. Each year, an estimate six million White-Eared Kob, Tiang and Mongalla Gazelle move across vast floodplains, wetlands and savannas in response to seasonal flooding and changing resource availability. The scale of the migration, extraordinary numbers of animals involved and the largely intact landscape through which it occurs combine to create an exceptional natural phenomenon of global significance, representing one of the last remaining wildlife spectacles of its kind.

Criterion (ix): The Boma–Badingilo Migratory Landscape is an outstanding example of ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with large-scale ungulate migration in a seasonally dynamic savanna ecosystem. The interaction between

seasonal flooding, corresponding vegetation productivity and associated wildlife movements sustains what is likely to be the largest remaining terrestrial migration of land mammals in the world. The migration system facilitates ecological connectivity across extensive floodplains, wetlands and grasslands and supports ecological processes that have become increasingly rare as comparable migration systems elsewhere have been fragmented or lost.

Criterion (x): The property contains significant habitats for the in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including globally important populations of migratory ungulates and numerous threatened species. The BBML supports globally significant populations of White-Eared Kob, Tiang and Mongalla Gazelle together with important populations of Nile Lechwe, African Savanna Elephant, African Wild Dog, Lion, Leopard, Northeastern Africa Cheetah, Beisa Oryx and other species of conservation importance. The extensive and relatively intact floodplain and savanna ecosystems also provide habitat for important assemblages of waterbirds, raptors and migratory bird species associated with the Upper Nile Basin and migratory flyways. The size, ecological connectivity and habitat diversity of the property contribute significantly to its importance for biodiversity conservation within the East Sudanian Savanna and the greater Nile Basin region.

Integrity

The property includes the principal migration routes, seasonal habitats, floodplains, wetlands and ecological processes necessary to sustain the large-scale migration system for which it is inscribed. Its exceptional scale and inclusion of the wider migratory landscape are fundamental to the integrity of the property and reflect the ecological reality that the migration system depends upon ecological connectivity across a vast and dynamic landscape. The property retains the key ecological attributes necessary to convey its Outstanding Universal Value, including large migratory wildlife populations, extensive seasonal habitats and relatively intact migration corridors.

However, at the time of inscription, the property faces significant threats, including commercial poaching and wildlife trafficking, infrastructure development, insecurity, potential extractive activities, incomplete protection and management arrangements across parts of the wider landscape, and limited institutional and financial capacity. The long-term integrity of the property will depend upon maintaining ecological connectivity, safeguarding migration corridors and seasonal habitats, and ensuring that future development does not adversely affect the ecological processes that underpin Outstanding Universal Value.

Protection and management requirements

The property includes two legally protected areas, Boma National Park and Badingilo National Park, which provide an important foundation for conservation. The property is managed under the authority of the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism and benefits from a management partnership with African Parks. The Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Act and other relevant legislation provide the principal legal framework for conservation.

The long-term conservation of the property requires a landscape-scale approach to protection and management due to the fact that the ecological processes and migration system that underpin its Outstanding Universal Value are found largely beyond the boundaries of the two national parks. Priority actions, at the time of inscription, include strengthening legal protection within the national parks and across the wider migratory landscape, completing and implementing an integrated landscape-scale land-use and management framework, strengthening consultation, engagement and partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, enhancing management capacity and infrastructure, maintaining ecological connectivity, conserving migration corridors and seasonal habitats, and strengthening governance arrangements for areas outside the existing protected areas.

Effective conservation will require sustained investment in law enforcement, ecological monitoring, research, community engagement and institutional capacity, together with measures to address commercial wildlife exploitation, infrastructure development and other pressures affecting the property. The meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in governance, planning and management processes, including through Free, Prior and Informed Consent, will be essential to the long-term conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Also inscribes **Boma–Badingilo Migratory Landscape, South Sudan**, on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

5. Recommends that the State Party invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as this is feasible, to establish a proposed Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a programme of corresponding corrective measures, with a timeframe for their implementation;

6. Requests the State Party, as a matter of priority, to:

   a) Prepare, and submit to the World Heritage Centre, a comprehensive and time-bound landscape-scale management framework for the entire property, including measures to secure migration corridors, maintain ecological connectivity, clarify governance arrangements across areas outside the national parks, adequate mechanisms for community engagement and participation, and ensure the long-term conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value,

   b) Strengthen and clarify the legal protection framework applicable to the wider migratory landscape, including measures to formalise and demarcate protected area boundaries, secure critical migration routes and seasonal habitats, and ensure that extractive industries, infrastructure development and other potentially harmful activities do not adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

   c) Develop and implement measures to address illegal and unsustainable hunting, wildlife trafficking and commercial bushmeat trade across the property, including through strengthened law enforcement, monitoring, surveillance, community engagement and other appropriate conservation interventions, with particular attention to safeguarding migratory ungulate populations and maintaining the ecological processes that underpin the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

   d) Reaffirm its commitment that no oil, gas, mining or other extractive exploration or exploitation activities will be permitted within the property, and ensure that any existing concessions overlapping the property remain inactive and do not adversely affect its Outstanding Universal Value, recalling the established position that extractive activities are incompatible with World Heritage status,

   e) Ensure that any proposed developments in the vicinity of the property are subject to rigorous environmental and social impact assessments, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including assessment of potential impacts on ecological connectivity, migration corridors and other attributes of Outstanding Universal Value,

   f) Complete, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, a roadmap for ongoing stakeholder engagement and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes across the property, including arrangements for participation in governance, land-use planning and conservation management,

   g) Submit updated information on the status and trends of key wildlife populations, levels and spatial distribution of commercial hunting and poaching, law-enforcement capacity, and the security situation across the property, including an

assessment of the implications of these factors for the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value,

h) Clarify institutional roles and responsibilities for the management of the property, including those of relevant government authorities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and conservation partners, including African Parks,

i) Develop a long-term and sustainable financing strategy for the property, including mechanisms to support effective management, law enforcement, ecological monitoring, and engagement with local communities through agreed conservation and protection measures within areas overlapping with their customary lands and territories;

7. Also recommends that the State Party continue efforts to strengthen ecological monitoring, biodiversity inventories, with particular attention to the species and ecological processes, ecological connectivity and wildlife movements that underpin its Outstanding Universal Value;

8. Encourages the State Party, with the support of international partners, donors and conservation organisations, to mobilise technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the above measures and the long-term conservation of the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add.2 and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add.2,

2. Inscribes **Sebastia, State of Palestine,** on the World Heritage List, according to the emergency procedure, on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located northwest of Nablus, in the West Bank, Sebastia is a multi-period mound site that preserves archaeological and architectural vestiges that testify to its occupation by different civilisations, with different intensity, from the 9th century BCE. The layered structure of the property includes remains that testify to the inhabitation of the site in the Iron Age, when it was a prominent regional political centre, widely identified with the ancient city of Samaria; to the Hellenistic period, when it became a fortified stronghold; to the Roman period when the city was renamed Sebaste by Herod and acquired the status of a Roman colony under Septimius Severus; to the Byzantine period when the importance of the city declined but it became a seat of a bishopric; and finally to later historical phases dating to the medieval period (especially the Crusader era) and the Ottoman era. The successive cultural layers allow to trace the political, religious and urban history of Samaria/Sebaste, while still offering an exceptional potential for future scientific research.

Criterion (iii): The visible coexistence, within a single archaeological site, and the exceptional legibility of material traces left by the successive civilisations that occupied

this place from the Iron Age, through the Hellenistic and Roman periods, to the Byzantine period, as well as later additions from the Crusader era, makes Sebastia stand out within the Levant region. With its multi-layered character and multi-period evidence, the property represents a coherent ensemble that testifies to the principal historical phases of the settlement of the site. Unlike many continuously inhabited cities where successive urban development has obscured earlier remains, Sebastia preserves relatively direct archaeological traces of its major periods of development which allows for a clear reading of successive political, religious, and urban systems that remain physically interconnected.

Integrity

The multi-layered site of Sebastia includes all the known archaeological remains and architectural structures that testify to the occupation of the site from the Iron Age until the Byzantine period, as well as several notable Crusader period vestiges. The physical conditions of the property could not have been fully evaluated the time of inscription due to the lack of a technical evaluation mission, but the state of its physical fabric seems to be uneven, with some sections of the property in a worse state than others due to the combined effects of weathering, erosion, vegetation growth, and prolonged exposure of excavated remains. The integrity of the site is currently threatened by the land expropriation plans, aimed at dividing the property and developing the Shomron National Park in its western section. Considering further the existing threats related to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the developmental pressures, the integrity of the property can be considered as highly vulnerable.

Authenticity

The different historical layers within the property remain legible and continue to communicate the heritage values that underpin the significance of the site through the preserved vestiges, even if the earliest archaeological evidence has been partially damaged by subsequent historical developments, since the successive civilisations built their cities amidst or on top of the previous ones. In the absence of a technical evaluation mission, the full assessment of the authenticity of the property was not possible at the time of inscription.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by the Decree Law of Tangible Cultural Heritage (No. 11, 2018), and its protection, management and conservation are overseen by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The Sebastia Municipality oversees implementation of planning controls and coordinates with the Ministry in the regulation of development activities. The site is included as a protected area within the 2018 Municipal Spatial Master Plan and is managed through the 2020 Conservation and Management Plan; both of these documents will be revised to ensure the effective protection of the property in accordance with the approved boundaries. While adequate legal frameworks, additional planning instruments and conservation strategies formally exist, the practical application of the governance system is constrained by the existing territorial division of the site into Area B (administered under Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian security control) and Area C (under full Israeli control) resulting from the Oslo Accords, which was intended to be a temporary measure.

4. Also inscribes **Sebastia, State of Palestine**, on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

5. Recommends that the State Party invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, if this is feasible, to establish a Desired state of conservation and a programme of corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

6. Also recommends that the State Party give urgent consideration to the following:

   a) Conducting an assessment of the state of conservation of the attributes of the property to serve as a baseline for management, conservation and monitoring planning,

   b) Developing further the monitoring system based on the comprehensive inventory of attributes and their assessment, and taking into consideration the existing threats,

   c) Updating the 2020 Conservation and Management Plan based on the approved boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and the state of conservation assessment of the attributes, and implementing the Plan across the property,

   d) Revising the existing planning and regulatory frameworks, including the Municipal Spatial Master Plan of 2018 to incorporate the approved boundaries of the property and its buffer zone and ensure effective protection of the property,

   e) Considering preparing a research plan, including conducting further archaeological survey of the area and possibly also excavations, when possible, to confirm the boundaries of the city in the different historical periods and the extent of archaeological vestiges preserved on the site,

   f) Establishing an inclusive governance framework based on rights-based approach that would ensure greater collaboration in the management of the property, and particularly with local communities,

   g) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise any major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines,

   h) Ensuring that the procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the property, its buffer zone and its immediate setting;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2027**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

NATURAL SITES

AFRICA

Renomination of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Decision: 48 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the renomination of **Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix)** and **(x)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Garamba National Park is situated in the north-eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, within Haut-Uélé Province, adjacent to the international boundary with South Sudan. The property forms the ecological core of the larger Garamba Complex, which encompasses approximately 1,470,000 hectares and includes the Azande, Gangala-na-Bodio, and Mondo-Missa hunting domains. Together, these contiguous protected areas constitute one of the last extensive and continuous forest–savanna mosaic landscapes in Central Africa, representing a critical ecological transition zone between the Guineo-Congolian forest biome and the Sudanian savanna. The property covers an area of 512,736 hectares. It is surrounded by a formally designated buffer zone comprising portions of the three adjacent hunting domains, extending up to 20 km from the park boundaries and covering an additional 544,943 hectares. The property is important for the conservation of a range of forest and savanna species, including forest elephants, buffalos, lions, Kordofan Giraffes, pangolins and several primate, reptile and bird species. This overlap of fauna from two distinct biogeographical regions gives the area particular conservation interest.

Criterion (ix): Garamba National Park contains a mosaic of grasslands, wooded savannas, and patches of semi-deciduous forest that reflect a long-standing ecological transition between the Guineo-Congolian forest and the Sudano-Zambezian savanna zones. In the property, open savannas cover approximately 30% of the area and represent the only large expanses of open savanna in northern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Their origin is most likely linked to historically high concentrations of large herbivores in the region. The park's open savannas and woodlands form a dynamic system capable of shifting in either direction, primarily shaped by fire and herbivory, which operate independently within the park. Forest formations are relatively small but represent the climax vegetation of the region and contribute substantially to the ecosystem's richness.

Within the park, ecological processes such as natural fires, herbivore grazing, and seasonal flooding continue to shape the landscape. These processes drive shifts in vegetation composition and structure, maintaining a balance between open and wooded habitats. The property supports a healthy assemblage of large herbivores, including African Forest Elephants, Kordofan Giraffes, Common Hippopotamuses, African buffaloes. These large herbivores drive key ecological processes, which are in turn shaped by predator-prey dynamics involving significant populations of northern lions, spotted hyenas, and leopards. These processes illustrate an ecosystem that remains largely functional within its protected boundaries.

Criterion (x): Garamba National Park is part of a larger ecological system that once supported some of the highest concentrations of large mammals in Central Africa. Together with its buffer zone, the property hosts a wide variety of natural habitats, ranging from open savannas to dense forests, representing the full gradient of the forest-savanna transition. In addition, the property contains a vast aquatic ecosystem that includes large, sandy-bottomed rivers, waterways lined with gallery forests, and marshes supporting extensive stands of papyrus. These habitats provide critical areas for the in-situ conservation of globally threatened species and regional endemics.

Garamba National Park is home to over 150 mammal species, including 13 threatened species or subspecies, as well as seven species or subspecies that are endemic or sub-endemic to northeastern DRC and adjacent areas of South Sudan and northwestern Uganda. The property remains important for the conservation of a range of forest and savanna species including significant populations of African Forest Elephants, Kordofan Giraffes, Common Hippopotamuses, lions and four pangolins and several primate species. The avifauna comprises at least 459 species, including three regional endemic

forms, 11 threatened species, and several species with highly restricted ranges. The reptile fauna includes 83 species, four of which are regional endemics and two of which are threatened. Amphibians account for 43 species, including three regional endemic forms.

Integrity

The boundaries of Garamba National Park correspond to those established at the time of its creation in 1938 and its inscription in 1980. They have clear legal recognition and provide a strong institutional basis for management. There are largely natural boundaries, formed by rivers (the Garamba, Dodo, Dungu, and Aka) which provide an unambiguous line of separation. The northern boundary is the international border with South Sudan, of which part also forms the southern boundary of Lantoto National Park. This clarity is logistically beneficial for survey work and for the park's management and anti-poaching patrols, as it leaves little room for disputing the park's official extent.

The surrounding hunting domains (Gangala-na-Bodio, Mondo-Missa, and Azande) functioned since 1980 as a de facto buffer zone for the property, providing an additional layer of controlled land use and supporting ecological connectivity across the wider Garamba landscape. The renomination formally recognises the buffer zone to include portions of the three hunting domains extending up to 20 km from the property boundaries and covers an area of 544,943 ha. It encompasses some of the most intact areas of the surrounding landscape and contributes to maintaining ecological processes and habitat connectivity for wide-ranging species.

At the same time, the hunting domains have been affected by prolonged insecurity, weak governance, and pressures associated with armed incursions, transboundary transhumance, mining, and agricultural encroachment. Large-scale poaching, particularly associated with ivory and rhino horn trafficking, has caused severe declines in populations of key large mammals across the wider Garamba Complex, including the likely extinction of the Northern White Rhinoceros and significant declines in elephant populations.

Protection and management requirements

Garamba National Park benefits from a solid and multi-layered legal protection framework. Initially established by royal decree in 1938, its status has since been reinforced through national conservation laws most notably Law 14/003 of 2014 and through subsequent decrees regulating protected areas and the CorPSN (Corps pour la Protection des Parcs Nationaux). Garamba National Park is co-managed within a broader Garamba Complex, which includes three state-owned hunting domains (Gangala-na-Bodio, Mondo-Missa, and Azande) under a formal Public–Private Partnership (PPP) between the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and African Parks Network (APN). The arrangement establishes a shared management structure through the Garamba Management Foundation, which has a Board of Directors comprising four representatives from APN (including the Chair) and three from ICCN (including the Vice-Chair). This framework ensures transparent decision-making, balanced oversight, and alignment with national conservation legislation. It combines ICCN's legal mandate with African Parks' technical and operational expertise, providing a professional and performance-oriented management model. The park's management organization is well-structured, comprising departments for biodiversity conservation, community development, law enforcement, tourism, and infrastructure, supported by a research and monitoring unit. These departments operate under the supervision of a management team comprised of a Chief of site or Park Director from APN, and a Deputy Chief of site from ICCN.

Garamba National Park operates under a Business Plan developed by APN and the ICCN, updated every five years to align with evolving conservation priorities. The Business Plan is guided by a 20-year vision outlined in a Long-Term Sustainability

Strategy (2024-2044). The plan is actively used to guide daily operations alongside management objectives such as anti-poaching, habitat restoration, and community engagement. Key threats, such as armed poaching, illegal mining, and climate-driven habitat shifts, are addressed through targeted strategies like increased ranger patrols, drone surveillance, and community livelihood programs.

4. Takes note of the renewal of the Public-Private Partnership agreement in 2025 between the State Party and African Parks Network for a ten-year term, ensuring long-term management continuity of the property, commends the progress achieved in stabilizing the security situation and restoring the management system within the property, and encourages the State Party to sustain and further strengthen these efforts, in particular by seeking innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure the long-term financial viability of conservation operations within the Garamba Complex;

5. Requests the State Party to finalize and implement an integrated management plan for the Garamba Complex, covering the inscribed property and the surrounding hunting domains, to ensure coherent, long-term strategic guidance for conservation, community engagement, and sustainable financing, building on the existing Business Plan and Long-Term Sustainability Strategy, in line with Decisions **43 COM 7A.7** and **44 COM 7A.41**;

6. Expresses again its concern about the constraints related to the relocation of artisanal mining sites and the slow progress in validating the Artisanal Mining Zones (ZEA), as well as the limited progress in finalising the Land Use Plan (LUP) in line with Decisions **45 COM 7A.5**, **46 COM 7A.47** and **47 COM 7A.9**, and urges the State Party to accelerate these processes and to strengthen the formalization and management of the newly defined buffer zone; this should include the completion of land-use planning for the hunting domains, in order to ensure the effective relocation of artisanal mining activities to legally designated zones outside the property, with appropriate alternative livelihood support for affected communities, and to reduce as rapidly as possible the impact of illegal mining on the property's Outstanding Universal Value;

7. Notes with concern the limited consultation with local communities regarding this renomination given that this property was originally inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980, and requests the State Party to conduct formal, inclusive, and documented consultations with local communities regarding the property's World Heritage status and management activities, ensuring that the outcomes inform adaptive management and strengthen community support for conservation;

8. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in formalising transboundary cooperation with the State Party of South Sudan to improve coordinated law enforcement, ecological monitoring, particularly in relation to Lantoto National Park and cross-border migratory and transhumance corridors.

ARAB STATES

New Nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Aqaba Marine Reserve, Jordan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix)** and **(x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Aqaba Marine Reserve (AMR), located at the northernmost tip of the Red Sea, contains a mosaic of habitats, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mesophotic reefs, which collectively sustain diverse marine life and vital ecological processes. These interconnected ecosystems make the AMR a cornerstone for marine biodiversity conservation and protection of threatened marine ecosystems.

AMR is globally recognised as the northernmost tropical coral reef system, known for its thermally resilient corals. It is predicted that these corals will remain among the most resilient by the end of century. Moreover, the property hosts numerous endemic species, safeguards unique marine genetic resources, and provides a critical habitat for rare and threatened marine species.

Criterion (ix): Eco-evolutionary processes over the last 10,000 years have facilitated the adaptation of coral populations and associated benthic assemblages to hostile climate conditions including marine heatwaves, high salinity, and recurring elevated summer extreme temperatures with limited bleaching and rapid recovery, to the degree possible, in the long term. The thermally resilient corals and other benthic invertebrates in the Gulf of Aqaba have high survival and recovery rates to acute and chronic thermal stress, making the area a critical research site and important genetic repository for understanding climate change-related resilience and restoration. The maintenance of trophic interactions and functional ecology representative of the northern Red Sea's extreme conditions contributes to the evolutionary processes maintained in situ. Habitats such as seagrass meadows stabilise sediments, sequester carbon, and serve as nurseries for juvenile species.

Criterion (x): The benthic and mesophotic ecosystems of the AMR are home to over 150 species of hard coral (of which 40 are assessed as globally threatened at the time of inscription), in addition to over 500 species of fish and 1000 species of molluscs. The property's coral endemism is globally significant, supporting approximately 61% of all Red Sea endemic hard coral species. Over 80% of all fish species in AMR are associated with benthic habitats with over 80 species endemic to the Red Sea or Gulf of Aqaba.

Integrity

The AMR effectively encompasses all major habitats, including shallow and mesophotic coral reefs and seagrass beds, necessary for ecological functionality. While compact, it is of a sufficient size, to enable key processes including, intra reef reproduction and larval recruitment of heat adapted species for the ongoing in situ adaptation to thermal stress and nutrient cycling. A buffer zone surrounds the entire property and supports the ecological resilience of these species' communities.

The state of conservation of AMR's marine natural features, at the time of inscription, is secure and well preserved with intact ecological communities and functioning biological processes that maintain ecological integrity. Although being effectively mitigated, the property is particularly prone to impacts from external pollution, water quality and tourism-related impacts due to its close proximity to significant infrastructure. A robust and continued monitoring system to monitor and respond to these threats is essential to maintaining the long-term integrity and high ecosystem health of the property and minimise impacts.

Protection and management requirements

The AMR is designated nationally as a protected area and benefits from a multi-layered governance and management regime led by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) under the Aqaba Marine Reserve Bylaw and its associated regulations.

The management of the reserve is overseen by the AMR Management Committee, consisting of a wide variety of relevant local, national and international stakeholders. The day-to-day management of the property is guided by the AMR Management Plan focusing on ecosystem preservation, biodiversity monitoring, and sustainable tourism in furtherance of AMR's primary conservation objectives. Regulations on fishing, tourism, and other activities, along with the enforcement of restricted and prohibited zones, ensure the conservation and long-term sustainability of the reserve's coral reef ecosystems and associated biodiversity. The protection framework also prioritises scientific research, education, and stakeholder and local community engagement, with collaborative efforts involving international research institutions to advance coral resilience and global conservation strategies.

Given the property's small size and location, effective protection and management of the property also relies on the sustained strong collaboration with and support of other Jordanian national institutions, including the Maritime Commission, Environmental Police, Navy and Coast Guard, the Aqaba Container Terminal and other shipping operations, tourism operators and local communities.

4. Commends the State Party for the prompt action and significant update provided in response to the IUCN interim report, with particular respect to the significant expansion of the Aqaba Marine Reserve and buffer zone;

5. Recognises the efforts of the State Party to protect the Aqaba Marine Reserve from commercial and industrial activities in the buffer zone and surrounding area and requests the continued strengthening of protective and control measures including the application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for any potential marine or terrestrial activities, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

6. Encourages additional and further monitoring of all potential risks to maintain and strengthen the integrity of the property including through the regular and rigorous monitoring of organic and inorganic pollution arising from outside of the property, desalination outflow, light and noise pollution and environmental indicators including temperature, salinity, turbidity and sedimentation;

7. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the AMR Integrated Management Plan (2027–2030) once finalised;

8. Also encourages the State Party to continue to build regional cooperation within the wider Gulf of Aqaba through The Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and other avenues towards the potential development of a future transnational serial extension of the property to include other areas in the Gulf of Aqaba and wider Red Sea region.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Refers the nomination of **Coral Reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Gulf of Aqaba, Saudi Arabia**, back to the State Party, taking note of the strong potential of the nominated property to meet criteria (ix) and (x), along with possible potential under criteria (vii) and (viii), in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to revise the nomination, and to:
   a) Clearly define and delineate the boundaries of the nominated property through precise, measurable parameters (e.g. coordinates, depth limits), and consider revisions to the boundaries to ensure that all attributes supporting potential Outstanding Universal Value, including the inclusion of some coastal terrestrial areas, are fully included,
   b) Establish an adequate terrestrial buffer zone for the nominated property, providing detailed information on its legal status, management, and permitted and prohibited activities, particularly in relation to potential coastal development pressures,
   c) Provide comprehensive and up-to-date species data, across key taxonomic groups, for the nominated property to support assessment of biodiversity values for the nominated property,
   d) Develop a comprehensive geoheritage inventory, clearly identifying and mapping the location of all relevant proposed geological and geomorphological attributes of potential global significance under criterion (viii), including the Pleistocene Marine Terraces and Brine Pools,
   e) Revise the Global Comparative Analysis to ensure that it is based on attributes present predominantly or fully within the boundaries of the nominated property, systematically address all proposed criteria, and includes relevant and appropriate comparator sites,
   f) Ensure the entirety of the nominated property is formally designated as a protected area and covered by adequate and effective long-term legal protection, including clear boundary delineation and demarcation, defined regulatory measures, and clarification of the legal status of any privately protected areas associated with NEOM,
   g) Establish an effective management system and framework for the nominated property, in accordance with paragraph 97 of the Operational Guidelines, including a valid management plan, clearly defined governance arrangements, adequate long-term financing, technical and staffing capacity, and coordination mechanisms among key stakeholders,
   h) Ensure a robust monitoring system for the potential attributes of the nominated property, including detail on the implementation of the Marine Inspection Plan and Red Sea Monitoring Plan within the proposed boundaries,
   i) Provide detailed information on planned developments adjacent to or in the vicinity of the nominated property, including the NEOM Magna project, supported by cartographic documentation, project status, and assess their potential impacts on the proposed attributes of potential Outstanding Universal Value,
   j) Ensure all proposed developments that may impact the nominated property are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), in line with the Guidance and

Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including in relation to the NEOM Magna project;

3. Encourages the State Party to continue to build regional cooperation within the wider Gulf of Aqaba through The Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and other mechanisms, with a view to exploring the potential for a future transnational serial approach in the Gulf of Aqaba and wider Red Sea region;

4. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to the conservation of the globally important marine biodiversity and ecosystems found within the Gulf of Aqaba.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes **Wadi Wurayah, United Arab Emirates**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ix)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Wadi Wurayah property is located entirely within the Hajar Mountains and encompasses a total area of 22,000 ha of Al Hajar Foothill Xeric Woodland & Shrubland with an addition of 4,500 ha as a buffer zone. The Hajar mountains we know today result from deformation in the late Oligocene and early Miocene (30-20 million years ago), followed by uplift and erosion under generally arid or semi-arid conditions that are still taking place today.

The Hajar Mountain constitutes the world's finest and most extensive surface exposure of ocean crust rocks, collectively called ophiolites (ultrabasic/ultramafic).

The property is located in the northernmost part of the Hajar Mountains which is one of the Global 200 Ecoregions and recognized by its high species richness, endemism, higher taxonomic uniqueness, and exceptional ecology as well as the global rarity of intact and representative habitats. The arid mountains with jagged and rugged peaks ranging between 500-1080 m in elevation formed a natural barrier that maintains the pristineness and intactness of the area in comparison to the other area within the same ecoregion. The harsh mountain environment with distinctive geological formations and the unique hydrological characteristics of Wadi Wurayah with its all-year-round freshwater pools, streams, and waterfalls make this place one of the vital wildlife refuges in the region.

Although Wadi Wurayah encompasses a relatively small area, its species richness is high, thus making it a regional and global biodiversity hotspot. The property is designated as a Ramsar site, a Biosphere Reserve, and an Important Bird Area (IBA). The property also plays an important regional role in the conservation of key species under threat, as is demonstrated with the long-term conservation programme of the Arabian tahr (Arabitragus jayakari).

Criterion (ix): Wadi Wurayah has an outstanding array of naturally functioning ecosystems within Hajar Mountains ecoregion. The uninterrupted altitudinal transition between different nature features, con tributes to the outstanding natural value of the

area. Within its altitudinal range, the site provides a fully connected mosaic of diverse arid montane habitats.

The singular geological formation of Wadi Wurayah plays a predominant role in the site's hydrological balance, influences the associated biological and ecological processes that are largely undisturbed in comparison to the surrounding area from the same ecoregion, provides a wealth of ecological niches, complex food webs, and examples of natural succession of the Arabian tahr and other species in extreme climatic conditions.

The area harbours a unique community of plants and animals in the Al Hajar Xeric Shrubland and Woodland Ecoregion. It provides significant scientific opportunities to study theories on species resilience and adaptation to climate change as well as on the relationship of geology, geography, and geomorphology with species richness in the Arabian arid mountains. From a scientific point of view and imperative for conservation, significant on-going ecological and biological processes are connected to the different natural features, the rigid geomorphological elements, and the extreme climate conditions.

Integrity

The property meets the conditions of integrity for criterion (ix). Its boundaries include the principal attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of Wadi Wurayah, including the Wadi Wurayah and Wadi Zikt catchment systems, recharge areas, perennial freshwater refugia, riparian corridors, wetland microhabitats and ecological gradients. Together, these attributes sustain the ongoing hydrological, ecological and geo-ecological processes for which the property is inscribed.

The size and configuration of the property are sufficient to maintain the natural processes that support its Outstanding Universal Value. The property area encompasses the key elements of the arid mountain-wadi system, including ophiolite-controlled recharge and discharge systems, spring-fed pools, stream reaches, fluvial corridors and ecological connections between upland, wadi and foothill environments. These elements form a functionally connected and largely intact natural system capable of maintaining ecological and hydrological processes under arid conditions.

The property retains a high degree of naturalness and integrity. Its principal freshwater habitats, geological formations, hydrological systems and ecological corridors remain in place and continue to function as an integrated mountain-wadi ecosystem. The inclusion of the main catchment systems within the property provides an adequate basis for sustaining water flow, groundwater recharge, sediment movement, freshwater refugia and ecological connectivity over the long term.

The main threats to integrity relate to hydrological infrastructure, possible fragmentation, visitor pressure, climate change, invasive and feral species, and the long-term availability of freshwater resources. These threats are recognized and are addressed through legal protection, active management, monitoring, visitor regulation, ecological restoration and the implementation of the 2025–2030 Management Plan.

In relation to hydrological infrastructure, the State Party confirms its commitment to undertake further technical and environmental assessment to ensure that any existing temporary reservoirs or associated infrastructure do not compromise the hydrological, ecological and geo-ecological processes that support the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. This work should include an environmental study on the infrastructure, with particular attention to hydrological connectivity, groundwater recharge and discharge, freshwater habitat persistence, sediment movement, ecological corridors and the long-term functioning of perennial freshwater refugia.

The State Party further clarifies that the flood retention structure within the property and proposed buffer zone should not be understood as large permanent reservoirs that fragment, replace or fundamentally alter the natural hydrological system. Their primary

function is related to flash-flood retention, sediment control, groundwater recharge and downstream water management. The active management by the Fujairah Environment Authority ensures that these installations protect, rather than disrupt, ongoing evolutionary and ecological processes of ephemeral environments (wadi systems).

Continued attention to hydrological monitoring, infrastructure assessment and adaptive management will be essential to ensure the long-term protection of the property's values. The integrity of the property is therefore considered to be met. The property includes the attributes necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value, is of adequate size to sustain the natural processes supporting criterion (ix), remains largely intact, and is subject to a protection and management framework capable of addressing current and potential threats.

Protection and management requirements

Wadi Wurayah is protected by a strong legal and institutional framework at both Federal and Emirate levels. The property was established as a protected area under Local Decree No. 2 of 2009 and later designated as the UAE's first National Park in 2013. It is managed by the Fujairah Environment Authority, which has authority for conservation, enforcement, monitoring, visitor control and coordination with relevant government bodies.

The property is also supported by wider environmental legislation, including Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 on the Protection and Development of the Environment, and by the legal mandate of the Fujairah Environment Authority under Fujairah Law No. 1 of 2018. The buffer zone has been formally recognized and regulated through a 2026 Circular, requiring government entities to coordinate with the Fujairah Environment Authority before undertaking activities that may affect the property. The property also benefits from international recognition as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, reinforcing its conservation importance.

The State Party further commits to strengthening the assessment and management of hydrological infrastructure within the property and buffer zone.

Overall, the legal protection, regulatory controls, institutional authority, management planning and monitoring systems provide an adequate framework to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of Wadi Wurayah.

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

   a) Developing quantitative indicators, building upon the process-based framework for arid montane freshwater systems, to document spring and pool persistence, groundwater recharge and discharge, hydrological connectivity, wetland habitat diversity, and the long-term functioning of arid freshwater refugia, in consideration of climate-related risks and other factors relevant to the long-term conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value,

   b) Undertaking a hydro-ecological study of all flood-retention structures, reservoirs, and associated hydrological infrastructure within the property and its buffer zone, to assess and implement as appropriate any necessary management measures in accordance with World Heritage requirements;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2030**, a state of conservation report of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 53rd session.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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

Decision: 48 COM 8B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the significant boundary modification of the **Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats, Republic of Korea**, to include the **Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (Phase II)**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats is a serial property comprising six component parts in two main clusters: Boseong-Suncheon-Yeosu-Goheung covering all tidal flats in the Yeoja Bay (15,809 ha); Shinan-Muan Tandoman (117,570 ha); and the nearby Muan Hamhaeman (4,200 ha); as well as three smaller areas: Gochang (5,531 ha); Seocheon (6,809 ha) and Seosan (6,467 ha). Collectively, these areas encompass a total property area of 156,386 ha, complemented by a terrestrial and marine buffer zone measuring 105,303 ha, all located on the eastern shoreline of the Yellow Sea on the southwestern coast of the Korean Peninsula. The shallow Yellow Sea, lying between the Korean Peninsula and China, hosts one of the world's largest and most productive tidal flat ecosystems supporting millions of migratory waterbirds at the heart of the globally significant East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). The property collectively supports very important feeding and breeding areas of globally important populations of threatened migratory waterbirds in the EAAF, and overlaps with Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA), Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites and EAAF Partnership Network Sites.

These tidal flats also include an exceptional diversity of tidal invertebrate life and encompass key ecosystems contributing to high primary production. The livelihoods of many human communities along the southwestern coast of the Korean Peninsula depend on the harvest of marine resources, often based on traditional knowledge and practices. Anthropogenic activity has transformed significant areas of the coastal wetlands. However, the Tidal Flat Act adopted in 2019 halts any further reclamation of tidal flats and action plans under this legal framework have been progressively restoring affected tidal flats.

Criterion (x): The property contains some of the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of the outstanding biodiversity of the Yellow Sea region, including a number of threatened and endemic species. Reflecting its habitat diversity (including islands, rocky shores, beaches, sand flats, mud flats and salt marshes), some 2,454 plant and animal species have been recorded. The property encompasses many of the critical stopover sites for several globally threatened species of migratory birds, along the EAAF, one of the world's most important yet jeopardized flyways. Many of the estimated 50 million waterbirds of the EAAF depend on the Yellow Sea's coastal wetlands to stage on their annual migration between nesting areas in eastern Asia to as far north as Siberia and Alaska, and non-breeding areas to as far south as Australasia. The property supports a total of 216 bird species, among which are 114 waterbird species, 44 shorebird species and 24 globally threatened species. There are also 16

migratory waterbird species that at times have over 1% of their global population in the property.

The remarkable concentrations of migratory waterbirds using the six component parts include important numbers of globally threatened species and species limited to the EAAF. These include the Spoon-billed Sandpiper; Far Eastern Curlew; Black-faced Spoonbill; Great Knot; Nordmann's Greenshank; Hooded Crane; Saunders's Gull; and Chinese Egret. The property also supports 114 species of fish and two species of marine mammals as well as an exceptional diversity of tidal flat organisms including 472 benthic diatom species, 170 macroalgae species, 123 halophyte species and 1,349 species of macrobenthos. 53 of the tidal flat species are endemic to the Yellow Sea.

Integrity

The property exists in the context of high human population density and a history of land use change on the Yellow Sea coast including significant coastal reclamation. However, the selection of component parts is such that the negative impacts of coastal development projects and anthropogenic activities within the property area that could result in potential habitat loss or degradation remain low under current conditions. The property therefore includes the least affected tidal flats and associated wetlands in the southwestern part of the Korean Peninsula. The component parts and their buffer zones have been delineated based on the inclusion of important ecological sites. They are of sufficient size to support the safeguarding of the property from external threats.

The Phase II extension of the property has added areas of high conservation value, several of which are contiguous with the first phase of the inscription thereby enhancing connectivity. The terrestrial and marine buffer zones have also benefited from redesign and enlarging to further safeguard the property from external threats and improve their functionality. While the reconfigured boundaries of the six component parts provide protection for migratory birds by including feeding, breeding, and roosting areas, there remains scope for additional component parts to be added. The State Party and other expert stakeholders have identified further critical areas that may hold potential to extend the serial property subject to the support of local people and authorities. It is equally important to support cooperation across the wider Yellow Sea ecosystem and the EAAF to coordinate conservation approaches for the entire flyway.

As the component parts are situated in landscapes shaped by intensive use, potential threats from developments in the surrounding areas need to be monitored carefully and adverse impacts avoided or mitigated as needed. In particular, threats such as pollution from inland areas and internationally from marine sources, coastal wind farm developments, declining fishing stocks as well as the impacts of climate change require close monitoring and attention.

Protection and management requirements

The Republic of Korea has full ownership of the property including the marine buffer zones. The component parts of the serial property are protected by law as Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs) under the Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) or Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act (CMMEA). Various other laws and regulations govern the property and buffer zones, effectively restricting damaging activities. The Tidal Flat Act of 2019, and increasing awareness of the value of coastal ecosystems, has triggered a shift in national policy from coastal reclamation to tidal flat protection and restoration. This provides a mechanism, supervised by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries that further supports ecologically based coastal management within and outside the property with long-term measures to restore mudflats on the southwestern coast of the Korean Peninsula degraded by past developments. Continuous attention is needed to ensure that there is no further development that would have negative impact on the attributes of conservation significance in each component part of the property.

The WCA and CMMEA mandate property management plans that are implemented and revised every five years. The responsible managing government agency is the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries which collaborates with Regional Environmental Offices and Wetlands Centres along with local governments in the property's management. The Korea Heritage Service also plays a key role in joint management with the Ministry and local governments. An Integrated Management Plan and Monitoring System, regularly monitors and assesses existing and potential threats, and local communities are engaged and educated in the conservation and use of the getbols.

Coordinated management is delivered through an established integrated management system which ensures multi-stakeholder participation and coordination across government, civil society and other actors. The Getbol World Heritage Integrated Management Committee plays a central role acting as a conduit to the various provincial and local level authorities involved in the protection and management of the property. The management system, whilst complex and covering a number of different geographies, effectively establishes an overall architecture involving both national and local authorities. The property has adequate financial and technical resources, including staffing in all authorities involved, enhanced by World Heritage inscription.

Utilization pressures such as fishing and tourism activities may have a negative impact on the property. The Tidal Flats Act and the Fisheries Resources Management Act support the sustainable use of resources and promote ecotourism through community participation to achieve both economic value and conservation goals.

4. Commends the State Party on the systematic way new areas of potential Outstanding Universal Value were analysed including through the conduct of newly commissioned research and the extensive consultation processes undertaken at local levels to secure support for the World Heritage nomination;

5. Strongly encourages the State Party to fully implement Decision **44 COM 8B.6** and to complete the series by nominating a further phase of the nomination based on a continuation of the processes of analysing additional tidal flat areas with potential Outstanding Universal Value and seeking local support;

6. Encourages the State Party to explore how long-held, traditional fishing and tidal flat resource harvesting practices can continue to flourish in a sustainable way to ensure this traditional knowledge is transmitted to future generations;

7. Also encourages the State Party to continue to strengthen collaboration with other concerned States Parties to improve the conservation of critical habitats in the wider Yellow Sea ecosystem and along the Eastern Asian-Australasian Flyway in relation to coordinated conservation approaches and potential future transnational serial nominations and/or extensions.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

New nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **The Bony Fish Fossils of the Western Limfjord – Evolution and Climate Adaptation in the Earliest Eocene, Denmark**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Bony Fish Fossils of the Western Limfjord – Evolution and Climate Adaptation in the Earliest Eocene represent the world's single best fossil site to illustrate the evolution of the earliest modern fishes of the Eocene epoch that followed shortly after the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous. Located in the Western Limfjord sea of northern Jutland, Denmark, the serial property comprises the two largest and best coastal cliffs that contain some of the best-preserved fossil fishes in the world and that represent the only known fish-bearing succession that covers the very warm climatic conditions of the Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) and the immediately succeeding cooler period.

The property comprising the coastal cliffs of Hanklit and Knudeklint, located on the islands of Mors and Fur, respectively, is protected as a pristine reference for fossils in their characteristic source of diatomite-rich Fur Formation and Stolleklint Clay with volcanic ash layers. The ash layers and glaciotectonic structures are important supporting features for correlation, dating and interpretation. Fossil discoveries continue to be made in open excavations and in cliff debris as well as in nearby mo-clay pits with which the museums have close collaboration.

Exceptional fossils include marine organisms such as fishes, sea-turtles, diatoms, silicoflagellates and dinoflagellates, together with several invertebrate groups, and terrestrial organisms such as nearly complete bird skeletons, abundant insects, spores and pollen, together with rarer leaves and petrified tree trunks.

Criterion (viii): The property constitutes the world's oldest and single best site for the study of the early evolution of modern bony fish lineages (teleosts), shortly after the fifth and last mass extinction of life at the end of the Cretaceous. Overall, it offers a supreme insight in the earliest Eocene biosphere because it contains abundant and diverse, extremely well-preserved fossils from both oceanic and continental environments, and because it is the only known substantial teleost-bearing site which documents the biotic response to one of the most significant temperature fluctuations in the Earth's history – the Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM).

The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value comprise the fish fossils documenting early 'modern' fish evolution and diversification; the biotic and geochemical record across the PETM and the succeeding recovery phase expressed in the Stolleklint Clay and lower Fur Formation; and the diverse marine and terrestrial fossil assemblages that provide an exceptional insight into the earliest Eocene biosphere.

Abundant, diverse, and outstandingly well-preserved fossils provide an unparalleled insight into the origin of the earliest ancestors of many modern organisms, together with

their early evolution. This is the oldest known (c. 56 to 54.6 Ma), exceptionally well-preserved occurrence of ray-finned fish lineages that emerged succeeding the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction. The property presents between 25 and 29 fish orders and more than 80 species that underwent significant changes in response to rapid climate change.

Integrity

The property is the largest, most intact, and accessible, fossil site that is fully representative of the Western Limfjord deposits. It encompasses all palaeontological and palaeoclimate change-related attributes within a natural environment integrated into a protected area network.

There are no adverse effects of development and/or neglect, and the property is not under threat. Some impact through natural cliff erosion may be accelerated by climate change in the long-term, although no major conservation challenges are envisaged for the foreseeable future.

Fossil discoveries continue to be made in mo-clay pits in the wider setting. This is seen as an advantage since palaeontology is an extractive science that involves the removal of fossils for research. The two regional museums have close collaboration with industry in terms of access for research, and popular fossil collecting, without impacting the property.

Protection and management requirements

The principal protection and management requirement is to ensure that the cliff exposures, fossil recovery, collection protocols and regulation of visitor access enable the long-term conservation of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value over time. Site management needs to ensure coordinated cliff-exposure stewardship, clear protocols for fossil discovery, reporting and curation as well as research access, monitoring of coastal processes and site condition, and practical provisions for safe visitor access within carrying capacities, interpretation and education. Adaptive approaches are maintained in response to any future increases in visitation or climate-related coastal change.

The property, acknowledged for its significant national and international geological value, is afforded the highest level of protection under Danish law through a robust and comprehensive legal framework, giving the two component parts top priority in the planning procedures of local governments. Key legislation includes the Nature Protection Act, the Shore Protection Zone provisions, the Planning Act, the Museum Act, and the Danekræ system. Danekræ is defined as earth-found, nature-made objects of exceptional or unique natural scientific and/or exhibition value. Other applicable national instruments include the Raw Materials Act and apply to both component parts. No commercial extraction of mo-clay is possible in the property.

A collaborative management organisation is anchored at the local level on the two municipalities and their respective museums, supported by landowners, local communities, and state authorities. The management plan defines the management system of the property. Overall, the protection context is strengthened by the long-standing involvement of museums and research institutions that curate collections, support documentation, and provide an institutional pathway for reporting, safeguarding and scientific use of specimens.

4. Commends the State Party for the high quality of the nomination dossier, including its comparative analysis, and welcomes that the inscription of the property addresses a recognised gap in the representation of fossil records on the World Heritage List.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Refers the nomination of **Bashkir Shikhans of Toratau, Kushtau and Yuraktau, Russian Federation**, back to the State Party, in order to allow it to:
   a) Develop a clear and concise articulation of the attributes underpinning the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property in relation to criterion (viii),
   b) Review the delineation and effectiveness of the small and partial buffer zones of the newly added nominated component parts of Usolka and Dalnyi Tyulkas, with a view to expand the buffer zones and additional protective measures, where needed, in order to ensure the integrity of the nominated property,
   c) Strengthen the governance of the nominated property by ensuring full and effective representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities within the proposed management structure;
3. Commends the State Party for its contribution to addressing the thematic gap relating to Early Permian fossil records on the World Heritage List, as well as for the extensive supplementary documentation, and for the addition of the nominated component parts of Malyi Shikhan, Usolka and Dalnyi Tyulkas, which enhance the representation of fossil diversity, palaeoenvironmental variation, and stratigraphic significance, including sites associated with Global Boundary Stratotype Sections and Points (GSSPs);
4. Encourages the State Party to develop and implement further measures to ensure the conservation, documentation and long-term preservation of fossil assemblages associated with Shakhtau Shikhan, including those affected by past and ongoing quarrying activities;
5. Also encourages the State Party to continue efforts to strengthen coordination between the nominated property and the Toratau UNESCO Global Geopark, including through consideration of integrated management approaches as a potential Multi-Internationally Designated Area (MIDA), should the area be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes the **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, United States of America**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   Located primarily in the southeast of the State of Georgia and the northeast of the State of Florida, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR) protects the spectacular Okefenokee Swamp, a vast and globally unique subtropical peatland. The ONWR is situated in an area of great historical, cultural, and spiritual significance for the Muscogee

(Creek) Nation, among other Indigenous Peoples, who inhabited the area before colonization and their forced removal.

The Okefenokee Swamp is considered the largest lowland freshwater peatland in the subtropical zone worldwide and is one of the largest and most intact remaining ecosystems within the North American Coastal Plain (NACP) global biodiversity hotspot. The interplay between the pine savannas and wetlands of the Okefenokee Swamp weaves together exceptional hydrologic, pyrogenic, and vegetation processes with complex faunal interactions. The ONWR also protects significant areas of Longleaf Pine (Pinus palustris) savanna, an endangered ecosystem found only in the southeastern United States of America, and of which less than 3% remains. The extensive and intact peat layers in the ONWR also provide an irreplaceable archive of local, regional and global palaeo-environmental history, as well as critical carbon storage.

Criterion (ix): The ONWR encompasses a highly diverse mosaic of wetlands, savannas, and forest ecosystems characterized by exceptional and ongoing interactions between water, fire, flora, and fauna. The cycle of alternating fire and rainfall processes drive peat formation, shape vegetation structure, and support high levels of biodiversity. It is one of the largest wetland complexes in North America, and is likely the world's largest and most intact lowland freshwater (primarily precipitation-fed) peatland in the subtropical zone. The property hosts a significant portion (approximately 11,200 hectares) of Longleaf Pine (Pinus palustris) savanna, found only in the southeastern United States of America, and of which only approximately 3% remains. These pine savannas form a complete ecosystem and support a high concentration of plant species endemic to the NACP.

Criterion (x): The unique ecosystem dynamics and location of the ONWR contribute to its high biodiversity values and is representativeness of the North American Coastal Plain (NACP) global biodiversity hotspot, including high percentages of regionally endemic species. The ONWR is home to at least 856 species of plants, 48 species of mammals, 238 species of birds, 39 species of fish, 90 species of reptiles and amphibians, and a large number of invertebrates. The herpetofauna of the ONWR is particularly high for a temperate or subtropical ecosystem, and includes an important population of American alligators, which act as the keystone predator and landscape architect. The property is an important refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. The ONWR acts as a refuge for many threatened species, primarily tree species, reptiles, and birds.

Integrity

The ONWR is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of its key values and ecological processes, including the interaction of fire and hydrology, which are critical to maintaining the property's exceptional values. Its size, relative inaccessibility, and long-standing protection under the National Wilderness Preservation System, provides the property with very high degree of ecological integrity. While the ONWR suffered adverse effects from unsuccessful drainage attempts and logging operations predating the establishment of the ONWR, these impacts were followed by nearly a century of natural recovery and active restoration, with minimal current impacts.

While the property does not have a formal buffer zone, a functional combination of measures in the immediate surroundings, including the presence of neighbouring protected areas, collaborative efforts to create a fire-resistant buffer area surrounding the ONWR, and continued land acquisition along the ONWR's border in partnership with non-profit organizations, supports its conservation objectives.

The main threats to the property include impacts of climate change on the presence and severity of fires and changes in the hydrological regime, and industrial and development pressures from outside the ONWR, particularly, mining interests, water management from commercial forestry, and diverse impacts from urbanization in the broader area.

Protection and management requirements

The ONWR was established in 1937 by Executive Order, and 87% of it was classified as a National Wilderness Area in 1974 under the Wilderness Act by Congress and designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, thus providing for strict protection. The ONWR is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in partnership with private enterprises that provide visitor services. Management is guided by a 15-year Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) to maintain its ecological integrity and manage visitation, with an update expected at the time of inscription. The property is effectively protected through robust federal legislation at the time of nomination, including the National Environmental Policy Act (1970), Endangered Species Act (1973), Fish and Wildlife Act (1959), Clean Water Act (1977), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979), and Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites (1996), among others. Any reforms to the applicable legislation and the CCP need to ensure adequate protection for the attributes sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

With the ONWR being of great historical, cultural, and spiritual significance for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, among other Indigenous Peoples, collaboration has grown between the ONWR management authorities and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in the years leading up to the nomination. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has identified 74 ancestral burial mounds within the ONWR and aim to have the area declared Traditional Cultural Property under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation considers it indispensable that cultural heritage values of the ONWR be recognized and appropriately protected alongside its natural values. It is thus important to reflect these values in the management framework of the property. The collection, storage, and disclosure of specific information and locations of sacred sites within the ONWR should be treated with sensitivity and led by the Indigenous Peoples concerned.

4. Requests that the State Party update the existing Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge as soon as the new national guidance pending from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is available, ensuring that values of historical, cultural, and/or spiritual relevance for Indigenous Peoples, including those identified by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, are adequately reflected in the management framework;

5. Notes with appreciation the State Party's strong collaboration with nearby residents, conservation organisations, industry, and other stakeholders, and its efforts to strengthen relations with Indigenous Peoples, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and encourages the continuation of broad public participation in future management planning and decision-making processes for the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge;

6. Recommends the State Party to develop plans to survey and monitor a wider range of biodiversity values within the property, prioritizing globally threatened taxa, in order to increase knowledge of the status and trends of under-studied fauna and flora, such as invertebrates and fungi, with the long-term goal of achieving a complete inventory of species within the property and further informing conservation efforts;

7. Also encourages the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification in the future to recognize a formal buffer zone for the property to enhance protection around the property and to reflect the land acquisitions and expansion of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge boundaries since the nomination was submitted;

8. Recalls the robust legal and regulatory framework under which the property was nominated and reiterates the importance of ensuring that any reforms continue to provide adequate protection for the attributes sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

MIXED SITES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

New nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B, WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **The wider area of Mount Olympus, Greece,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vi)** and **(x)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The property, titled "The Wider Area of Mount Olympus", is located within the regional units of Pieria and Larissa. Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece, is renowned worldwide as the mythical abode of the twelve Olympian gods. According to ancient Greek belief, its exceptional geomorphology, dramatic landscape and striking meteorological phenomena inspired its identification as the divine dwelling, placing it at the centre of ancient Greek religion and cosmology. As a liminal space between the natural and the supernatural, Olympus also hosted ritual activities within its alpine environment as testify the open-air sanctuary on the peak of Agios Antonios, where archaeological remains attest to the worship of Zeus.

While the sacred mountain itself remained the primary focus of reverence and mythological significance, the principal architectural expression of its associated religious traditions developed at its foothills. The Archaeological Site of Dion, the second component of the property, constitutes the principal material manifestation of this cult. Its extensive remains—including sanctuaries, temples, ritual spaces, inscriptions, and other monumental structures—provide exceptional evidence of the worship of the Olympian gods.

The myths and traditions associated with the divine realm of Olympus, first recorded in foundational works of ancient Greek literature such as Hesiod's Theogony and Homer's epics, spread throughout the Roman world and, in subsequent centuries, across nearly every part of the globe. In doing so, they transformed Olympus into a universal cultural reference and an enduring source of inspiration for literature, the visual arts, philosophy, science, and popular culture.

As such, Mount Olympus represents a unique example of a sacred landscape whose religious significance transcended its original cultural and historical context to become a universally shared legacy.

Due to its proximity to the Aegean Sea and its steep altitudinal gradient (from 0m to 2,918m within 17.5 km) the property is characterized by great contrasts in rainfall and humidity and a complex topography (gorges, ravines, varied slope aspects) which generates diverse microclimates and multiple climatic “islands”. These elements, combined with Mount Olympus historical refugial role (e.g., Jankaea heldreichii as a Tertiary relict) have driven rapid speciation, with a biodiversity concentration of global significance when evaluated proportionally by area. Thus, Mount Olympus emerges as an extreme “micro-hotspot” or classic “sky-island” system. Its per-unit-area richness in

plants and strict endemics amplifies its value as a concentrated reservoir of evolutionary heritage and a high-density biodiversity ark. The property hosts 1,983 vascular plant taxa, (c. 28% of Greece's total flora), 27 strict local endemics found only on Mount Olympus, and 60 Greek endemics. Of the 1,983 taxa, 51 are included in the IUCN Red List (13 Endangered, 17 Vulnerable, 21 Near Threatened). It also hosts 19 Annex I habitat types of EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, of which two are priority habitats, while the subalpine meadows and chasmophytic communities are of particular importance for hosting most of the property's endemic species. It also hosts,157 bird species, of which 36 are protected under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, 3 species are included in the IUCN Red List (2 vulnerable and 1 endangered), 40 species of mammals, 23 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians, 1 fish species and 19 invertebrate species.

Together, the exceptional natural features of Mount Olympus and the surrounding archaeological sites form a coherent and complementary system of natural and cultural attributes. Their interrelationship conveys the Outstanding Universal Value of the property by illustrating the enduring interaction between an extraordinary natural landscape, religious belief, mythological tradition, and human cultural expression that developed diachronically at the Wider area of Mount Olympus.

Criterion (vi): Mount Olympus is an emblematic landmark of ancient Greek mythology, known worldwide as the abode of the Twelve Olympian Gods. Recorded as such in ancient Greek literature (e.g. Homeric epics, Hesiod's Theogony), it has since become a universal and diachronic source of inspiration and symbolism, influencing art, literature, science and popular culture worldwide. Imbued with a pervasive sacredness, Mount Olympus and its surrounding landscape preserve tangible remains of the cult of the Olympian Gods, including sanctuaries, altars, and votive offerings, with the city of Dion standing as the most remarkable expression of this religious tradition, inspired by and dedicated to the divine presence of Zeus and his mountain.

Criterion (x): The global value of Mount Olympus is enhanced by the remarkable biodiversity density it sustains. Olympus hosts a disproportionately high number of endemic evolutionary lineages concentrated into a minute geographic footprint. Thus, its biodiversity, especially its concentration of unique flora species (in terms of total diversity, strict local endemic diversity and endemic diversity), gives it outstanding global significance when evaluated proportionally by area. Additionally, Mt Olympus hosts a significant number of protected fauna species (birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates).

Integrity

The property includes all the attributes necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Its boundaries encompass the full range of geological, ecological and biological features that define the exceptional natural character of Mount Olympus, together with the physical setting that gave rise to its religious and mythological significance and the archaeological remains directly associated with the cult of the ancient Greek Pantheon. The property is of adequate size to ensure the full representation and long-term conservation of its attributes.

Although existing and potential pressures have been identified within the property including the Natura 2000 sites, these do not currently compromise its integrity or represent an immediate threat to its Outstanding Universal Value. Existing natural processes and traditional human activities remain compatible with the conservation objectives of the property and have not significantly altered its ecological functions, landscape character of cultural significance.

Authenticity

The authenticity of Mount Olympus derives from the inseparable relationship between its exceptional natural landscape and the mythological tradition it inspired. Identified in ancient Greek belief as the dwelling place of the Twelve Olympian Gods, the mountain occupied a central place in Greek religion and cosmology. Its significance is attested by ancient literary sources and later historical traditions, while the global dissemination of Greek literature and culture established Olympus as a lasting symbol and source of inspiration for literature, the arts, science, and popular culture.

Visitors today continue to experience the dramatic landscape that inspired the mythology of Olympus in antiquity. The mountain's rugged peaks remained largely inaccessible until the early twentieth century, allowing its dramatic landscape to retain its essential natural character. The connection of modern toponyms, such as the Pantheon, the Throne of Zeus (Stefani), and the Plateau of the Muses, with cultural associations reflect the enduring link between the landscape and its mythological identity.

The authenticity of the Archaeological Site of Dion derives from the preservation of its original location, archaeological remains and spatial and visual relationship with Mount Olympus. All conservation and restoration interventions undertaken within the site have been carried out in accordance with internationally recognized principles and standards, ensuring respect for the authenticity and the preservation of its original materials, structures and historical significance.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by a comprehensive legal framework that safeguards its natural and cultural values through complementary national legislation, including the Presidential Decree for Olympus National Park (2021), provisions of the Forest legislation, archaeological sites designations, wildlife refuges, designations Natura 2000 sites, biodiversity, and environmental protection. At the international level, it has been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1981 and forms part of the Council of Europe's Network of Biogenetic Reserves.

An integrated Management Plan for the property's natural and cultural values defines strategic objectives, priorities, measures, implementation timelines, and a monitoring programme, provides for periodic review, and is supported by secured Greek national and European Union funding.

The property is managed by the Olympus National Park Management Unit of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), in cooperation with national, regional, and local authorities, as well as by the Ephorates of Antiquities of Larissa and Pieria of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture.

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

   a) Encourage studies on how the associations linked to Mount Olympus have spread globally and have maintained their significance today,

   b) Revise and adjust the boundaries around Litochoro in order to improve coherence and management efficiency, and submit the relevant map to the World Heritage Centre,

   c) Ensure the formal protection of the full extent of the buffer zone and evaluate the possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property during the operation periods of the military shooting range within the northeastern part of the buffer zone,

   d) Ensure that, in addition to the existing site management system and plan already integrating the management of the property’s cultural and natural values, the revised management plan is adopted for Mount Olympus National Park,

incorporating clearly articulated cultural and natural attributes of Outstanding Universal Value that need to be protected, managed and monitored,

e) Approve and operationalise the Special Urban Plan as soon as possible,

f) Operationalize the Coordinating Committee for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Management Plan of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage Monument of Mount Olympus,

g) Ensure the full implementation of the integrated tourism strategy, including visitor carrying capacity and visitor monitoring, to avoid uncontrolled access and concentration of visitors in environmentally sensitive areas,

h) Work towards a more balanced management framework that pays equal attention to the cultural and natural heritage dimensions in terms of thematic representation, institutional visibility, staffing and dedicated resources,

i) Continue assessing the factors affecting the property, including seismic activities and floods,

j) Further developing the monitoring system by establishing clear, measurable and property-specific indicators for all the cultural and natural attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including specific indicators for the state of conservation of the Archaeological site of Dion (component part 2), as well as the intangible cultural values, and adapting it for easy integration of its outcomes into the Periodic Reporting questionnaire,

k) Formalising the inclusion of local communities in decision-making processes in the frame of the foreseen Coordinating Committee for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Management Plan,

l) Ensuring that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that a Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the serial property, its buffer zone and its immediate setting;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2027** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

CULTURAL SITES

AFRICA

New Nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Medinas of the Historic Sultanates of the Comoros, Comoros**, 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 serial property comprises the best-preserved parts of six historic cities located on the islands of Ngazidja and Ndzuwani in the Comoros. They developed from urban nuclei that emerged around at least the 11th century and evolved into city-states around the 14th-15th century, becoming eventually the principal urban centres of the sultanates established in the archipelago of Comoros within the framework of the formation of a Muslim elite linked to the Swahili world. This heritage ensemble, encompassing urban, architectural, and intangible elements, reflects the richness and specificity of Swahili cultural tradition within the Comorian island context. The former sultanic medinas have preserved their old urban morphology and fabric, and an exceptional set of traditions and social practices still alive today.

Compact fabrics, with centrally organised palaces and public squares (bangwe, mpangahari), stone houses and defensive structures, the medinas showcase insular urban forms and architectural expressions that resulted from cultural exchanges related to migration and Indian Ocean trade networks, while displaying a spatial logic dictated by a hierarchical system of social organisation based on matrilineal and matrilocal customs, age-group systems, and patrilineal Islamic traditions. The Comorian historic cities, though founded upon the same fundamental cultural and social basis, evolved along distinct trajectories shaped by their geographic, political, social and historical contexts.

Criterion (iii): The Medinas of the Historic Sultanates of the Comoros provide an exceptional testimony to the living cultural traditions and social practices of the Comorian archipelago, which, due to its location and complex history, has become a crossroads for peoples of different origins, between Africa, the Arab world, and Europe, connected by the Indian Ocean. The hierarchical social structures of the Comorian society, based on a synthesis of matrilineal and matrilocal customs, age-group system, and patrilineal Islamic traditions, are reflected in the urban organisation of the medinas, which serve as a setting for social life and celebrations that mark the stages of life of men and women, and which in turn give the tangible heritage its meaning.

Criterion (iv): The Medinas of the Historic Sultanates of the Comoros constitute a constellation of distinctive responses in architecture and landscape-making that collectively demonstrate the originality of Comorian urban traditions that adapted Arab-Shirazi influences to the local geographic context and combined them with African social structures and models of communal living. Through complementary responses in architecture, artistry, defensive systems, and landscape-making, created within a shared cultural matrix, the component parts showcase the origins and evolution of urbanism in the Comoros, linked to the arrival of Islam, which marked a significant cultural phase in the history of the Indian Ocean region, and illustrates a historical period that witnessed the development of interaction and exchanges between African cultures, the Arab-Muslim world, and various European powers, and the progressive integration of the region into the global maritime context.

Integrity

While the Comorian medinas of the series share historical and socio-cultural foundations that structure them, the component parts showcase the diversity of architectural, artistic, and planning responses. Each contributes individually to the series through the varying intensities and modalities of external exchanges which, combined with adaptations to specific geographical and insular contexts, generated distinct urban forms and stylistic identities.

The component parts include the best-preserved, but sufficiently large, sections of each medina, with the remaining intra-muros areas and some immediate setting comprised within the buffer zones. The serial property retains high integrity in terms of urban morphology, and the system of religious and socio-cultural spaces and centres.

However, the oldest built structures (palaces, city walls, historic mosques) are highly vulnerable, with several cases in serious disrepair. The visual interconnections between the cities and the key elements of their natural environment (volcanos, hills, sea), the geographic setting and the maritime connection to the cities are elements that are functionally important as a support to the protection of the property.

Authenticity

The urban morphology and the spirit of the medinas remain strong in all six component parts, and the authenticity of their use and function is also very high. However, the authenticity of the material fabric of the historic cities has been partly compromised, particularly where concrete reconstructions have been carried out. The gradual loss of traditional skills and massive replacement of materials represent serious threats to the authenticity of the serial property.

Historically, the intra-muros sections of the medinas have not been drastically transformed or remodelled, but areas outside the city walls were affected in the modern times. The relationship of the urban centres with the sea is not fully preserved today due to modern developments. Moreover, none of the medinas maintained the maritime commercial context that characterised them during the sultanate era.

The intangible heritage still structures the historic cities and gives meaning to the public and private spaces within the medinas. The customary system makes them living spaces of civic and moral education.

Protection and management requirements

The serial property is protected by Law No. 20-033/AU of 2020 on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Union of the Comoros, promulgated by Presidential Decree no. 21-013/PR. The development within the component parts is regulated by the Urban Planning and Housing Code of 1986, revised in 2011 by Law no. 11-026 on Urban Planning and Construction in the Union of the Comoros. Both legislations need to be supplemented with regulatory texts, which are under preparation. The Framework Law of the Environment no. 94-018, amended in 1995, regulates the landscape environment. Customary, religious, and traditional laws also apply in all component parts.

The legislative basis for the creation of a national inventory has been instituted by the establishment of the National Commission for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (CNPPC), responsible for the definition, implementation, and monitoring of the heritage protection policy. This will allow for the registration or listing of the component parts and their enhanced protection at the highest national level, which is yet to be achieved. The National Office for the Valorisation of Heritage (ONVP) is in charge of the mobilisation of funding for the management, valorisation, and tourism promotion.

Urban planning instruments (such as Territorial Development Plans (SAT) or Urban Development Plans (PDU)) are either not yet in place or are currently being developed.

Four key ministries are involved in the different aspects of management of the serial property: the Ministry of Youth, Employment, Labour, Sports, Arts, and Culture (preservation of historical monuments and sites, their conservation and development); the Ministry of National Education, Teaching, Scientific Research, Training and Professional Integration (scientific research and training); the Ministry of the Environment, responsible for Tourism; and the Ministry of Regional Planning, Urban Development, responsible for Land Affairs and Land Transport. The National Centre for Documentation and Scientific Research (CNDRS), a public scientific and cultural institution, coordinates activities across different stakeholders.

The six component parts administratively fall under six municipalities in four prefectures, whose mandate over the serial property is however limited since most of the land is privately owned or is part of the municipal estate.

The traditional management system is primarily implemented through the Village Development Committees. The civil society organisations play an active role in the implementation of public policies at the local level and are formally integrated into the management system through the appointment of site managers from among their members.

The management plan with an action plan covering the period 2025-2034 is divided into two phases and is being implemented.

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

Continuing the efforts to finalise and adopt the necessary legislative and regulatory texts to provide a solid and enhanced legal protection to the property,

Undertaking the process of registering the serial property in the national inventory when it will be fully implemented,

Developing Urban Development Plans (PDU) for all the medinas and integrating the boundaries of the component parts within them,

Conducting, in priority, a state of conservation assessment and, based on it, developing an integrated conservation programme for the serial property as well as individual conservation plans for each component part,

a) Developing further the management system in which state, regional and local authorities must be appropriately engaged, and integrating the traditional management system with the formal administrative mechanisms,

b) Progressing with the implementation of the management plan,

c) Aligning the development of the tourism strategy and tourism management plan with other related state strategies, and based on a study of the carrying capacity of each component part,

d) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism that is consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for development proposals within the property, the buffer zones and the immediate settings,

e) Completing the GIS mapping and verifying the boundaries of the property;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2027**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session;

6. Notes that ICOMOS remains available to provide advice, should the State Party wish to seek such guidance.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **The Roças of Sao Tome and Principe: Colonial Agricultural System and Forced Migration, Sao Tome and Principe**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

[Text only available in French.]

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

a) Further revise the boundaries of the buffer zones of the following component parts:

i) At Agua Izé (component part 2), include the small peninsula facing the roça, the beach and a stretch of sea up to the rocky outcrop to the north-east of the roça,

ii) At Sao Joao (component part 4), expand the buffer zone to include all the nearby village,

iii) At other roças, such as Monte Café (component part 1), and Diogo Vaz (component part 3), consider expanding the boundaries of the buffer zone where these are very close to or coinciding with those of the component parts, and submit a minor boundary modification request,

b) Equip the buffer zones with regulatory mechanisms to ensure that potential development does not negatively impact the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value,

c) Formally establish the National Management Committee and give it a clear mandate and responsibilities,

d) Based on the management plan, prepare operational recovery programmes and a conservation strategy with clear priorities to address the most urgent conservation issues for the roças, and begin implementing stabilisation measures and shoring urgently,

e) Developing a documentation strategy for the roças and begin to implement it as soon as possible,

f) Integrating Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms in the decision-making processes and for all projects and programmes related to the serial property, including the REVIVE programme,

g) Based on the implementation calendar submitted with the additional information of February 2026, developing a reliable cartographic basis for each component part, indicating the boundaries of both the component parts and their respective revised buffer zones, and proceeding to append these maps to the Ministerial Decree No 74 (2024) to enhance legal protection,

h) Ensuring that the management of the roças is implemented through participatory means and that local communities are involved in decisions about the future of the roças,

i) Ensuring that the legitimate economic interests of private concessionaires do not take precedence over long-term preservation of the roças and that sustainable, compatible opportunities to improve the living conditions of local communities are created,

j) Developing clear guidance and parameters for conservation and rehabilitation interventions and reuse to be respected by all actors,

k) Consider the inclusion of Roça Agostinho Neto in the serial property when conditions permit,

l) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorize all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2027**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

ARAB STATES

New Nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Village of Sidi Bou Saïd: Hub of Cultural and Spiritual Inspiration in the Mediterranean, Tunisia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Village of Sidi Bou Saïd is located on top of a hill overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, in northern Tunisia. It developed as a sanctuary-village as a result of a process of aggregation around the mausoleum of a Sufi saint – Abou Saïd Khalaf Ibn Yahya El Tamimi El Beji, known as Sidi Bou Saïd – supported by successive ruling dynasties, which, from the 16th century onwards, fostered the sacralisation of the place by associating their political legitimacy with the baraka (blessing) of the saint. The Husainid beys (18th-20th century) consolidated this dynamic by building holiday residences in Sidi Bou Saïd and turning it into an elite resort. The property embodies the encounter between the spiritual power of the saint and the temporal political power. With the religious complex of Sidi Bou Saïd at its heart, the village reflects the traditional Arab-Islamic urban planning around a central place, enriched by the 19th-20th century urban-type residential architecture of the notables.

Criterion (iii): The Village of Sidi Bou Saïd represents an exceptional testimony to the tradition of village foundations based on a symbiotic relationship formed between the spiritual authority of a saint and the temporal power of a ruling dynasty. It exemplifies in an exceptional way the phenomenon of sanctuary-villages, fundamental to the social and political history of the Maghreb, that developed as a result of a saint's prestige which provided religious legitimacy to the sovereign, and the sovereign's patronage which, in return, ensured the perpetuation and prosperity of the saint's sanctuary and village.

Integrity

The property includes the entire historic village of Sidi Bou Saïd, within its 1915 boundaries, excluding a few later buildings which break with the traditional architectural style of the place. The urban morphology and the fabric of the village have been well preserved, and the landscape setting remains largely unaltered, except for the introduction of a marina below the southern slope of the promontory. Other limited instances in which the integrity of the property has been compromised and visual aspects of the site negatively affected are mostly reversible. The site suffers dangerously from instability related to its geological nature and environmental factors. Developmental pressures are largely under control, but excessive tourism is a major concern that requires strategic reorganisation, as it shows to negatively affect the character of the property. At present, despite changes in the socio-cultural and economic context of the site, the vivacity of Sufi spiritual practices persists.

Authenticity

The property has maintained its morphological coherence and its urban fabric has remained largely unchanged, owing to the 1915 Beylical decree, which helped preserve the village and its historical density. Land division occurred sporadically. The

construction of the marina at the southern foot of the promontory modified to a small degree the landscape setting of the property. The mystical practices associated with Sufism remain active and the places of religious practices have mostly retained their original function. The identity of the village that has shaped its history and culture has been maintained, though it faces increasing threats posed by tourism. The related economic dynamics have already led to some changes in the use of residences within the village.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by the Beylical decree of 1915 and the decree 85-1246 of 1985, which provide strong controls against the changes to the spatial organisation of the village, as well as to the fabric and aesthetic of its built environment. The National Institute of Heritage under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs oversees the protection of the property through the Archaeological, Historical and Traditional Arts Heritage Code of 1994. The Institute is also the central body responsible for the management and conservation of the site. The Urban Development Plan for the municipality of Sidi Bou Saïd regulates land uses while incorporating provisions for the protection of heritage, in line with the Territorial and Urban Planning Code of 1994. The management plan has been prepared for a pilot phase (until 2027) and will be further developed.

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

   a) As a matter of urgency, collecting the historical documentation of the landslide phenomenon, concluding the newest technical study, and updating the mapping of the cracks and points of instability related to landslides,

   b) Implementing the natural disaster risk management plan and developing an emergency plan on the basis of the surveys carried out to address the key threats to the integrity of the property,

   c) Preparing a comprehensive inventory of the attributes and conducting a state of conservation assessment, which should inform the development of a conservation programme,

   d) Developing further the management plan and ensuring its implementation,

   e) Continuing to progress the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan (PSMV) for the property,

   f) Conducting a carrying capacity study and developing a tourism strategy as well as a tourism management plan, taking into consideration the need to shift the tourism model to address risks related to overtourism,

   g) Preparing an interpretation strategy in line with the values of the property, and integrating it with the tourism strategy and management plan,

   h) Demolishing the incompatible structures constructed without permission (pending legal proceedings),

   i) Formally embedding Heritage Impact Assessment in the management system of the property and ensuring that its procedures are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the property, its buffer zone and its immediate setting;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2027**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session;

6. Decides that the name of the property be changed to "**Village of Sidi Bou Saïd**".

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

New Nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii), (iv)** and **(vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites are located in an area with rich reserves of porcelain stone, kaolin clay, firewood forests and water transportation. Five component parts represent the handicraft porcelain industry system of Jingdezhen from the 10th to the 19th century. Together they exhibit the innovative development of Chinese porcelain making technology and porcelain art that had a profound impact on the development of the ceramic industry of the world.

From the 10th to the 13th centuries integration of the porcelain-making technologies of northern and southern China achieved the stable production of bluish-white porcelain and laid the foundation for Jingdezhen to develop into a Chinese porcelain production centre. In the 13th-15th centuries, innovations included the “binary formula” (mixing porcelain stone with kaolin), new kiln forms, and the use of imported cobalt pigments to produce the blue-and-white porcelain. From the 16th century, Jingdezhen was the handicraft porcelain production centre of the world, supported by a complex industrial structure that connected porcelain manufacturing and sales centres with raw material and firewood production areas via a waterway transportation system.

The Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites bear witness to the formation of a large-scale intensive production model characterised by an industrial chain with fine divisions of labour, standardisation and specialisation, leading to a capacity for high quality porcelain. Through the advancement of production technologies and industrial organisation, Jingdezhen maintained its position as the porcelain production centre of the world from the 16th century, promoting the widespread dissemination of Chinese porcelain making technology, art and products around the world.

Criterion (ii): The Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites demonstrate global exchanges in porcelain-making technologies and art, and innovations in porcelain production from the 10th to the 19th centuries. The Hutian Ancient Kiln Site portrays the integration of porcelain-making technologies for bluish-white porcelain from the north and south of China from the 10th-13th centuries. The development of technologies at Jingdezhen during the 13th-19th centuries combined traditional Chinese porcelain-making with Middle Eastern, Chinese and European pigments, and a fusion of Chinese and foreign decorative techniques to produce blue-and-white, enamel and famille-rose porcelain. The “binary formula” technology attracted widespread attention and was an important inspiration and influence on the development of high-temperature hard-paste porcelain technology in Europe during the 18th century. Jingdezhen became a world porcelain production centre from the 16th-18th centuries, with its artistic styles studied and imitated all over the world.

Criterion (iii): The Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites exhibit the continuous production process of the porcelain industry from the 10th to the 19th centuries and a complete industrial pattern including the social organisation of production. The five component parts provide a testimony to the tradition of Chinese handicraft porcelain industry.

Criterion (iv): The Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites are a technological ensemble that illustrates important stages in the development of the handicraft porcelain industry, an outstanding example of innovation in global porcelain technologies, art and industrial organisation from the 13th to the 19th centuries. The uses of raw materials at Jingdezhen, the "binary formula" technology, modelling technologies, kiln designs, and innovations in underglaze and overglaze decoration techniques enriched the diversity of porcelain shapes and decorative styles. The large-scale industrial spatial layout, division of labour, and specialised and standardised production model enabled the efficient and high-quality porcelain production at Jingdezhen.

Criterion (vi): As an important vehicle of Chinese culture and an important symbol of Oriental art, evidence of blue-and-white porcelain of Jingdezhen establishes a direct association with European decorative art from the 17th-18th centuries. As a global high-end trade commodity, the blue-and-white porcelain of Jingdezhen is one of the core elements of "chinoiserie" that was popular in Europe. These artistic elements were widely collected and used in pattern design, painting, furniture, architectural decoration and other fields, with porcelain serving as a medium to promote the global expression of Chinese culture.

Integrity

The five component parts include raw material sources, kilns, workshops, transportation and other production facilities that demonstrate the elements and stages of the development of the handicraft porcelain technology of Jingdezhen from the 10th to the 19th century. They include buildings used for the social organisation and management, commercial and trade activities, religious and belief practices, and the porcelain production tools and products of Jingdezhen. The Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites include a full suite of relevant attributes of the industrial system of porcelain production including the spatial layouts, production facilities and technological processes, and social organisation. The boundaries are appropriately delineated and ensure the protection of the key attributes. The component parts are generally in a good state of conservation, and potential threats are well identified.

Authenticity

The attributes include archaeological sites, historic buildings, wharves, mining sites, firewood forests, historic roads, and sections of rivers, as well as intangible cultural heritage practices associated with porcelain production. The scale of the porcelain production centre is verified by a series of kiln sites along the east bank of the Changjiang River and the depth of kiln accumulations in the town area. The spatial layout of the porcelain production centre, raw material and firewood production areas, urban and rural environmental settings, and the historic river sections connecting the component parts demonstrate the organisation of the handicraft porcelain industry of Jingdezhen. The authenticity of the attributes has been established by historical maps and literature, and by past and continuing archaeological and historical research. Porcelain making is still the pillar industry in Jingdezhen with continuing community involvement.

Protection and management requirements

The protection of the Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites is supported by national and provincial laws and regulations, including the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics (and its regulations), the Regulations of Jiangxi Province for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, and the Regulations of

Jingdezhen Municipality for the Conservation of Handicraft Porcelain Industry Heritage. The five component parts and their buffer zones are incorporated into the territory spatial planning framework. Intangible cultural heritage elements are safeguarded by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Law of the People's Republic of China and the Regulations of Jiangxi Province on the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

A four-level management framework has been established, consisting of the State, Jiangxi Province, Jingdezhen City, and the Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Heritage Conservation Center. This Center is responsible for the coordinated management of the property. The component parts are managed by the Zhushan District and Changjiang District Cultural Heritage Bureaus, the Jingdezhen Imperial Kiln Institute, the Jingdezhen Ceramic Culture Inheritance and Innovation Center, the Gaoling-Yaoli Scenic and Historic Area Management Committee and Fuliang County Cultural Heritage Bureau.

The Conservation Management Plan of the Serial Property of "Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites" (2025-2035) identifies objectives and specific activities for the conservation, protection and interpretation of the property, including monitoring and stakeholder coordination, community participation in decision-making processes and capacity building. Heritage Impact Assessment processes are in place for each of the component parts. A research plan is in place, and a number of strategies and measures are implemented to manage congestion at heavily visited sites.

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

   a) Developing a risk preparedness plan based on the relevant provisions of the Conservation Management Plan, including related capacity building and training actions,

   b) Continuing the development and implementation of the interpretation strategy that considers the serial property as a whole, including an enhanced description of the links between individual component parts and distinct phases of interchange, with clear chronological mapping of technological evolution across the component parts, and integration of technological and spatial dimensions within the narrative of industrial development,

   c) Preparing and implementing the tourism development plan for the serial property to enhance visitor management capacities across the component parts.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   Located within Varanasi city, state of Uttar Pradesh, India, this serial property composed of two component parts (Chaukhandi Stupa, and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath) comprises all the known and preserved archaeological and architectural vestiges of the ancient site of Sarnath, believed to be the place that Gautama Buddha visited in the 6th century BCE.

Defined by the Buddha as one of the four key sites of Buddhist pilgrimage, Sarnath developed over centuries through royal, monastic and lay patronage. Numerous stupas, temples and viharas were constructed in different historical periods, with evidence from the pre-Mauryan period, through the Kushana and Gupta periods, until the decline of the place in the 12th century CE. Re-discovered in the 18th century, the property is being revived by the Buddhist community as one of their holy places.

In the Buddhist tradition, Sarnath is known as Rishipatana, Ishipatana, Mrigadava or the Deer Park, which refer to a sacred geography, where the Buddha is believed to have delivered his first sermon and met his first disciples.

Criterion (iii): Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi bears witness to the enduring spiritual significance of Sarnath, one of the four principal destinations of Buddhist pilgrimage, established by the Buddha himself, as demonstrated by the large number of religious buildings and other monuments that were built and rebuilt on-site during the many centuries of its existence. While the tradition of pilgrimage is not attested at Sarnath between the 12th century CE and the modern era, the 20th century revival of the practice testifies to the prominent role of this ancient Buddhist site in Buddhist memory and the spiritual imagination.

Criterion (vi): Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi testifies in a direct and tangible way to the events in the life of the Buddha that are of outstanding significance to the Buddhist community – his first sermon and meeting of his first disciples. The importance of these events and their meaning is carried by the numerous constructions erected at Sarnath over the centuries, which are a response to the message of the Buddha, his teachings, and the concept of Triratna.

Integrity

The two component parts contain all the known preserved structures of what used to be a Buddhist monastic complex. The common buffer zone reflects their past connection. The serial property has retained its integrity in its essential built elements but its wider original context (the sacred geography), known to be a forested area, has been compromised. The place continues to function as a pilgrimage destination for the Buddhist community. However, the management of the site focuses primarily on its status as an archaeological park, which, in the long term, could affect the spiritual character of the property.

Authenticity

The archaeological and architectural remains of the monastic complex of Sarnath are authentic in their forms. Conservation efforts undertaken since the early 20th century have ensured preservation of original materials with minimal intervention. The place no longer serves its original function as an active monastic complex but continues to attract Buddhist pilgrims in memory of the first sermon of the Buddha. The recreational use of Sarnath as an archaeological park has an impact on the spirit of the place. The wider setting of the property has been disturbed.

Protection and management requirements

Both component parts are protected at the highest national level through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958 (AMASR Act, amended in 2010). This Act establishes a Prohibited Area covering 100 metres around protected monuments/sites, where any form of construction or development is forbidden, and a Regulated Area extending 200 metres beyond it, in which some construction is allowed subject to approval. Additional protection is provided through planning mechanisms, and particularly the Varanasi Master Plan 2031.The buffer zone is protected through the same measures, with the addition of the regulations pertaining to the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is in charge of the protection, conservation, and management of both component parts. The Site Management Plan for the serial property includes recommendations related to conservation.

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

   a) Ensuring the preservation of the spiritual significance of Sarnath, alongside its archaeological values, by developing a consistent management strategy that balances devotion, conservation, tourism, and community needs, and including the relevant non-state religious stakeholders, in an advisory role, in the management of the serial property,

   b) Developing further the monitoring system to encompass all the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value,

   c) Undertaking a carrying capacity study to inform the tourism management plan, which should address the spiritual dimension of the property, besides its recreational purpose,

   d) Preparing an interpretation and presentation strategy that will focus on the value of the property as a spiritual rather than recreational tourism destination,

   e) Ensuring that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted prior to any development project within the serial property, its buffer zone, and its immediate setting,

   f) Conducting, in the future, an archaeological survey within and immediately outside the current buffer zone to establish the archaeological potential of the area and potentially verify the historical extent of the sacred geography of the site to substantiate the relationship between the historical context and the current legal boundaries;

5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to "**Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath**".

Decision: 48 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Alamūt Castle and Related Fortifications, Iran (Islamic Republic of)**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The Alamūt Castle and Related Fortifications are located in the Alborz Mountains of northern Iran, south of the Caspian Sea, within the historic region of Daylamān. The serial property comprises seven castles and fortifications distributed across the Alamūt Valley in Qazvin Province. At its centre stands Alamūt Castle, positioned on a steep rocky outcrop and serving as the headquarters of the Nezāri Ismaʿili state founded by Ḥasan Ṣabbāḥ in 1090. The other component parts – Lambesar Castle, Navizaršāh Castle, Šams Kelāyeh Fortification, Qosṭinlār Fortification, Širkūh Fortification, and Ilān Fortification – are strategically located across the valley and together form a coordinated defensive system.

From the late 11th to the mid-13th centuries, Alamūt served as the political, religious, administrative and intellectual centre of the Nezāri Ismaʿili state, which flourished in this mountainous region. The fortifications enabled the organisation, governance, and defence of this community within a naturally protected setting.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property is conveyed through the remains of the fortresses and their defensive structures, rock-cut architectural features, water storage and supply systems, archaeological remains associated with the fortified sites, and the surrounding mountainous landscape that structured the defensive network.

Criterion (iii): Alamūt Castle and Related Fortifications provide a rare testimony to the Nezāri Ismaʿili cultural tradition, which flourished in the Alborz Mountains from the 11th to the 13th centuries. The property reflects a cohesive socio-political, religious, and intellectual system that integrated defence, administration, scholarship, and community life. The network of castles, water management systems, agricultural terraces, and archaeological remains demonstrate the organisation and ingenuity of the Nezāri Ismaʿilis. The property also reflects the close relationship between the fortifications and local communities, founded upon earlier Ismaʿili missionary activity (daʿwa), which supported the castles with labour, resources, and food. The property represents a historical legacy whose influence continues to shape the identity of the Nezāri Ismaʿili community worldwide.

Integrity

The serial property maintains integrity through the inclusion of seven strategically selected component parts, which together illustrate the interconnected defensive network and the political, religious, and cultural centrality of the Nezāri Ismaʿili state between the 11th and 13th centuries. The component parts include the key attributes necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property. While some outer views and valley floors have been affected by modern infrastructure and settlements, the functional relationships, intervisibility, and landscape integration of the castles remain largely intact. Archaeological work and conservation interventions at key sites, particularly at the Alamūt Castle and Lambesar Castle, have stabilised structures, supporting a coherent understanding of the defensive system as a whole.

Authenticity

The serial property retains authenticity through the original form, design, materials, techniques, location, and setting of the fortifications, as well as the spirit and feeling of the Nezāri Ismaʿili space and cultural tradition. Despite their ruined state, surviving structures, rock-cut architecture, and water management systems reflect the original construction methods and integration with the mountainous environment. Conservation and restoration have used traditional materials and techniques, while the surrounding land use and villages continue to support the sense of place.

Protection and management requirements

The serial property is safeguarded by a robust national legal framework, including heritage, civil, penal, restoration, and environmental laws, complemented by national protective designations for all component parts and buffer zones.

Management is coordinated by the Alamūt Cultural Heritage Base under the supervision of the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and is guided by a comprehensive management plan that covers research, conservation, restoration, tourism, and local community engagement. Conservation and monitoring rely on traditional techniques, ongoing archaeological investigation, and a structured multi-level system for the serial property and its buffer zones.

Continuing research-based conservation, strengthening preventive monitoring, managing visitor access in accordance with safety and heritage sensitivity, including

Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms into the management system and ensuring long-term staffing and resources, are essential for the long-term preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

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

   a) Implementing an integrated conservation and risk-preparedness strategy, addressing climate adaptation, erosion, landslides, seismic vulnerability, water management, and risks from natural disasters,

   b) Strengthening preventive conservation, including vegetation control, routine maintenance, and targeted stabilisation, while regulating access to the most fragile areas through carrying-capacity limits and distinct visitor routes,

   c) Prioritising research-based and traditional conservation methods, with thorough documentation of interventions and archaeological work,

   d) Making minor adjustments to buffer zones through a minor boundary modification request, to better protect functional and visual relationships between the fortifications and the surrounding landscape,

   e) Enhancing management of tourism and local community involvement, finalising the Sustainable Tourism Master Plan,

   f) Ensuring that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the serial property, its buffer zones and its immediate setting.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara, Japan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara are a serial property of nineteen component parts that are associated with two consecutive early capitals on the Japanese archipelago established through interchanges with kingdoms in China and the Korean Peninsula. Located in the Nara Basin, these sites attest to the formative processes of the emergence and establishment of centralised state systems in East Asia, modelled on the Chinese ritsuryo system. The capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara influenced the construction and evolution of subsequent capitals in Japan, including the Nara Capital in the 8th century and the Heian Capital in Kyoto in the 9th century.

   The layout, design, technology, and planning of the two capitals were a result of a fusion between local traditions and adoption of culture and technology from other East Asian powers. The nineteen component parts have been selected to represent three tangible and spatial dimensions of these capitals: palace/government office sites, Buddhist temple sites, and mounded tombs.

   The sites associated with the Asuka capital (588-694 CE) reflect the initial stages of the implementation of the centralised state and feature the concentration of political power

in the palace and the gradual addition of governing facilities. The Asuka-dera Temple (component part 005) was the first Buddhist temple in the Japanese archipelago and marks the introduction of Buddhism. Private temples and new types of mounded tombs began to appear in areas under the influence of powerful clans. The sites of the subsequent capital at Fujiwara (694-710 CE) represent the completion of this stage of central power development. The palace, including government offices, was positioned at the centre of the capital, with state temples and the systematic arrangement of tombs.

Criterion (ii): The layout, design, technology, and planning of the palace/government office sites, Buddhist temple sites and mounded tombs of the Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara represent an important interchange of human values with contemporary power centres in China and the Korean Peninsula, and the introduction of Buddhism to Japan. These early capitals exerted profound influences on the construction and evolution of capitals on the Japanese archipelago from the 8th century onwards.

Criterion (iii): The sites associated with the Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara form an important testimony to the cultural tradition of the formative processes of ancient capitals in East Asia based on centralised state systems through their locations, spatial layout and relationships and composition.

Integrity

The nineteen component parts that comprise the Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara contain the necessary attributes needed to represent the formation and characteristics of these early centralised state systems in the Japanese archipelago. Most of the archaeological remains are located below the ground surface. They have been well-researched and are maintained in a stable condition. The boundaries are adequate, and the single encompassing buffer zone provides an added layer of protection. Key pressures are actively managed.

Authenticity

The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are archaeological sites that were covered below the ground surface after the Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara were abandoned. Since that time, the land has been used for agriculture and the archaeological remains have a good state of conservation. The evidence of the spatial layout and configuration of the two ancient capitals is confirmed by archaeological excavations and historical literature. The sites are re-buried following archaeological excavations and above-ground representations using non-destructive methods and materials have been established to enable visualisation and interpretation.

Protection and management requirements

The Ancient Capitals of Asuka and Fujiwara are protected by law at the national and local levels. The component parts are protected either as Historic Site, Special Historic Site, or Place of Scenic Beauty under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties; or as Imperial Mausoleum under the National Property Act. Changes or developments within these areas are strictly regulated.

Protection of the buffer zone is based on the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Preservation of Historic Landscape in Ancient Capitals and the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Preservation of Historic Landscape and Improvement of Living Environment in Asuka Village. There are controls on the alteration of landforms, and on the height, colour, and design of new structures. The Scenic Zone is designated by the local government ordinance under the City Planning Act to ensure conservation of the surrounding environment. Parts of the buffer zone are directly managed by the national government as a national government park. Within the buffer zone, underground archaeological remains are protected under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties as “Land Known to Contain Buried Cultural Properties”.

There is a Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan for the serial property and buffer zone. The Asuka-Fujiwara World Heritage Council provides a coordinated management mechanism, consisting of the Nara Prefecture, Kashihara City, Sakurai City, and Asuka Village. Each component part has an individual management plan. The component parts and buffer zone are subject to systematic monitoring and daily maintenance.

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

   a) Ensuring that the importance of the Three Mountains of Yamato (Unebi, Miminashi and Kagu) to the siting of the Fujiwara capital are recognised in interpretation plans and that important visual axes are protected through viewshed analyses and Heritage Impact Assessments,

   b) Continuing scientific studies for the conservation and re-location of the significant murals that have been removed from the Kitora and Takamatsuzuka Mounded Tombs (component parts 018 and 019),

   c) Continuing needed consultation processes in order to finalise as soon as possible the designation of the Fujiwara Palace Site (component part 013) as a Historic Site,

   d) Formulating a specific risk preparedness and disaster response strategy for the serial property, for implementation through the management system,

   e) Incorporating monitoring of vibrations from nearby traffic at sites where this could be a factor impacting on their conservation,

   f) Further developing and implementing policies and plans for interpretation, building on the interpretation strategies already in place,

   g) Clarifying how the rights of local residents and the users of shrines and temples can be effectively incorporated into the management system.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Rock Mosques and Associated Sacred Sites of Mangystau, Kazakhstan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The Rock Mosques and Associated Sacred Sites of Mangystau in Kazakhstan comprise five sacred complexes carved into the landscape alongside extensive burial grounds. Dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries, Shopan-Ata, Karaman-Ata, Shakpak-Ata, Sultan-Epe, and Bekete-Ata are each associated with a Sufi master. Emerging from the nomadic traditions of the Mangystau and Ustyurt plateaus, these sites represent a culture where Islamic Sufi spirituality evolved from ancient practices of ancestor worship, landscape sacralisation, and reverence for spiritual leaders. This interaction reflects an important interchange of human values between Islamic Sufi spirituality and the cultural traditions of the Turkic nomadic communities of the Aral-Caspian region. The complexes include rock-hewn mosques, courtyards, water sources, sacred trees, pathways, and cemeteries spanning from the 10th to the 20th centuries. Locally known as “underground mosques,” these modest and architecturally diverse rock carved spaces are formed

within natural caves, steep rock faces, or excavated earth across the semi-desert Mangystau Peninsula bordering the Caspian Sea. These unique spaces range from simple structures to intricate spaces featuring prayer halls, mihrabs, contemplation rooms, multifunctional areas, and tombs of saints. Central to the property is the veneration of Sufi saints within the Yasawi Order, a tradition sustained over centuries by shirakshi (grave guardians) and ongoing pilgrimage rituals.

Criterion (ii): The Rock Mosques and Associated Sacred Sites of Mangystau exhibit an important interchange of human values over several centuries through the interaction between the Yasawi Sufi tradition and the cultural traditions of the Turkic nomadic communities of the Aral-Caspian region. This interaction gave rise to a distinctive sacred landscape tradition in which rock-cut places of worship, associated necropolises, pilgrimage routes and enduring spiritual practices were integrated with pre-existing traditions of ancestor veneration, landscape sacralization and the authority of spiritual leaders. The serial property illustrates the development of the distinctive tradition of Islamic sacred landscapes that reflects the adaptation of Islamic spirituality to the environmental, cultural and social conditions of nomadic societies.

Criterion (iii): The Rock Mosques and Associated Sacred Sites of Mangystau stand as an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition born from the integration of pre-Islamic sacred landscapes into the Sufi Islam that spread among medieval nomadic communities. The outstandingness of the property lies in the deep association of saints with the identity of local nomadic communities, the strategic use of remote and dramatic terrain to intensify the pilgrim's journey, and its enduring status as an active place of worship. Unlike the simple ascetic cells found in many religious traditions, the serial property features multi-roomed structures with distinct spatial and sensory qualities, accompanied by extensive necropolises.

The continued presence of the shirakshi, guardians who tend the graves of the saints and serve pilgrims, alongside the unbroken link to the original Sufi preachers, attests to the vitality of this tradition. The fact that pilgrims still actively perform these rituals makes the serial property an outstanding example of a living, syncretic cultural practice that has survived and thrived through the centuries.

Integrity

The five component parts collectively contain all the attributes necessary to convey in a substantial way the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property. The complexes together include exceptional examples of early sacred places composed of prayer halls, mihrabs, rooms for contemplation and self-reflection, multifunctional spaces and tombs of saints as well as pilgrimage pathways, courtyards, wells, sacred trees and necropolises.

The serial property has been the subject of important research, conservation and restoration works. There are no significant threats to its attributes, though there are potential threats such as climate change, water pollution and tourism development, which will be closely monitored.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the serial property is based on its forms, designs, materials, substance, uses, functions, locations, settings, and spirit and feeling as articulated through five component parts. The forms and designs of the underground sacred spaces and necropolises have not been significantly altered over time. Regarding the materials and substance of which they are made, the outer and inner parts of the rock-carved sacred spaces as well as some gravestones have been consolidated and strengthened or reconstructed using both traditional and contemporary materials and methods. Their uses and functions in relation to religious practices and traditions have been maintained. The location of each component part has not been changed, and each setting is largely

intact. Finally, the spirit and feeling of the serial property has been maintained. The serial property has been the subject of credible research since the 1950s.

Conservation and maintenance works are carried out with appropriate skills and expertise, however some reconstructions, conservation interventions and contemporary adaptations have impacted the authenticity of the serial property. Continuation of such approaches may seriously undermine in the future the authenticity of the serial property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

Protection and management requirements

The legal protection of the serial property is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and is regulated by the Law on Culture (2006), the Law on the Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Heritage Sites (2019), the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Architectural, Urban Planning, and Construction Activities (2001), the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 211-II on Tourism Activities (2001), the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on State Registration of Rights to Real Estate (2024), and other acts. All the component parts, including the rock-carved sacred spaces and the associated necropolises, are on the State List of Historical and Cultural Monuments of Republican Significance as unified historical ensembles and complexes of monuments. The boundaries of the protection zones, the zones of regulated development, and the zones of protected natural landscapes have been determined and approved for the component parts of the series by a Resolution of the Akimat of Mangystau Oblast dated 22 July 2025.

All five component parts of the property are state-owned. Their current management system is a result of cooperation between national-level authorities and local-level administrative units. The main authority responsible for the conservation, management and monitoring of the component parts is the Department of Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Committee of Culture under the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the regional level, they are under the direct management of the Mangystau State Historical and Cultural Reserve of the Department of Culture of the Mangystau Region (Museum Reserve).

The serial property is also the subject of traditional management. Shirakshi, who are traditional keepers of religious identity, look after the rock-carved sacred places and the necropolises adjoining them, thus playing an essential role in management and conservation. The management system ensures the recognition of local communities and guarantees the integration of spiritual practices and their associated codes of conduct into the protection system.

An Integrated Management Plan for 2027-2032, the development of which was launched in 2026, includes five sectoral strategies concerning conservation, natural landscape, visitor management, disaster risk management, and research. It also introduces a landscape approach to the protection and management of the component parts individually and collectively.

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

   a) Further completing the establishment of the legal protection and other regulatory mechanisms for the revised buffer zones, according to the proposed calendar,

   b) Developing and implementing a conservation strategy that includes inventories and proper documentation of all the attributes of the component parts of the serial property,

   c) Re-evaluating the current conservation technique involving the use of cement mortar and other contemporary materials and carrying out further research to ensure appropriate conservation techniques are being used,

d) Further developing and implementing the Integrated Management Plan for 2027-2032 that introduces a landscape approach to the conservation and management of the serial property,

e) Ensuring that the full range of factors affecting or potentially affecting the serial property, including, inter alia, earthquakes, unauthorised archaeological activities, are subjected to appropriate monitoring,

f) Further developing the monitoring framework to include all current and potential factors affecting the serial property, including development and tourism pressures,

g) Developing and implementing a comprehensive interpretation and presentation strategy for the serial property, including visitor management,

h) Upgrading tourist and pilgrim facilities as part of the conservation and management plans or strategies,

i) Developing and implementing appropriate mechanisms that preserve the intimate and secluded nature of the component parts of the serial property whilst maintaining all aspects of its traditional management,

j) Deepening the knowledge of the relationships between the rock-carved spaces, necropolises and nomadic movements and cultures in order to better understand how the Sufi masters engaged with the beliefs of nomad communities and how this engagement is manifested in the material culture and traditions,

k) Ensuring that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the serial property, its buffer zones and its immediate settings.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**, in order to allow the States Parties, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

   a) Substantially revise the justification for the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated serial property to clearly define the distinctiveness of this Corridor of the Silk Roads, including the potential importance of river transportation, responses to the changing course of the Syrdarya River, and the ways in which it developed in cultural, political and geographical terms in response to the Silk Roads trade and the interface between nomadic and settled communities,

   b) Develop a revised comparative analysis, undertake a reassessment of the selection of the component parts across the territories of the four States Parties in order to present a nominated serial property that aligns with the revised justification for the potential Outstanding Universal Value,

   c) Reconsider the relative strengths of the selected criteria and present a more focused justification on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iii), and possibly also criterion (v) (if the selected component parts can justify it more fully) that can be coherently demonstrated across the full extent of the transnational series,

d) Reconsider the delineation of the boundaries and buffer zones of the revised selection of component parts to ensure that the boundaries are manageable and adequately reflect the proposed attributes, and that the buffer zones provide an adequate added layer of protection, as well as to ensure the fragmentation of larger sites into several component parts,

e) Improve the documentation of the nominated property, as regards the mapping of the routes, clear framing of the chronologies affecting the region and deepened description of how each component part contributes to the specific characteristics of the Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor, as well as to achieve a consistent standard across the entire nominated serial property (including plans and elevations of structures and geophysical recording of unexcavated areas), providing a useable baseline for future monitoring and conservation,

f) Clarify the intentions by the four States Parties and rationale for any planned future extensions to the nominated property, the contributions to these extensions to the potential Outstanding Universal Value as well as the relationships with the other selected component parts and the reasons why these sites are not selected as component parts in the revised nomination,

g) Strengthen the transnational management system by developing an overarching management plan that establishes policies, actions and timeframes for the areas where a harmonised approach is needed, including: conservation of archaeological sites and buildings; interpretation of the nominated Corridor; design of protective shelters/canopies; capacity building; promotion of sustainable tourism; templates for risk management plans and individual site management plans; and Heritage Impact Assessment methodologies;

3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;

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

a) Addressing urgent conservation priorities, including the consolidation of archaeological materials and standing structures, and the filling of archaeological excavations,

b) Developing and implementing Heritage Impact Assessment processes for development proposals, including planned restoration or reconstruction projects, in each of the four States Parties,

c) Developing conservation and management plans for each of the component parts,

d) Developing a transnational research plan for the nominated serial property,

e) Fully implementing the monitoring systems and working toward a more consistent transnational monitoring approach,

f) Developing and implementing a transnational interpretation strategy that presents the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated Corridor and the individual component parts in a coherent and coordinated manner;

5. Notes that ICOMOS remains available to provide advice, should the States Parties wish to seek such guidance.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Cemetery Complexes of the Xiongnu Nobility, Mongolia,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

This serial property comprises eight funerary complexes of the Xiongnu nobility. The Xiongnu, ancient predecessors of a confederation of Eurasian nomadic peoples, established a powerful empire between the 3rd century BCE and the 2nd century CE that occupied a vast territory centred on what is now the modern state of Mongolia. They interacted with the Han Chinese and controlled nodes along the main parts of the Steppe Route of the Silk Roads. Among the numerous archaeological traces throughout the area occupied by the empire are their cemeteries, which provide insights into their burial culture. Of substantial size and depth, the main burials are accompanied by satellite graves (with small ring-shaped mounds) as well as sacrificial structures (lines of stone pairs). A wide range of artefacts found in the tombs, including horse tack and chariots as well as weapons, tools and food for the afterlife, provides a window into the Xiongnu way of life and social structure. The tombs of their nobility highlight the engineering and organisational skills of this mainly nomadic culture.

Criterion (iii): The Cemetery Complexes of the Xiongnu Nobility testify in an exceptional way to the extinct Xiongnu funerary culture. They provide insights into the burial customs, rituals, established traditions and tomb construction of the nomadic Xiongnu nobles. Even though there exists already more than a century of research on these tombs, much about the Xiongnu funerary culture, with its burial customs and rituals, is still unknown or not well understood. These tombs with their deep burial chambers, satellite graves and sacrificial structures, as well as with their rich offerings, make the serial property an exceptional testimony to the extinct Xiongnu funerary culture. The serial property is an exceptional expression of, and the richest source of insight into, the functioning of this culture of the Central Asian Steppe.

Integrity

Each one of the eight component parts contributes to the series in a substantial way. Together, they represent the regional characteristics of Xiongnu tombs across the administrative and territorial divisions of the Xiongnu empire. They also cover the chronological span of the Xiongnu empire, and include examples of different expressions of the Xiongnu funerary culture, thus constituting a representational sample of Xiongnu cemetery complexes.

The conditions of integrity of the individual tombs are adequate, though it has been affected by acts of looting that caused some destruction. Of the thirty-nine excavated tombs, thirty-eight were disturbed. However, even the disturbed tombs provide important insights into the Xiongnu funerary culture and offer valuable artefacts that throw light on the social dimension of Xiongnu society and their beliefs. It is of note that the state of underground vestiges that have never been excavated is to a large extent unconfirmed. Apart from the looting, other factors potentially affecting the property are adequately controlled.

The boundaries of each component part are sufficiently large in order to contain all the known attributes and convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The study

of the relationship of the funerary complexes with their wider setting will enhance the integrity of the property.

Authenticity

The component parts preserve the original forms and layouts of the different funerary structures, as well as their original locations. The remoteness of most of the component parts as well as the slow soil formation processes in Mongolia have helped to minimise changes to their settings.

The archaeological contexts have suffered the usual changes due to decomposition of organic materials and movements of the soil. Old methods of post-excavation backfilling might have also led to some disturbances.

Protection and management requirements

The serial property is legally protected at both national and provincial levels. All of the component parts are under the jurisdiction of the State Party. Except for the Cemetery Complex of the Xiongnu Nobility at Chikhertiin Zoo (component part 1), all the sites are included in the List of Immovable Historical and Cultural Heritage Properties under State, Provincial and Local Protection (2020). Local authorities are legally responsible for the protection of the sites. Relevant national laws protecting cultural heritage include the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia (2015), the Law on Special Protected Areas of Mongolia (1994), and the Law on Buffer Zones of Protected Areas (1997).

A World Heritage Protection Administration, modelled after the Noyon Uul Special Protection Administration that was established for the Noyon Uul Protected Area in 2024, will be created. This management structure will implement the management plan for The Cemetery Complexes of the Xiongnu Nobility in cooperation with the Special Protection Administration of the Noyon Uul Protected Area, and the Mongolian National Committee for World Heritage will provide the World Heritage Protection Administration with professional guidance and recommendations.

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

   a) Ensuring the operationalisation of the World Heritage Protection Administration management structure as soon as possible, as well as the direct involvement the local community,

   b) Updating, approving and implementing the management plan, and extending it to include a strategic vision centred around the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property,

   c) Developing a conservation strategy in conformity with international standards, for example for the post-excavation treatment of the tombs or their presentation to visitors,

   d) Examining the plan to displace herder families who live near the cemetery complexes in light of their rights and needs, and the advantages of their presence as collaborators and guardians,

   e) Placing markers on the ground to help identify the boundaries of the component parts and their respective buffer zones,

   f) Investigating the relationship of the funerary complexes with their wider setting, in order to explore, among other issues, the need to readjust the boundaries of the component parts through minor boundary modification requests,

   g) Designing indicators to measure and assess the state of conservation of the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value, including environmental factors that could have an impact on these attributes,

   h) Improving security at the sites to avoid looting and other anthropogenic impacts,

i) Developing the visitor information and infrastructure at the component parts and establishing their carrying capacity before promoting the sites as tourism destinations,

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 serial property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan (or Phra Mahathat monastery) is a Theravada Buddhist monastery located in the Nakhon Si Thammarat Province in Peninsular Thailand, a crucial trade crossroad between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Founded in the 8th century, where a Hindu shrine once stood (5th-8th centuries), the monastery has been a regional religious centre ever since. The complex is centred on the Great Reliquary of Buddha in the form of a mandala (Buddhavasa), flanked by the residential quarters of the monks (Sanghavasa) to the north and south according to the Tipiṭaka (Pali Canon). It comprises religious buildings, including the Great Reliquary with satellite stupas, various functional structures, two Bodhi tree shrines and the sacred Crystal Beach, on which the monastery is built, as well as residential buildings in the monastery.

Bearing witness to the fusion of Brahmanism, Hinduism and the Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism of South and Southeast Asia, the combined artistic and architectural expressions found at Wat Phra Mahathat, imbued with local and religious traditions, had a lasting influence on building construction in the region.

Criterion (ii): Wat Phra Mahathat is an exceptional testament to the interchange of human values. The Great Reliquary demonstrates the influence of Brahmanism, Hinduism and the Mahayana and Theravada schools of Buddhism, originating from Pala art in Nalanda, Central Javanese art, Sri Lankan art and Mon art from southern Myanmar. In turn, the combined architectural style of the Great Reliquary has exerted a profound influence on subsequent religious buildings in Thailand, Malaysia and beyond.

Criterion (vi): As the testimony to diverse belief systems and the spiritual centre of Nakhon Si Thammarat, Wat Phra Mahathat is the heart of living religious traditions with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance, such as the Nora dance drama and the local chronicles. These traditions vividly represent the relationships between this sacred site and its surrounding communities and inspired other monasteries and communities in Thailand and beyond.

Integrity

The boundaries of the property follow the outline of Wat Phra Mahathat, which is large enough to include all the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value. The mandala plan of the Great Reliquary complex, the Tipikata layout of the monastery, all the religious buildings and the Crystal Beach on which the monastery was established,

are all included in the property. Important views and settings are protected by the buffer zone. The property is in a good state of conservation, and well-maintained by the monastery and local communities, as well as relevant authorities. The modern urban development has no negative impact on the area inside the monastery, and all factors affecting the property are under control.

Authenticity

The property retains a high level of authenticity in terms of location, function, form, materials, traditions, and spirit. The location and function of the monastery remain unchanged since its establishment in the 8th century. The layouts of the Great Reliquary and the monastery have been authentically preserved. The forms and traces of architectural and artistic expressions of different origins since the 8th century have been preserved at the Great Reliquary stupa. Traditional materials and techniques have been used in the past restorations, which preserved the original forms of religious buildings. The living Bodhi trees testify to the authentic roots of their origin. The sacred sand ground is still preserved. The Phra Mahathat Monastery is still active, continuing its associated traditions.

Protection and management requirements

The property is inscribed on the List of National Ancient Monuments and has been registered in the Royal Gazette in 1936 and 2024. It is protected under the Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums (currently under revision) and the Sangha Act, which both provide the highest level of protection at the national level. The buffer zone covers the important views and settings and is protected by a comprehensive framework of legislations and planning regulations at the provincial and municipality levels. Within the buffer zone, a height control zone has been demarcated for protecting the important views.

The management framework comprises institutions from national, provincial and municipal levels, and is featured by a combination of traditional and State management, with active participation of local communities. The management activities are guided by the Management Plan of Wat Phra Mahathat (2026-2030) and are supported by the Disaster and Human-Induced Risk Management Plan for the Cultural World Heritage Site, Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand, as well as Tourism Management Plan for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan (2026-2030) developed specially for the monastery.

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

   a) Completing the process of adoption of the revised buffer zone and providing updated figures and maps, as well as information on the associated legal provisions,

   b) Finalise the revision of the 1990 conservation guidelines following the approval of the amended Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums,

   c) Continuing the digitisation process of buildings, archival materials and monastery collections,

   d) Conducting a structural stability analysis and a conservation study of the internal walls and foundations of the Pho Langka Vihara, and restoration of the statues in the vihara,

   e) Analysing and documenting the structural system of the circumambulatory path and the columns supporting the roof of Thap Kaset Vihara,

   f) Developing a conservation strategy for the long-term conservation of the religious buildings in the monastery,

g) Designing a research plan to understand the extent of the sacred Hindu place beneath the present monastery in order to inform the historical evolution of its territory,

h) Developing protection measures for the intangible heritage and practices associated with the monastery;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2029,** for review by ICOMOS, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Tashkent Modernist Architecture. Modernity and Tradition in Central Asia, Uzbekistan**, 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

Tashkent Modernist Architecture. Modernity and Tradition in Central Asia outstandingly reflects the confluence of socialist urban planning, modernist architectural innovation, and the craftsmanship of the region in the 1960s-1990s.

The ten component parts in Tashkent demonstrate how international modernist principles were adapted to incorporate traditional spatial practices and artistic culture of Uzbekistan.

The 1966 earthquake accelerated the modernisation of Tashkent, which had been initiated under the Russian Administration and continued after its designation as the capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic in 1930. A General Plan emphasizing socialist urbanism, green spaces, and modern housing fostered the widespread adoption of innovative materials and technologies, including seismic-resistant designs and climate-responsive solutions, which blended prefabrication with artisanal craftsmanship. Architects from both Moscow and Tashkent design institutes embraced elements of Central Asian architecture, including courtyards, loggias, and traditional geometric motifs, blending them with the focus of Soviet modernism on functionality. The serial property exceptionally reflects this hybrid approach to design, where international and local influences converged to create powerful architectural foci that shaped the urban form of modernist Tashkent, incorporating functional zoning and typologies, large public spaces, and monumental art that conveyed socialist narratives whilst celebrating the heritage of Uzbekistan.

Criterion (iv): Tashkent Modernist Architecture. Modernity and Tradition in Central Asia outstandingly illustrates developments in architecture and urban planning during the final three decades of Soviet socialism. Designed as prominent nodes within the city, the component parts, consciously combining modernist themes and aspirations with reinterpreted local motifs and building patterns, formed cohesive ensembles that shaped the form and identity of the city, integrated with the urban fabric, served as landmarks, and enhanced urban perspectives. The serial property exemplifies the combination of Soviet standardisation and site-specific designs. Monumental art further enriched its expression, blending abstract aesthetics with ideological themes of progress and cultural identity. The serial property is one of the finest examples of architectural and urban

design, reflecting, in an exceptional and specific manner, the broader movement of "localised modernism" that spread across the Soviet realm, developed within the cultural and climatic environment of Central Asia.

Integrity

The serial property retains a high level of integrity, and comprises all key attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value. It reflects the significant architectural, cultural, and urban aspects of the period from the 1960s to the 1990s through a diverse range of functions, scales, designs, and technologies, capturing the innovative and socio-political context of the modernisation of the city. Although minor modifications have been made to meet contemporary needs, they are carefully controlled and generally do not affect the overall coherence of the property, except for the State Museum of Art, whose exterior requires urgent restoration.

Overall, the architectural and urban integrity of the serial property is well maintained, preserving physical and visual relationships among its component parts. Despite pressures from urban growth, it remains coherent and continues to express its Outstanding Universal Value as a testament to the innovation and experimentation of mid- to late-20th century urbanism and architecture.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the serial property is expressed through its form and design, its materials, its use and function, as well as its location and setting, with each component part contributing specific attributes. Most buildings have retained their original design, with modifications generally limited to functional or reversible changes that preserve the clarity of the original concepts. Their continued use for residential, cultural, educational, or research purposes reinforces their authenticity by maintaining the intended relationship between architecture and users. Key materials, finishes, and decorative elements have largely been preserved, with necessary replacements limited to maintenance, while less critical elements have been more extensively renewed for efficiency and conservation. The component parts remain integral landmarks within the urban fabric of Tashkent, with their locations, settings, and visual relationships intact.

Overall, the authenticity of the serial property lies in its ability to maintain original design intent, materiality, and functional integrity while adapting to changing needs, allowing these buildings to remain both architectural landmarks and active participants in the urban life, reflecting its modernist heritage.

Protection and management requirements

All the component parts included in the serial property are recognised as objects of cultural heritage of national significance and are thus subjected to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Sites (Law no. 269-II of 30 August 2001). This law regulates the protection and use of cultural heritage, defining preservation interventions and measures, such as registration in the State Cadastre of Cultural Heritage Sites, definition of buffer zones, scientific research, and monitoring.

The Cultural Heritage Agency, supported by its Scientific Expert Council and Cultural Heritage Fund, oversees heritage protection and provides scientific expertise, including project authorisations, and policymaking in the heritage field, ensuring compliance with international obligations for heritage protection, monitoring, and economic resources for conservation. The Urban Planning Code (23 May 2021) mandates that master plans consider historical and protected areas, as reflected in the current master plan for Tashkent City (25 December 2024), which designates the areas containing the component parts as subject to conservation.

Specialised measures for the serial property, including enhanced monitoring, stricter buffer zone regulations, educational programmes, international cooperation, and management plan development, will strengthen its protection and management effectiveness.

The management structure is centred around the Tashkent Modernist Architecture Expert Council, a collaborative platform for coordinating stakeholders that brings together all the managers of each component part. The Art and Culture Development Foundation acts as the “Joint Manager” and coordinating entity among stakeholders.

Key to preserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property is respect for visual relationships, corridors, skyline compositions, landscaping, and vegetation within the broader setting.

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

   a) Approving the enlarged buffer zones with the associated regulations as soon as possible, based on the implementation calendar provided by the State Party, including their boundaries in the State Cadastre, and earmarking them also in the cartographic documentation of the master plan for Tashkent City,

   b) Integrating the outcomes of the visual study into the 2024 master plan as soon as possible, alongside appropriate regulatory measures,

   c) Ensuring a temporary moratorium on new construction within the planned buffer zones and the visually sensitive areas until the enlarged buffer zones and their regulations are approved, and the master plan is integrated with provisions for viewsheds,

   d) Reinforcing the regulatory regimes for conservation and reconstruction zones included in the 2024 master plan by implementing stricter, clearer protection regimes and integrating Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms into the master plan, based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,

   e) Suspending the implementation of approved projects that, for their location, size and design, might have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property until Heritage Impact Assessments are carried out and measures to remove, reduce or mitigate potential negative impacts are incorporated into the implementation of such projects,

   f) Further developing the monitoring system to explicitly encompass all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property,

   g) Developing an ad hoc risk management framework to be integrated into the management system,

   h) Developing a specific sustainable tourism management plan for the serial property focused on the long-term preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the overall significance and character of Tashkent as a modernist city,

   i) Continuing participatory workshops and meetings with local actors to enhance their capacity to participate in management processes and build a culture of community participation in heritage conservation and promotion,

   j) Considering submitting a significant boundary modification request, as envisaged by the State Party, to include the Tashkent TV Tower, the Hotel Uzbekistan and the Palace of Aviation Constructors in the serial property and developing a roadmap with timeframes for this submission;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2027**, for review by ICOMOS, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

New Nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Aalto Works, Finland,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Aalto Works comprise thirteen modern buildings and building ensembles designed between 1928 and 1988 by Alvar Aalto in collaboration with his first spouse Aino Marsio-Aalto and second spouse Elissa Aalto, as well as the employees of the Aalto studio (1923-1994) and Artek (founded 1935), their affiliated interior design and furnishings company. Located in both urban and rural areas of Finland, the serial property bears witness to the application of global principles of the 20th-century Modern Movement, as a response to new societal and universal needs.

Strongly rooted in local building traditions, the Aalto Works are characterised by a comprehensive and individualistic design approach driven by an empathetic, site-specific, and human-centred vision, where each project is unique and responds to specific programmatic requirements. The serial property showcases the Aaltos' experiments in construction technology, architectural aesthetics, spatial sequences, lighting, and the use of both natural and industrial materials. Each building is carefully integrated into its surroundings. This synthetic design approach also encompassed interior design, merging industrial elements with local traditional materials. Most of the buildings still feature their original collections of furniture and lighting designed by the Aalto studio.

Criterion (ii): Through an organic functionalist approach, the Aalto Works adapted global Modern Movement ideas to local contexts, seamlessly integrating exteriors with interiors and harmonising with their settings. This architecture offers an outstanding response to universal societal needs, prioritising citizen well-being throughout the modernisation process. By bridging modern concepts with building traditions, the collective design approach introduced a new language of form, materiality, and production methods, executed with exceptional sensitivity, simplicity, and integrity.

Integrity

The serial property contains all the necessary attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value, including structures, features, and spaces created by the Aalto studio. These elements best illustrate the integration of a new international architectural language with traditional local ideas, driving the modernisation of the 20th-century society through a sensitive, human-centred approach to architecture and design.

All component parts are in a good state of conservation. They remain largely unchanged since construction and, in the majority of cases, retain their original relationship with their associated landscapes and settings. Most interiors still feature significant original fittings and furniture. Furthermore, many buildings continue to serve their original purpose or have been adapted for sympathetic functions. None of the component parts currently suffer from the adverse effects of development or neglect. The Paimio Sanatorium (component part 02) is vulnerable in terms of ensuring its continued appropriate use and requires significant conservation efforts; however, measures have been put in place to mitigate potential losses.

Authenticity

The serial property demonstrates a high degree of authenticity, both as a whole and at the level of each component part. Conservation efforts and management of each component part have ensured that the authenticity of their forms and designs is sustained. A minimal-intervention approach and a firm commitment to preserving original materials and finishes have resulted in a remarkably high level of material authenticity across most component parts. In some instances, previous alterations that compromised design authenticity have been reversed through recent conservation projects. The majority of the buildings retain their original uses and functions, or have been converted for purposes compatible with their original purpose. All component parts remain in their original location, maintaining their relationships with their settings, landscape features, and significant views.

Each component part has been thoroughly documented, researched, inventoried, and described in statutory and planning documents. The Alvar Aalto Archives serve as a vital resource for the ongoing understanding and stewardship of the serial property. Furthermore, the Alvar Aalto Foundation safeguards the material and intellectual legacy of the studio, providing expert assistance for the repair and maintenance of buildings and sites designed by the Aaltos.

Protection and management requirements

The legal protection of the property falls under several regulatory frameworks and all thirteen component parts have been granted legal protection under national laws. It is based primarily on the Act on the Protection of the Built Heritage (498/2010), the Land Use and Building Act (132/1999) separated into the Land Use Act and the Building Act in 2025, and the Church Act (1054/1993). It protects historic buildings and their fixed interiors, groups of buildings, and their surroundings of national significance while the land use regulations promote sustainable development and ensures public participation in planning through planning mechanisms, including zoning as well as impact assessments required in land-use and development processes. It also embraces measures to protect Built Cultural Heritage Sites of National Significance, including those under the World Heritage Convention. The Church Act protects the relevant ecclesiastical buildings, interiors and art.

The management of the property combines existing and new arrangements and will be organised on two levels: at the local level, for the management of the individual component parts; and at the national level, for the management, coordination and supervision of the serial property as a whole. A coordinated management system will be established through the appointment of a site manager, a coordinating management body and thirteen local management bodies. The management, conservation and research activities relating to the property are facilitated by the work of the Finnish Heritage Agency as well as by the Alvar Aalto Foundation. The Aalto Works Management Plan was developed in a participatory process and provides management arrangements, identifies issues and sets management objectives for the series as a whole, and for each individual component part. Heritage Impact Assessment procedures are implemented

for any project likely to have an impact on a protected national monument, including World Heritage properties.

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

   a) Further refining the attributes to make them more operational for management purposes by identifying specific physical qualities, material fabric, tangible features, and relevant intangible aspects (such as processes, social arrangements, or cultural practices), as well as interactions between them,

   b) Securing founds for maintenance and conservation interventions until a compatible use for the Paimio Sanatorium (component part 002) and all its features is found and established,

   c) Adopting a maintenance and development strategy for secondary facilities, as well as for areas or buildings not considered as supporting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, whether designed by the Aalto studio or not,

   d) Completing the formal designation process of buffer zones into planning documents as soon as possible, to ensure that they provide an effective added layer of protection to the property,

   e) Further developing through participatory processes, and putting into place management coordination structures and mechanisms for both individual component parts and the serial property as a whole,

   f) Continuing to develop and update the Aalto Works Management Plan for the property as well as the individual plans for the component parts, and ensuring their implementation,

   g) Further developing the monitoring framework to include clear monitoring indicators, including those supporting protection of interiors, and all current and potential factors affecting the property, such as, among others, development and tourism pressures,

   h) Developing and implementing a comprehensive interpretation and presentation strategy, including visitor management,

   i) Ensuring that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the property, its buffer zones and its immediate settings and that its procedures are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Beaches of the D-Day Landings, Normandy, 1944, France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   On 6 June 1944, Operation Neptune, the first phase of Operation Overlord, conceived to open a new Western European Front during the Second World War against the forces of

the Third Reich, was launched from beaches on the Normandy coast that have come to be known as the Beaches of the D-Day Landings.

Along with the military action and human sacrifice on multiple fronts in Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and the Pacific, the Normandy Landings was one of the decisive moments in the Second World War, when after years of planning, seventeen allied nations collaborated in military, logistical, political, and moral resources as part of a concerted plan to overcome a regime of conquest and genocide.

The serial property, comprising six component parts, commemorates the way years of planning and alliance-building culminated in collective, multinational, logistical and military efforts that marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War in Western Europe, ultimately contributing to the toppling of a totalitarian regime and paving the way for reconstruction, reconciliation, and a renewed commitment to collective security.

The Beaches of the D-Day Landings also embody, symbolise, and evoke memories of the immense human sacrifice made to begin to break the entrenched authoritarian regime of the Third Reich that occupied most of Europe in the mid-20th century.

The landing operations, launched on 6 June 1944, took place on five beaches (from west to east): Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach and Sword Beach, as well as at Pointe du Hoc, the sixth amphibious assault site, constituting altogether the component parts of the serial property. Each site still bears the traces of the event.

The serial property contains many tangible attributes: the beaches themselves, the five landing sites of 6 June 1944, and an amphibious assault site; remains of the most remarkable structures illustrating the logistical efforts made to ensure the success of Operation Neptune, particularly the artificial harbour known as Mulberry B; remains of the defensive system or “Atlantic Wall” that the Allies faced; traces left by the confrontation in the landscape, deliberately preserved as a reminder of the event; memorial sites created since 1944; memorial monuments, and finally, the American Military Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, built in the immediate vicinity of Omaha Beach. They also contain intangible attributes, memories of the event to which they are intrinsically linked, having acquired strong symbolic significance.

In paying tribute to the victims of the confrontation, the Beaches of the D-Day Landings have also become a place of reconciliation between former belligerents.

Criterion (vi): The Beaches of the D-Day Landings, Normandy, 1944 are a site of memory directly and materially associated with the event known as the “Normandy Landings”, which took place in 1944 during the Second World War. Operation Neptune, launched on 6 June 1944 on the Normandy coast, was the first phase of Operation Overlord, designed to open a new front in Western Europe against the troops of the Third Reich, one of the decisive moments in the Second World War, which marked the beginning of the end of the war in Western Europe.

The Beaches of the D-Day Landings outstandingly and tangibly embody, symbolically commemorate and evoke memories of the concerted, multinational collaboration and coordination of logistical and military efforts, and the immense human sacrifice required to break an entrenched authoritarian occupation in Europe in the mid-20th century and paved the way for reconstruction, reconciliation, and a renewed commitment to collective security.

Integrity

The serial property includes all the component parts necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value, particularly its associative value. The series incorporates the beaches themselves, as landing and amphibious assault sites on 6 June 1944; remains of the logistical facilities used for the offensive; remains of the defensive system or “Atlantic Wall” that the Allies faced; traces left by the confrontation in the landscape, deliberately

preserved; commemorative sites; memorial monuments; and finally, a military cemetery that provides a representation of other military cemeteries. The individual integrity of each component part varies, but all nevertheless present a sufficient set of attributes to fully express the associative value of the serial property. The landscape integrity of the serial property, although vulnerable, can be described as satisfactory as it is adequately preserved despite pressures, including urban and tourism development on some component parts. Threats related to the natural evolution of the coastline and from facilities supporting the transition to renewable energy should also be closely monitored.

Authenticity

The serial property retains a set of attributes which authentically attest to the site of memory associated with the event known as the "Normandy Landings". Historical knowledge of the context and course of the operation, as well as the defensive and offensive systems, is well established. This high level of knowledge contributes to the appreciation of the authenticity of the remains left behind by Operation Neptune on the beaches of Normandy. Most of the materials comprising the component parts have been affected, both by human intervention – in particular cleaning and the recovery of materials, which became unavoidable following the events – and by natural erosion. However, the remaining traces have been preserved without the need for any significant intervention to restore them. The defensive elements damaged by the fighting were deliberately preserved as they were. The authenticity of the immediate landscape setting is generally good, despite occasional alterations and some evolution due to natural and human factors. Overall, the tangible and intangible attributes of the serial property retain their ability to evoke memories of the scope and sacrifices of the confrontation, but they are vulnerable to the cumulative change that could impact on this ability.

Protection and management requirements

The entire perimeters of the serial property and its extensive buffer zone (comprising a maritime area and a terrestrial area) are protected by a wide range of measures, in particular under national legislation governed by the Heritage Code, the Environment Code and the Urban Planning Code, as well as the Littoral Law. Safeguarding and conservation of tangible and intangible attributes are also ensured by a diversity of administrative and protected-area mechanisms relating to heritage, nature, landscapes, or biodiversity, such as regulatory mechanisms (e.g. historic monuments or nature reserves); land acquisition; contractual protection (e.g. Natura 2000); and international conventions (e.g. Ramsar Convention). In addition, the maritime portion of the property, located on the foreshore and in the territorial waters, forms part of the Public Maritime Domain (DPM), which is inalienable and imprescriptible. Furthermore, underwater remains benefits from heritage status under the Maritime Cultural Property (BCM) designation, that prevents unauthorised removal. Finally, spatial organisation documents such as Territorial Coherence Schemes (SCoT) and Local Urban Plans (PLU(i)) play an important role in enhancing the protection of the serial property and ensuring that the buffer zone effectively provides an added layer of protection.

The implementation of a new governance improving the management of the serial property and its buffer zone, while respecting the responsibilities and duties of each managing body, will further enhance the protection of the serial property and its attributes. The governance system for the serial property is structured around the decision-making body (Steering Committee, which will become Property Committee), the consultative body (Territorial Conference), the expert body (Interpretation Committee) and the advisory body (International Scientific Council). The operational implementation of the management of the serial property will be entrusted to the Local Management Committees, with support from an operational task force.

Challenges related to the preservation of the serial property are addressed through a number of actions detailed in the management plan. The continuing role of the serial

property in education, youth engagement, and multinational commemoration is crucial to ensure that it reflects international collaboration and responsibility.

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

   a) Strengthening heritage protection for all component parts not yet covered by such designations,

   b) Reinforcing protection mechanisms within the buffer zone, particularly where only planning tools apply, by defining and integrating clear objectives for safeguarding attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its landscape setting into management and planning instruments,

   c) Developing a coherent overall conservation strategy that covers all the attributes,

   d) Deepening the analysis of landscape attributes and their role in sustaining the memorial and associative dimensions of the Outstanding Universal Value,

   e) Establishing systematic monitoring of all the attributes, especially fragile and rapidly deteriorating ones,

   f) Developing a fully-fledged interpretation strategy based on the Outstanding Universal Value to ensure a consistent and unified approach across the serial property,

   g) Developing strategies to manage increasing visitor pressure and prevent damage to attributes and the sense of place,

   h) Maintaining ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders and strengthening awareness-raising efforts among local actors and communities,

   i) Ensuring that the offshore wind farm under construction in the buffer zone is dismantled at the end of its concession (2057) and that the site is restored to its original condition,

   j) Ensuring that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the serial property, its buffer zone and its immediate setting, with a particular focus on renewable energy projects in the buffer zone and wider setting,

   k) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The System of Fortresses of the Seneschalty of Carcassonne (13th-14th centuries), France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The regional defensive fortification system established by the Capetian kings in the 13th-14th centuries in the former seneschalty of Carcassonne, in the Occitanie region,

consisted of twenty-two fortresses built to protect the seneschal's headquarters at Carcassonne, secure newly annexed lands, monitor the border with the Kingdom of Aragon, safeguard economic resources and control key communication routes, as well as assert royal power in the region through monumental architecture. This serial property, composed of eight component parts, comprises a representative sample of this system and includes the Carcassonne Castle with its double concentric ramparts, which served as the administrative and military centre of the seneschalty, as well as an ensemble of watchmen fortresses built in a relatively short span of time under royal supervision in a rugged topography.

The system of the fortresses of the seneschalty of Carcassonne, stylistically consistent, was designed based on the Capetian military architecture models, developed for the plains of Ile-de-France and adapted to the rocky topography of the Montagne Noire and the Pyrenean foothills. The serial property represents a compelling example of this defensive architecture, which served as a political tool to project the growing, centralised and divinely sanctioned power of the French monarchy, part of a larger movement towards assertion of sovereign powers that marked 13th-century Europe.

Criterion (iv): A centrally commanded territorial defensive ensemble with shared architectural language and military functions, The System of Fortresses of the Seneschalty of Carcassonne is an exceptional example of the highly standardised Capetian military architecture carefully adapted to the difficult topography of the territory in which it was implanted. As the only coherent fortification system built by the Capetian kings, it testifies to the strengthening and considerable expansion of the Capetian dynasty power in France in the 13th-14th centuries, marking the political shift from feudal fragmentation to the emergence of a strong centralised monarchy.

Integrity

The serial property includes a coherent and well-preserved selection of mountain fortresses and their administrative centre (Carcassonne Castle) which are representative of the fortification system of the seneschalty of Carcassonne. The component parts fit together in a clear manner, and each contributes individually to the series through specific designs and adaptations, demonstrating diversity of technical solutions in architectural landscape integration.

All the mountain fortresses (component parts 02 to 08) are ruined to a different degree, which is a result of the historical process. They have not undergone major transformations that would significantly alter their structures. The Castle of Carcassonne and its ramparts (component part 01) display major reconstructions undertaken in the 19th century. The landscape setting of the watchmen fortresses (component parts 02 to 08) has been well preserved; their strategic location on hills that provided visibility over vast territories is still perfectly evident. In the case of the Castle of Carcassonne and its ramparts (component part 01), the rural landscape persists in places, but residential buildings and industrial settlements have also developed in the immediate vicinity. The integrity of the serial property is not threatened by immediate risks.

Authenticity

The component parts display truthfully the defining vocabulary of Capetian military architecture, while their placement demonstrates its adaptability to challenging topography.

Scientific research in recent years has clarified the distinction between the 13th- and 14th-century sections and the 19th-century sections of the Castle of Carcassonne and its ramparts (component part 01). There is now sufficient evidence to confirm that the majority of the structures of this component part date back to the fortifications built by the Capetian kings to defend the seneschalty. Tourism infrastructure created at the site has nonetheless had an impact on the perception of the historic fabric. The other

fortresses (component parts 02 to 08) maintain their original designs while displaying imposing ruins that still convey the nature and qualities of the 13th-14th century Capetian military architecture. Located in rugged terrain in rural landscapes, they attract slow and contemplative tourism.

Protection and management requirements

All component parts are legally protected at the highest level as historic monuments, together with their immediate surroundings, which also benefit from protection as registered or listed natural sites. Protection of the buffer zones in ensured through a mix of designations under the Heritage Code and the Environmental Code. At the local level, several planification tools are in place to control development including one Local Urban Development Plan (PLU), two Intermunicipal Local Urban Development Plans (PLUi), and two Territorial Coherence Schemes (SCoT). Landscape Influence Areas (AIP) have been established for each component part to control major infrastructural projects that may negatively affect the property.

The governance system of the serial property includes the Committee of the Property as the decision-making body and the Permanent Technical Committee, Technical Management Commissions, Scientific Committee, and the World Heritage Mission Association (AMPM), responsible for operationalisation. The AMPM plays a coordinating role and will ultimately become the definitive management body of the serial property. The management plan is in place and is being implemented.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Developing an integrated conservation plan for the serial property,
   b) Ensuring that baseline documentation includes data on the landscape aspects of the property,
   c) Equipping all municipalities with the relevant planification tools (PLU or PLUi),
   d) Developing a comprehensive tourism strategy for the serial property and integrating it with the management plan,
   e) Preparing an interpretation strategy for the series as a whole,
   f) Ensuring that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the property, its buffer zones, and its immediate setting, and that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to "**Royal Capetian Fortresses of Languedoc**".

Decision: 48 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The system of Italian-style condominio theatres of the 18th and 19th centuries in Central Italy, Italy**, with the exception of component parts 01 (Teatro Carlo Goldoni), 08 (Teatro Comunale), 10 (Teatro Bruno Mugellini), 11 (Teatro Giuseppe Persiani), 13 (Teatro Nicola Vaccaj), 14 (Teatro della Fortuna), 15 (Teatro Rossini), and 18 (Teatro Sociale), on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The condominio theatre represents a major evolution in the Italian-style theatre model around the mid-18th and late 19th centuries, marking the transition from being a place for aristocratic entertainment to becoming a cultural institution driven by an emerging bourgeoisie. Based on a unique partnership between public bodies and groups of wealthy citizens, known as società condominiali, this economic model is founded on collective ownership and the sharing of costs. This management structure enabled the wide spread of theatres, particularly in small and medium-sized towns in Italy.

By making the financers of theatre projects partners in their design, the condominio model turned these theatres into spaces for architectural experimentation and as economic driving forces for these small and medium-sized towns. The condominio model thus fostered the development of specific architectural features manifesting themselves in precise adjustments to social spaces (entrance halls, foyer, ridotto), the standardisation of the tiered boxes, the optimisation of sightlines, the development of separate circulation systems, transforming the theatre into a tool of prestige precisely tailored for its users.

This model fostered the emergence of spaces for social life where culture belonged to an emerging bourgeoisie. In addition to their artistic purpose, these theatres have also played a role as centres of political awareness, transforming small and medium-sized towns into dynamic social and cultural centres; a function they still retain today.

Criterion (iii): The system of Italian-style condominio theatres of the 18th and 19th centuries in Central Italy bears witness to the rapid development in town centres of a phenomenon that saw widespread expansion in the 19th century in Italy and Europe, followed by Latin America. These theatres, which first appeared in the provinces of Emilia-Romagna, Marche and Umbria from around the mid-18th century on, were one of the few places where groups of representatives of the emerging bourgeoisie, patrons of the theatres, could gather, and where public opinion was formed. These theatres, financed via the società condominiali involving public bodies and private citizens in the construction and management of these spaces, embody the transition from an exclusive private domain to civic institutions accessible to a wide audience. The condominio theatres of the regions of Emilia-Romagna, Marche and Umbria, part of the former Papal States, enabled the development of innovative solutions for theatres, reflecting the participation of different social classes and testifying to the new social hierarchy. The longevity of these theatres, which continue to host a wide variety of cultural events today, bears witness to how deeply they are embedded in local community life.

Integrity

The ten component parts comprising the serial property include the most emblematic examples of condominio theatres. The component parts share all of the defining features developed during the three historical periods under consideration, from the early 18th to the late 19th centuries. Each of the component parts continues to serve the purpose for which it was originally created. The component parts are in a good general state of conservation and, when conservation works are needed, these are scheduled.

Authenticity

The serial property meets the conditions of authenticity in terms of form and design, materials, use and function, location and setting. All component parts convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property through a series of common attributes: the financing model through the società condominiali; the continuity of use; and the physical and spatial features of the Italian-style theatre as codified by condominio theatres. Numerous written and visual sources are able to confirm the authenticity of the theatres of the serial property, providing key information for understanding their history and development. Archival documents, including original plans and those of subsequent

restorations demonstrate the care taken with the structures and their decorative elements.

Protection and management requirements

Responsibility for the protection and management of each of the ten component parts of the serial property lies with the national government, and local, regional and municipal authorities. Each component part is protected by town planning regulations and legislation applicable nationally or locally, as well as by public ownership. The main legislative framework is governed by the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code; Legislative Decree 42/2004 of 22 January 2004, and law 1089/1939 of 1 June 1939.

The management system of the serial property is based on the Memorandum of Understanding established between the Ministry of Culture (MiC) and the three regions and municipalities concerned. This agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of these authorities for the long-term conservation and management of the property.

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

   a) Submitting a minor boundary modification request to reduce the boundaries of component part 'Teatro Gentile da Fabriano' to the building that houses the theatre,

   b) Ensuring that participatory processes involving local communities are integrated into the management plan and are part of the day-to-day management of the serial property.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Bulwarked Fortresses of the Raia, Portugal**, in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

   a) Reconceptualise the nomination to clearly define a conceptual framework and parameters that identify the essential features of the Raia system and how it is expressed and linked by relevant selected fortresses,

   b) Conduct further research on construction chronology, technological transfers, and cross-border military interactions to clarify historical significance,

   c) Reassess the serial approach and consider a more representative selection of fortresses to reflect typological diversity, geographical distribution, and strategic functions of the Raia system,

   d) Strengthen the comparative analysis with additional Raia fortifications and relevant European and global examples to substantiate claims relating to the potential Outstanding Universal Value,

   e) Document the attributes of each of the component parts that will be selected, in terms of their location, topography, typology, conservation state, authenticity, and integrity,

   f) Address management, conservation, risk management, and visitor interpretation issues to demonstrate long-term protection and sustainability;

3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;
4. Notes that ICOMOS remains available to provide advice, should the State Party wish to seek such guidance.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of the **Ribeira Sacra Waterscape, Spain,** back to the State Party, in order to allow it to:
    a) Further identify, clarify and present the relationships between the principal attributes of the nominated property, including terraced agricultural systems, settlement patterns, hydraulic structures, monastic traditions, and associated intangible heritage as components of a coherent cultural landscape,
    b) Continue the documentation, inventory and mapping of hydraulic, vernacular and intangible heritage elements associated with the water culture of Ribeira Sacra,
    c) Further develop the presentation of the historical evolution of the landscape and the contribution of its various elements to the understanding of the nominated property as a continuing cultural landscape;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
    a) Continuing the implementation of the Management Plan and associated conservation programmes,
    b) Enhancing coordination between the management framework of the nominated property and that of the Ribeira Sacra and Serras do Oribio e Courel Biosphere Reserve,
    c) Continuing actions aimed at supporting demographic revitalization, the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices and the conservation of agricultural terraces,
    d) Continuing the implementation of measures addressing biodiversity conservation, invasive alien species, climate change adaptation and water-resources management,
    e) Continuing efforts to ensure the active participation of local communities and stakeholders in the conservation and management of the nominated property;
4. Requests that the State Party invite an Advisory mission to support the work on additional information before revision of the nomination, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.31

The nomination of **Zerzevan Castle and Mithraeum, Türkiye**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

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

Decision: 48 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Approves the significant boundary modification of the **Berlin Modernism Housing Estates, Germany,** to include **Waldsiedlung Zehlendorf**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The set of housing estates in the Berlin Modern Style provides outstanding testimony to the implementation of housing policies during the period 1910-1933 and especially during the Weimar Republic, when the city of Berlin was characterized by its political, social, cultural and technical progressiveness. The housing estates reflect, with the highest degree of quality, the combination of urbanism, architecture, garden design and aesthetic research typical of early 20th century modernism, as well as the application of new hygienic and social standards. Some of the most prominent leading architects of German modernism were involved in the design and construction of the properties; they developed innovative urban, building and flat-roof typologies, technical solutions and aesthetic achievements.

Criterion (ii): The seven Berlin housing estates provide an outstanding expression of a broad housing reform movement that made a decisive contribution to improving housing and living conditions in Berlin. Their quality of urban, architectural and garden design, as well as the housing standards developed during the period, served as guidelines for social housing constructed since then, both in and outside Germany.

Criterion (iv): The seven Berlin housing estates are exceptional examples of new urban and architectural typologies, designed in the search for improved social living conditions. Fresh design solutions and technical and aesthetic innovations were incorporated by the leading modernist architects who participated in their design and construction.

Integrity

The Berlin Modernism Housing Estates comprises seven component parts. Together, they constitute prominent examples of the development of modernist housing estates in Berlin between 1910 and 1933. The serial property contains all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value.

The seven component parts were selected from the ensemble of housing estates of the period in Berlin, based on their historical, architectural, artistic and social significance, as well as their state of conservation. Each component part shares a common set of attributes while making a discrete contribution of individual and site-specific attributes to the series, including new urban and architectural typologies, innovative building and flat typologies, new social and hygienic standards, state-of-the-art aesthetic achievements, fresh design solutions, and innovative technical solutions. Together, they illustrate the highest degree of quality and combination of urbanism, architecture, garden design and aesthetic research typical of early 20th-century modernism. The extension of Waldsiedlung Zehlendorf concludes the series, and no further extension is envisaged.

The boundaries include all the necessary attributes. The urban plans are largely intact and range from inner-city open-block development to large estates with open developments in a suburban setting. All the factors affecting the serial property are under control.

Authenticity

The Berlin Modernism Housing Estates fully meet the conditions of authenticity in terms of the forms and designs of the housing estates and their architectural features. Original materials and substances have largely been preserved in most historical buildings. All component parts are still in use as vibrant and fully functioning residential estates, and their locations and settings remain substantially authentic. Most of the estates were scarcely affected during the Second World War. The spatial relationships between buildings and green spaces have been preserved. All conservation interventions are in accordance with the original schemes and appearance.

Protection and management requirements

All seven component parts of the serial property are legally protected at the federal and state levels through legislation and spatial planning regulations, including the Federal Building Code (BauGB), the Regional Planning Act (ROG), the Law on the Protection of Monuments in Berlin (DSchG Bln), and the Berlin Building Regulation (BauO Bln). In addition, land use and development plans as well as legally binding conservation plans afford a comprehensive protection of the component parts and the buffer zones.

The potential threat of climate change on the public green spaces and private gardens is being closely monitored, and climate adaptation measures are being implemented.

An overall management system for the serial property is in place, and the World Heritage Site Manager, based at the Berlin Heritage Authority, supporting the management of all component parts. The Site Manager works in close cooperation with the Supreme Heritage Authority, the District Heritage Authorities, as well as owners and other local stakeholders, who are vital partners in the long-term conservation and management of the estates. A management plan is in place for all seven component parts.

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

   a) Developing a site-specific risk-preparedness strategy to adapt the disaster risk management framework of Berlin into clear, actionable procedures for the residents,

   b) Improving the current monitoring system with indicators specifically dedicated to the state of conservation of Waldsiedlung Zehlendorf, and by reinforcing the involvement of the residents,

   c) Ensuring that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the property, its buffer zones and its immediate settings and that its procedures are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

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

Decision: 48 COM 8B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 8B.27** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025) and having examined all the information available to the Committee in order to take an informed decision about the renewed evaluation of the delineation of the boundaries of the nominated property,
3. Inscribes **Gdynia Modernist City Centre, Poland**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;
4. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The urban complex of Gdynia City Centre constitutes an outstanding and pioneering example on a global scale of the early phase of modernism, built from scratch between 1926 and 1939, and unique as far as its spatial and functional concept is concerned. Early modernist features can be easily found here, both in the layout of the entire complex and its individual buildings. We can read them in the urban structure of the complex, where the traditional ideas of city formation are combined in an unprecedented way with the modernist calls for sanitizing residential buildings. The urban layout of Gdynia City Centre is shaped on the one hand in a conventional manner, based on the traditional orthogonal street grid filled with rows of compact buildings, and on the other hand in a very modern manner, where the new types of town houses – apartment houses with no annexes or wings – already meet all the modernist postulates with respect to hygiene, access to natural light and greenery. The making of Gdynia symbolises a new beginning in the thinking about a city and its inhabitants. These features distinguish Gdynia from earlier, 19th century cities where the residential buildings were saturated with annexes that created bad living conditions, as well as from the housing estate complexes built in the inter-war period by the architectural avant-garde (e.g. from the Bauhaus circle) and promoting low-density block housing, and also from urban complexes from the later phases of modernism. The new quality of the urban layout is the foundation for a society that is aware of its needs and strives to make its ambitions a reality. Also, the architecture of Gdynia City Centre demonstrates clear early modernist features and constitutes an outstanding and unprecedented in scale illustration of the modernist breakthrough of the inter-war period, namely a transition from the traditional forms of historicism to the innovative and multi-faceted forms of modernism. Gdynia City Centre is at the same time genetically linked to the port, constituting a unique example of a city centre designed in close connection with the seaside landscape in which this idea laid the compositional foundations both for the entire urban concept, and for the architectural forms of individual buildings, accentuating maritime references and symbolism. The unique image of Gdynia City Centre was also substantially influenced by the fact that it was created as a modernist complex with a very diverse, functional city centre profile, and at the same time as a work designed and implemented by a vast number of individual investors and designers. The Outstanding Universal Value of the property resides primarily in the coherent urban structure conceived and realised as an integrated early modernist city centre, while its architecture gives material expression to this innovative planning concept.

Criterion (iv): Gdynia Modernist City Centre is an outstanding example of a modernist urban ensemble illustrating the exceptional large-scale application of the principles of architectural modernism to the planning and construction of a modernist city.

The urban layout of the Gdynia City Centre is an outstanding and pioneering downtown complex of the early phase of modernism - the first one in Europe and one of the first globally - with Gdynia's type of downtown buildings, shaped on a raw base and built from scratch in 1926-1939. As a type based on a modern layout of an urban quarter and a modern apartment house with no annexes or wings, it combined a traditional town house with the demands of an avant-garde, sanitary place of residence that has an extensive functional agenda and constitutes a significant step in the evolution from the 19th century tenement house to the modern residential building. The complex fulfilled the demand of socially and economically sensitive development, created diverse tastes in many individual investors and designers, while at the same time being architecturally cohesive. It was created as a base for the newly built state-of-the-art port that provided access to the Baltic Sea for the Polish state re-established in consequence of the new world order that emerged after World War I. The construction of a large downtown centre from scratch, with a new generation of visionary architects in charge of it, was unusual at the time and had no precedent in Europe in the 1920s. The architecture shows in a prominent way the multiple formal strands of early modernism. As an additional feature, the expressive local context, with references to the port and the local landscape, emphasises nautical references and maritime symbolism.

Integrity

Gdynia City Centre retains until now a high level of integrity of attributes attesting to the inviolability of its cultural heritage. It encompasses all the main elements of a spatially coherent and expressive in its layout early modernist concept of 1926–1939 that remain intact, highly intelligible and well protected. The conditions of integrity are retained both individually in particular structures and complexes, as well as in relation with the seaside cultural landscape at the junction of the port and the sea. The dynamic spatial development of Gdynia that lasted merely 13 years from 1926, was abruptly interrupted in 1939 by the outbreak of World War II which left the city partially unfinished. This incompleteness created the necessity and – at the same time – the chance for continuation and filling the gap of the historical urban structure with a new architectural fabric. New buildings were built – and still are – on the basis of new spatial development plans that respect the vast majority of the pre-war plans, with respect to both the street grid and the building dimensions. The architectural form of these additions usually refers to the models from the forming period of the property's development (1926–1939), both in terms of scale and the used materials.

Authenticity

The urban layout and modernist development of the property's area survived Word War II in a good condition. There was little war damage to buildings that convey authenticity. Residential buildings and public facilities were repaired immediately after the end of hostilities, using local professionals who used the same set of materials and tools that were in use before 1939. The lines of all City Centre streets within the property's boundaries, as well as the majority of parcel divisions from the inter-war years, remained unchanged. Moreover, historic street names have also been retained or restored to a large extent. A large majority of the buildings of the Modernist City Centre of Gdynia remain in the possession of heirs of their former owners, and almost all of them still successfully fulfil the purposes for which they were built. Therefore, the level of authenticity of the property, built in 1926-1939, is very high.

Protection and management requirements

The property enjoys the highest possible protection provided by the Polish legal system. This protection is exercised on several levels. In 2007, the property area was entered in

the Register of Monuments, which means that no construction works, not even minor renovations, may be performed on the property without the consent of the Office of the Monuments Conservator. In 2015, the President of Poland declared the property to be a Monument of History, which is also a status that renders careful protection compulsory. There are 25 buildings entered individually in the Register of Monuments and 265 listed in the Municipal Inventory of Monuments within the property's boundaries. This means that none of these buildings may undergo any transformation without the positive opinion of the conservator. These buildings, mostly private, may benefit from significant refunds of costs of renovations, managed under the strict supervision of the Municipal Conservator of Monuments. It is also possible to obtain support from Provincial and State funds. In addition, the property's inscription on the list of Monuments of History allows it to benefit from European funding on preferential terms. The spatial development plans, which are prepared in close consultation with the Conservation Authorities, and which cover the entire area of the property, are an essential tool of spatial management, including protection of its historic values. The management of the property is ensured through the implementation of the Management Plan adopted by the Gdynia City Council, which provides a coordinated framework for conservation, planning control, and sustainable urban development.

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

   a) Reviewing the state of the inner courtyards, whose auxiliary outbuildings make it difficult to perceive the original idea of open "green" spaces, and considering appropriate conservation measures, including, where justified, the removal of later auxiliary outbuildings,

   b) Ensuring the conservation of earlier gable-roofed houses (not only the modernist buildings), and integrating them into the conservation plan for the property,

   c) Integrating Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms that are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in World Heritage Context for development proposals before any irreversible decisions are taken,

   d) 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.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

New Nominations

Decision: 48 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Amazonia Theaters, Brazil**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The expansion of industrial capitalism in the second half of the nineteenth century brought the Amazon basin, the world's principal source of rubber at that time, into global commercial circuits. Rubber extracted by seringueiros deep in the forest moved through the region's riverways to Belém, the Atlantic gateway, after passing through Manaus, which emerged at the confluence of the Rio Negro and the Solimões as the strategic hub of the interior. The extraordinary wealth this economy generated financed ambitious programmes of urban modernisation in both cities. At the apex of this process stood two grand opera houses: the Theatro da Paz in Belém, inaugurated in 1878, and the Teatro Amazonas in Manaus, inaugurated in 1896. Built by teams uniting Brazilian engineers and architects with European artists and craftsmen, combining imported and native materials and articulating local and European motifs, they produced in the Amazon a new architectural language, simultaneously Amazonian and cosmopolitan.

During the boom years, international opera companies systematically performed in both cities. The two opera houses functioned as complementary venues within a documented Amazonian lyrical circuit, itself part of a broader transatlantic cultural network connecting South America to European capitals. When the rubber cycle came to an abrupt end in the first decade of the twentieth century, both venues gradually opened to broader publics. The public squares framing their entrances, the Praça da República in Belém and the Largo de São Sebastião in Manaus, anchored them in the fabric of everyday life. Over the following century, what had been built as instruments of elite ambition became institutions of a democratic and plural cultural life, welcoming not only erudite music but genuinely Amazonian expressions such as boi bumbá, brega, and carimbó, and serving as repositories of the memory of the Indigenous peoples and seringueiros whose labour and knowledge made the rubber economy possible.

Criterion (ii): As the Amazon became integrated into global networks of commerce, culture, and artistic production during the rubber boom (c. 1870–1920), Belém and Manaus underwent fundamental transformations. In both cities, rubber wealth financed ambitious programmes of urban modernisation, inspired by European models. While in Belém, founded in 1616 as the Atlantic gateway of the Amazon basin, a new layer of architectural ambition was added to a long-established urban fabric, in Manaus, deep in the forest, an entirely new cosmopolitan city emerged from the expansion of rubber-related activities. The Theatro da Paz in Belém and the Teatro Amazonas in Manaus stand as the twin symbols of these transformations. Built and decorated by multinational teams of European and Brazilian architects, artists, and craftsmen, the two theatres materialise a genuine exchange of values between Europe and the Amazon: European architectural languages and decorative techniques were adapted to a tropical environment and combined with local materials, while Amazonian themes were integrated into classical iconography and inspired new operatic works. Together, the two theatres constitute an outstanding testimony to this interchange, which shaped both the built environment and the cultural life of the Amazon basin at the turn of the twentieth century.

Criterion (iv): The rubber boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, represents a significant stage in human history: the moment when the Amazon basin, long perceived as a remote and isolated territory, was drawn into the global circuits of industrial capitalism through the extraction and export of latex, of which Brazil held a near-total world monopoly between 1870 and 1912. The wealth generated by this intercontinental trade dramatically accelerated the transformation of Belém, already the main administrative centre of northern Brazil, and raised Manaus from a modest interior settlement to a cosmopolitan city. The Theatro da Paz and the Teatro Amazonas crowned urban modernisation endeavours and enabled the integration of northern Brazil into global cultural circuits. Over the course of the twentieth century, what had been built

as instruments of elite ambition became institutions of a democratic and plural cultural life.

Integrity

As a serial property, the Amazonia Theaters - comprising the Teatro Amazonas and Largo de Sao Sebastiao in Manaus and the Theatro da Paz and Praca da República in Belém – together retain all the attributes necessary to express their Outstanding Universal Value.

The Teatro Amazonas and Largo de São Sebastião have all the necessary attributes to express their contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property: a combination of European eclecticism, industrial metal structures and Amazonian materials, as well as their capacity to symbolise the “rubber boom”, to structure the urban layout of Manaus and to perpetuate artistic functions. The property is large enough to allow for a complete representation of the attributes that convey its significance. The negative effects of development are under control.

The Theatro da Paz and the Praça da República in Belém equally retain all the attributes necessary to express their contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property. The building preserves its original spatial configuration, the principal decorative materials of the 1897–1905 renovation and the ceiling paintings by Domenico De Angelis in the Grand Hall. The Praça da República maintains its original urban relationship with the theatre and continues to function as the principal civic space of central Belém.

Artistic connections between the two theatres remain active, still facilitated by the region's hydrographic network.

Authenticity

The two component parts of the Amazonia Theaters serial property — the Teatro Amazonas and Largo de São Sebastião in Manaus, and the Theatro da Paz and Praça da República in Belém — together satisfy the conditions of authenticity required for the serial property. Both component parts remain in their original locations as enduring urban landmarks, continue to fulfil fundamental social and cultural functions, and have preserved the essential materials and spatial configurations that embody their Outstanding Universal Value, while remaining active centres of a living and evolving cultural life. The historical connections between Belém and Manaus that shaped both cities during the rubber boom remain active, with both theatres still united by shared artistic circuits.

The Teatro Amazonas and Largo de São Sebastião are in their original location and continue to be urban landmarks in the historic centre of Manaus. The historical setting, although changed, generally retains the spirit of the place. The historical links of the property to the port via tree-lined avenues have largely been preserved, despite some alterations to the visual perspectives. The associated public spaces have also retained their important role as public venues for major social, political and cultural events.

The key attributes, although subject to a number of modifications over time, are authentic in their forms and designs, and their authenticity is ensured by the regular implementation of conservation and restoration work.

The original function of the theatre has been maintained and expanded to encompass a diverse range of cultural expressions. It also serves as a centre for arts education and professional training. Use and function are ensured by the ongoing intensive use of the site. The extensive performance programmes and range of activities in the public spaces attest to this authenticity of use.

The Theatro da Paz and the Praça da República in Belém equally satisfy the conditions of authenticity in location and setting, form and design, materials and substance, and use and function. The theatre has remained in active use as an opera house and

performing arts venue since its inauguration, and retains its essential architectural and decorative character from the 1897–1905 renovation, while the Praça da República maintains its original relationship with the theatre and its role as a major civic space of central Belém. Attention to developments in the surrounding area remains necessary to preserve the setting of the Theatro da Paz and its visual and functional relationship with the wider historic fabric of the city.

Protection and management requirements

The Teatro Amazonas and the Largo de São Sebastião have benefited from the highest level of federal protection since 1966, pursuant to Decree-Law No. 25 of 30 November 1937, relating to the organisation of the protection of national historical and artistic heritage, and Ordinance No. 375 of 19 September 2018, relating to the missions of the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN). The Theatro da Paz and the Praça da República in Belém have equally benefited from the highest level of federal protection since 1963, under the same legislative framework. Both component parts thus enjoy equivalent and fully adequate legal protection under Brazilian federal law.

The property components and their buffer zones are protected, inter alia, by the laws and regulations of the State of Amazonas and the municipality of Manaus through the municipal environmental and urban master plan (Law No. 002, 2014). Law No. 6.798 of 2024 registered the Largo São Sebastião as Tangible Historical and Cultural Heritage of the State of Amazonas. The 2014 Urban and Environmental Master Plan of the city of Manaus regulates land use and occupation in the urban area.

The Theatro da Paz and the Praça da República are similarly protected at state level under the legislation of the State of Pará and at municipal level through the Urban Master Plan of the city of Belém. The buffer zones of both component parts are clearly delineated and subject to land-use controls adequate to the protection of their Outstanding Universal Value.

A draft management plan has been prepared and its timetable for finalisation has been defined, as has that of the Management Committee. The plan should include a strategy for managing factors that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including climate change, fire safety and overcrowding. The integrated management framework has been designed from the outset as a serial instrument, covering both component parts under a unified governance structure articulated across federal (IPHAN), state, and municipal levels in both Pará and Amazonas.

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

   a) Approving and operationalizing the Management Committee in accordance with the timetable proposed by the State Party,

   b) Approving the management plan and specifying the budgets allocated for its implementation, particularly with regard to the monitoring programme and conservation measures,

   c) Defining the roles and responsibilities of local communities in the implementation and monitoring of the management plan and within the Management Committee,

   d) Developing an historical and anthropological research programme on the social and environmental impacts of rubber exploitation, particularly on the Indigenous Peoples and migrants from the Nordeste region, in order to strengthen the interpretation and presentation of the property,

   e) Ensuring that the procedures for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the serial property, its buffer zone or its immediate setting.

III. EXAMINATION OF MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

Decision: 48 COM 8B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **20 COM VIII.A**, **41 COM 8B.3**, **44 COM 7B.79**, **45 COM 7B.3**, **46 COM 8B.31**, **46 COM 7B.56** and **47 COM 7B.42** adopted at its 20th (Mérida, 1996), 41st (Krakow, 2017), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online,2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions respectively,
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of **W-Arly-Pendjari Complex, Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger**;
4. Recommends the States Parties to ensure that any resettlement of populations resulting from the gradual voluntary land surrender process announced in 2023 is carried out in accordance with a rights-based approach, consistent with international best practices and standards, and that full and fair compensation is provided to those who are resettled.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add, WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **21 COM VIII.A**, **37 COM 8B.9** and **37 COM 7B.3** adopted at its 21st (Naples, 1997) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest, Kenya**;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue coordination and dialogue with local communities as well as relevant stakeholders and rights holders with a view to ensuring their effective participation in the decision making, the management and the conservation of the property.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Decision: 48 COM 8B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.3**, **44 COM 8B.67** and **46 COM 8B.3** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, China**, through the addition of all seven component parts included in the present submission: Fantuozi Islet of Guanglu Island, Toutuozi Islet of Gexian Island-A, Toutuozi Islet of Gexian Island-B, Toutuozi Islet of Gexian Island-C, Dahaozi Island, Southern Lithoherm Belt of Bashao Island-A, Southern Lithoherm Belt of Bashao Island-B;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue opportunities for the continued expansion of the property's inscribed component parts, inclusion of other important areas identified in previous Committee decisions, and improve connectivity between component parts through buffer zone configurations, through the submission of a further boundary modification;
5. Reiterates its request that the State Party establish the overarching management system for the property, integrating all of the inscribed component parts as soon as practicable.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 48 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **25 COM X.A**, **31 COM 7B.33** and **34 COM 8E** adopted at its 25th (Helsinki, 2001), 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 34th (Brasília, 2010) sessions respectively,
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Dorset and East Devon Coast, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 48 COM 8B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries for the **City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg**, **Austria**;
3. Recommends that the State Party consider revising the unified buffer zone, where appropriate and in the future, to include the urban protection area identified as Zone III on the 1999 map in order to enhance the integrity of the World Heritage property.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of the **Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes (Western Segment), Austria, Germany, Slovakia,** namely the buffer zones for the nine component parts: Schlögen – Kastell und Vicus (1608bis-026 and 1608bis-027), Linz–Siedlung und Befestigung (1608bis-029 and 1608bis-030) and Traismauer–Kastell und Kleinkastell (1608bis-053 to 1608bis-057) in Austria;
3. Recommends that the State Party of Austria consider further extending the buffer zone at Traismauer (component parts 1608bis-053 to 1608bis-057) to encompass the three outlying clusters of 3rd-5th century Roman burials to the south and east, which are geographically and historically associated with the fort.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of the **Ancient City of Nessebar, Bulgaria**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

a) Finalising the Conservation and Management Plan and ensuring that the revised buffer zone, including the necropolis area, is fully integrated into its management provisions,

b) Ensuring that the protection and management measures applicable to the necropolis area within the buffer zone are clearly defined and effectively implemented, particularly with regard to development control and archaeological monitoring in areas subject to development pressures,

c) Ensuring consistency between cadastral, regulatory, and World Heritage cartographic documentation following the technical corrections introduced by the minor modification.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.42

The minor boundary modification of the **Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th centuries: *Stato da Terra* – Western *Stato da Mar*, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro**, was withdrawn at the request of the States Parties.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata, Italy**;
3. Recommends that the State Party consider extending the Buffer Zone A further north, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the joint Reactive Monitoring Mission carried out in 2026 by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on the property.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the minor boundary modification of **The Porticoes of Bologna, Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

    a) Explain how the parameters established for the proposed minor modifications to the boundaries of the component parts were used in each case, in order to substantiate the inclusion or exclusion of additional elements, and clarify to what extent the role the Municipal Statutes of 1288 in shaping the relationship between

public and private spaces in the medieval city was taken into consideration as a basis for reassessing the boundaries,

b) Consider the inclusion of the entire Via Santo Stefano within the boundaries of the inscribed serial property, in accordance with Decision **44 COM 8B.41**, to strengthen the coherence of the property through the integration of Santo Stefano, Mercanzia e Strada Maggiore with Baraccano (component parts 02, 04, and 10),

c) Clarify the reasons for which the inclusion of Piazza di Porta Santo Stefano and of the city gate within component part 04 (Baraccano) is not proposed, as initially intended,

d) Explain the methodology used to delineate the boundaries of the proposed merged component part "San Luca e Certosa", with a view to clarify the historical importance of the portion of the landscape proposed for inclusion within its boundaries and its relationship to the portico and the Basilica of San Luca,

e) Provide further information on legal protection in place within the areas proposed for inclusion in each component part, and on how it will ensure the effective protection of the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property, such as the porticoes and their relationships with their urban context,

f) Describe in detail the management arrangements between the authorities of the Municipalities of Bologna and Casalecchio di Reno, with timelines, and how these will be implemented in practice,

g) Explain the methodology used to delineate the boundaries of the proposed single buffer zone, and clarify how the areas of historical significance or landscape elements proposed for inclusion are functionally or otherwise important as a support to the inscribed serial property and its protection,

h) Provide additional information on the extent of the existing control measures within the proposed single buffer zone and clarify how the different regulations in force work in practice to protect the wider setting of the serial property, especially the areas of historic significance or landscape elements that are functionally or otherwise associated with the property.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Does not approve the minor boundary modification of **Venice and its Lagoon, Italy**;
3. Recommends that State Party give consideration to the following:
    a) Reverting to the boundary delineation proposed for the buffer zone in 2019, and addressing the requests made by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **43 COM 8B.46** to:
        i) Provide clarification why one of the water bodies has been excluded from the proposed buffer zone presented in the 2019 minor boundary modification request, and reconsider the exclusion of this part of the southern coastal strip from the proposed buffer zone,

ii) Sign a Programme Agreement in order to put in place officially the governance system for the coordinated management, enhancement and sustainable development of the proposed buffer zone.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Urnes Stave Church, Norway**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Ensuring the integration of the municipal area plan into the overarching municipal master plan, in order to secure a coherent and legally robust planning framework for the property and its buffer zone,
   b) Revising the existing spatial plan for Ornes to reflect the newly adopted buffer zone and associated protection measures,
   c) Updating the management plan of the World Heritage property to incorporate the buffer zone, planning instruments, as well as long-term conservation and management objectives, and ensuring that any proposed development within the property or its buffer zone is subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment, as appropriate, that is consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Rock Art of Alta, Norway**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Clarifying, within the management plan and related planning instruments, how the different near zones function collectively as part of the overall protection system, including how existing statutory provisions are coordinated to protect attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
   b) Continuing to consolidate the landscape-based approach by ensuring that identified visual and spatial relationships, including those between rock art sites and associated prehistoric habitation or activity areas, are consistently reflected in management and planning instruments, where appropriate, so as to support the long-term protection of attributes contributing to the Outstanding Universal Value,
   c) Ensuring that the management and planning provisions for the far zones are fully integrated into the revised management plan and municipal planning instruments,

with clear procedures for assessing potential impacts of large-scale developments on key visual axes, horizons and landscape features,

d) Ensuring the continued application of Heritage Impact Assessment procedures within the buffer zones, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, particularly in relation to any future developments that may have a visual impact on the integrity of the property,

e) Continuing to monitor the development pressures within the wider Alta fjord landscape and update the buffer zones provisions, if necessary, as new archaeological discoveries and landscape considerations may emerge.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the minor boundary modification of the **Old City of Berne, Switzerland**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
   a) Explain in more detail the methodology used to delineate the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone and define the landscape elements, areas of interest, historical spaces, and other elements included in the proposed buffer zone and considered of significance; clarify the relationship between these different elements and the inscribed property, whether from a historical, functional, structural or visual perspective, in order to assess the impact of their inclusion or exclusion from the proposed buffer zone on the urban and landscape setting of the inscribed property, as well as the relevance of its protection,
   b) Provide additional information on the scope and extent of the legal protection in force within the proposed buffer zone and clarify how the different regulations in force work in practice to protect the immediate surroundings of the property, and especially the elements identified as of significance,
   c) Describe the management provisions for the proposed buffer zone, and how it will be aligned with the management of the inscribed property, especially with regard to the urban development in the area, in relation to the existing territorial planning instruments (cantonal master plan and zoning plan); clarify the timeline for the integration of the proposed buffer zone into these plans,
   d) Submit revised maps showing:
      i) the boundaries of the property and of the proposed buffer zone, clearly indicating the elements of significance mentioned in the present request, for ICOMOS to understand their relationship to the inscribed property and its attributes,
      ii) the extent of the varied protective measures in place and the scope of the zoning plan so that the potential impacts of future developments within the proposed buffer zone on the inscribed property can be assessed.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the minor boundary modification of the **Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
    a) Consider expanding the proposed boundaries of the buffer zone in its northern section, bordering St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church, in order to ensure the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
    b) Define the protection measures that will apply to the buffer zone extended to the north of the property;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
    a) Strengthening the operational role of the buffer zone as an active management tool, rather than as a mere administrative delineation,
    b) Implementing concrete measures to mitigate the impact of the A28 road, including traffic management and flow reorganisation strategies in the new local plan,
    c) Developing a unified management framework to overcome the current fragmentation of the property,
    d) Defining specific regulatory and operational tools ensuring the effective protection of the views and landscape setting outside the Canterbury Conservation Area.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of the **Ironbridge Gorge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
    a) Developing a detailed map, at an appropriate scale, including the administrative boundaries and conservation areas,
    b) Considering establishing a buffer zone and conducting a more in-depth review of the property boundaries as planned in the management cycle, in order to strengthen the protection of the property.

IV. STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS AND NOT ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 48 COM 8B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add,
2. Adopts the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee:
    - Australia, Murujuga Cultural Landscape
    - Denmark, Møns Klint
    - Greece, Minoan Palatial Centres
    - India, Maratha Military Landscapes of India
    - Italy, Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia – The domus de janas
    - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Western Tien-Shan
    - Malawi, Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape
    - Malaysia, Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor
    - Tajikistan, Cultural Heritage Sites of Ancient Khuttal
    - Viet Nam, Yen Tu-Vinh Nghiem-Con Son, Kiep Bac Complex of Monuments and Landscapes.

Decision: 48 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add.2 and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1.Add.2,
2. Taking note that on 23 June 2026 the World Heritage Centre received a request from Lebanon to process the nomination of Mount Amel Castles 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. Noting that provisional enhanced protection was granted individually to the five Castles of Mount Amel by the Committee for the Protection of the Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict during its 4th Extraordinary Meeting (November 2024),
5. Further taking note that the component parts of the Castles of Mount Amel (Qala’at Chama’, Qala’at al-chakif, Qala’at Chakra, Qala’at Deir Kifa and Qala’at Tibnin) have

suffered damage, and the threats which these castles are currently facing due to the ongoing armed conflict, are sufficiently serious to justify the emergency procedure,

6. Acknowledging that given the short timeframe between the submission of the nomination of Mount Amel Castles to be processed on an emergency basis and the 48th 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 **Mount Amel Castles, Lebanon**, on the World Heritage List, according to the emergency procedure, on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

9. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Mount Amel Castles comprise a serial property of five fortified sites located across the historic region of Jabal Amel in southern Lebanon: Qalaat Al Chakif (Beaufort Castle) (1), Qalaat Tibnin (Toron Castle 2), Qalaat Chakra (Dubieh Castle3), Qalaat Deir Kifa (Maron Castle 4) and Qalaat Chama' (Chama' Castle 5). Occupying prominent hilltops and strategic ridges overlooking the principal routes in the Eastern Mediterranean region, the castles formed a defensive and administrative network that controlled movement, communication and agricultural resources over a vast territory.

Developed between the medieval period and the nineteenth century, the castles illustrate successive phases of occupation and adaptation by Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk, Ottoman and local feudal rulers. Their architecture preserves evidence of the continuous exchange of military knowledge, construction techniques and territorial management practices between European and Near Eastern traditions. The surviving historical stratigraphy, fortifications, keeps, towers, gateways, residential quarters, storage facilities and associated cultural landscapes demonstrate the evolution of defensive architecture in response to changing military technologies and political circumstances.

One can clearly map the transformation of the castles' layout concept, the way the fortifications are built, the typology of the various fortified attributes, the building techniques and materials adopted by the various builders, from one phase to the other, from one protagonist to the other. One can also map the influences of Byzantine buildings in medieval ones, that of Crusaders on the Levant castles, that of the Ayyubids and Mamluks on western builders, and finally, the influence of Mamluks on Ottoman fortified architecture.

The outstanding significance of the property lies not only in the individual importance of each castle but also in their collective functioning as a fortified territorial system. Together they provide exceptional testimony to the strategic importance of Mount Amel as a crossroads between the Mediterranean and inland Syria and illustrate nearly a millennium of military, political and socio-economic organization in the Levant.

The five Mount Amel Castles are significant examples that illustrate the exchange of cultural and military influences and trace the evolution of fortified architecture in the Near East from the Crusader and Islamic periods through to the late 19th century. The five castles are strategically positioned on elevated ridges, serving as key defensive strongholds. Collectively, the five castles dominate their surrounding landscapes and stand as exceptional representations of medieval military architecture.

Their construction quality and the preservation of their historical stratigraphy reveal the successive phases of occupation and the continuous adaptation of defensive

technologies over time. The cluster of these five castles in Jabal Amel forms part of a serial group of similar fortifications dating to the same historical period.

Criterion (ii): The Mount Amel Castles bear exceptional testimony to the interchange of military, architectural and territorial planning traditions that took place in the Levant between the 12th and the 19th centuries. Occupying prominent hilltops and strategic ridges overlooking the principal routes in the Eastern Mediterranean region, the castles formed a strategic network continuously adapted by successive powers including the Crusaders, Ayyubids, Mamluks, Ottomans and local feudal dynasties.

The serial property illustrates the transmission and transformation of defensive technologies over several centuries. Crusader military concepts, including keeps, curtain walls, flanking systems and fortified enclosures, were subsequently modified and expanded by Islamic rulers who introduced new construction techniques, defensive arrangements and architectural expressions. The castles preserve evidence of this continuous dialogue through their masonry techniques, firing systems, monumental gateways, defensive towers, residential quarters and storage facilities.

Unlike isolated fortifications, the Mount Amel Castles demonstrate how diverse military traditions interacted within a single strategic territory. Their evolution reflects a sustained interchange of human values between European and Near Eastern cultures and provides exceptional evidence of the adaptation of military architecture to changing political, technological and territorial realities across the medieval and early modern periods.

Criterion (iv): The Mount Amel Castles constitute an outstanding example of a fortified territorial system illustrating significant stages in the military and political history of the Levant from the medieval period to the end of the nineteenth century.

The component parts collectively demonstrate the evolution of military architecture from early observation towers and fortified outposts into complex castles adapted to developments in siege warfare, territorial administration and feudal governance. Their defensive walls, towers, keeps, storage facilities, residential quarters and commanding topographical settings illustrate successive phases of Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk, Ottoman and local feudal occupation.

The series is distinguished not only by the architectural qualities of its individual monuments but also by the functional relationships between them. Together they formed an integrated defensive and administrative network that controlled movement, communication, agricultural production and political authority across Mount Amel. As a coherent fortified landscape, the property provides an exceptional illustration of the interaction between military architecture, territorial control and settlement organization over a period of nearly one thousand years.

Integrity

The nominated serial property of the Mount Amel Castles possesses all the attributes necessary to convey its Outstanding Universal Value. The five castles are located on hilltops dominating visually the surrounding landscape. They are still in the context designed by the military engineers in the 12th century.

The series as a whole as well as each of the five components— Qalaat al-Chakif (Beaufort Castle (1), Qalaat Tibnin (Toron Castle (2), Qalaat Chakra (Dubieh Castle (3), Qalaat Deir Kifa (Maron Castle (4), and Qalaat Chama' (5)—retain the essential features that demonstrate their historical, architectural, and strategic significance, despite periods of damage and reconstruction. Key attributes include Historic landscape setting, Strategic location, Architectural Typology, Layered stratigraphy, Archaeological continuity and Integration of multiple functions.

Authenticity

The attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the Castles of Mount Amel have undergone varying degrees of change across centuries, certain attributes have experienced damage, repair, or adaptation, but the essential qualities that demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value—strategic setting, Crusader technical innovation, layered stratigraphy, integration of functions, archaeological continuity, authenticity of materials and techniques, historic landscape—remain legible and intact.

Protection and management requirements

The five castles of Mount Amel are protected under the Lebanese Law of Antiquities No. 166/LR of 1933 and its subsequent amendments, which designate all ancient monuments and archaeological sites as State property under the guardianship of the Ministry of Culture/Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), as well as through specific governmental decrees and ministerial decisions. As registered archaeological monuments, the castles are legally protected against demolition, unauthorized alterations, or construction within their boundaries and in their immediate surroundings.

Qalaat al-Chakif (Beaufort Castle) is further safeguarded by an urban planning decree that restricts construction in its vicinity, and both the castle and its surrounding area are officially registered on the National Heritage List. Qalaat Tibnin (Toron Castle) benefits from similar protections under the Antiquities Law, reinforced by its inclusion in urban zoning regulations.

Additionally, on November 24, 2024, the five castles were granted Provisional Enhanced Protection as cultural properties by UNESCO Decision No. C54/24/4.EXT.COM/4, in accordance with the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. This measure recognizes their exceptional importance, their protection under national law, and the commitment of the Lebanese State to safeguard them during both peacetime and armed conflict.

Management of the property is under the authority of the Ministry of Culture / Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), which is legally mandated to supervise, conserve, and protect all archaeological heritage in Lebanon. The DGA oversees interventions, regulates building activities in and around the registered sites, and coordinates with local municipalities, regional authorities, and community representatives to ensure the safeguarding of these monuments.

At the local level, municipal councils in Tibnin, Chama', Chakra (Dubieh), Deir Kifa, and Arnoun (Beaufort) play a supporting role in monitoring, controlling urban expansion, and facilitating community engagement. In the case of Qalaat Chakra (Dubieh), the inclusion of the site within the Wadi al-Hujair Nature Reserve provides an additional layer of institutional management through the reserve's governing body, integrating cultural and natural heritage protection.

10. Also inscribes **Mount Amel Castles**, **Lebanon**, on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

11. Recommends that the State Party invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as this is feasible, to establish a proposed Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a programme of corresponding corrective measures, with a timeframe for their implementation;

12. Requests the State Party, as soon as the security conditions permit, to invite a UNESCO pilot inter-Conventions monitoring mission to Lebanon in synergy between the respective mechanisms of the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, with a view to assessing the damage incurred, identifying conservation priorities, seeking appropriate solutions to insure that the immunity of properties is fully preserved, and establishing coordinated recommendations to ensure

the sustainable safeguarding of cultural properties inscribed on both the World Heritage List and the UNESCO List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection;

13. Also recommends that the State Party give urgent consideration to the following:

    a) Conduct an assessment of the state of conservation of the attributes of the property to serve as a baseline for management, conservation and monitoring planning,

    b) Develop the monitoring system based on the comprehensive inventory of attributes and their assessment, and taking into consideration the existing threats,

    c) Explicitly integrate the boundaries and regulations governing the World Heritage buffer zones across all component parts in Decrees and legal masterplans,

    d) Issue clear, binding directives to control/prevent unregulated development, visual impacts, or unwarranted demolition of historical surroundings during emergency rebuilding,

    e) Enforce mechanisms for building permit approvals within the buffer zones;

14. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2027** 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 49th session.

8C. Update of the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger

Decision: 48 COM 8C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHC/26/48.COM/7B, WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add, WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.2, WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.3.Rev and WHC/26/48.COM/7B.Add.4) and the proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (WHC/26/48.COM/8B, WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add and WHC/26/48.COM/8B.Add.2),

2. Decides to **inscribe** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

    - Lebanon, Mount Amel Castles (Decision **48 COM 8B.52**)
    - Lebanon, Tyre (Decision **48 COM 7B.94**)
    - South Sudan, Boma–Badingilo Migratory Landscape (Decision **48 COM 8B.2**)
    - State of Palestine, Sebastia (Decision **48 COM 8B.3**)
    - Suriname, Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Decision **48 COM 7B.54**)
    - Ukraine, Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora (Decision **48 COM 7B.46**)

Decision: 48 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/26/48.COM/7A, WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add, WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2 and WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev),
2. Decides to **retain** the following 52 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
    - 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
    - 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, Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus
    - 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, Roșia 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
- State of Palestine, Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer
- 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 Shakhrisyabz
- 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: 48 COM 8C.3

The World Heritage Committee,

3. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC/26/48.COM/7A, WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add, WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.2 and WHC/26/48.COM/7A.Add.3.Rev),
4. Decides to **remove** the following property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
    - Austria, Historic Centre of Vienna (Decision **48 COM 7A.27)**.

8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties

Decision: 48 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/8D and WHC/26/48.COM/8D.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 8D**, adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),
3. Also recalling that out of the 557 World Heritage properties subject to clarification, 220 clarifications 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/26/48.COM/8D:

   ARAB STATES

   - Lebanon, Anjar
   - Lebanon, Baalbek
   - Lebanon, Byblos
   - Lebanon, Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab)

   ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

   - China, Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains
   - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Western Tien-Shan
   - Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape
   - Malaysia, Gunung Mulu National Park
   - Malaysia, Kinabalu Park

   EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

   - Austria, City of Graz – Historic Centre and Schloss Eggenberg
   - Canada, Nahanni National Park
   - Germany, Aachen Cathedral
   - Germany, Berlin Modernism Housing Estates
   - Germany, Cologne Cathedral
   - Germany, Museumsinsel (Museum Island), Berlin
   - Hungary, Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape
   - Ireland, Brú na Bóinne - Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne
   - Ireland, Sceilg Mhichíl

- Italy, Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with “The Last Supper” by Leonardo da Vinci
- Italy, Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia
- Italy, Historic Centre of Urbino
- Italy, Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene
- Poland, Centennial Hall in Wrocław
- Poland, Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica
- Poland, Historic Centre of Warsaw
- Türkiye, Archaeological Site of Ani
- Türkiye, City of Safranbolu
- Türkiye, Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape
- Türkiye, Hierapolis-Pamukkale
- Türkiye, Nemrut Dağ
- Türkiye, Neolithic Site of Çatalhöyük
- Ukraine, Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Mexico, Central University City Campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
- Mexico, Franciscan Missions in the Sierra Gorda of Querétaro
- Mexico, Prehistoric Caves of Yagul and Mitla in the Central Valley of Oaxaca;

7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue the identification and collection of geographic and cartographic information of World Heritage properties in nomination dossiers 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 2026**, for their subsequent examination, if the technical requirements are met, at its 49th session;
9. Noting that the budget allocated to this activity may not be sufficient to cover the costs foreseen, invites States Parties to contribute financially to this end.

8E. Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

Decision: 48 COM 8E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/8E and WHC/26/48.COM/8E.Add,
2. Adopts the following retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/26/48.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage properties:

AISA AND THE PACIFIC

- Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape

ARAB STATES

- Libya, Archaeological Site of Sabratha
- State of Palestine, Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- Croatia, Old City of Dubrovnik;

3. Encourages States Parties to finalize the remaining retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

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 Statements of Outstanding Universal Value on its website.

9A. FOLLOW-UP TO THE GENERAL REFLECTION ON PERIODIC REPORTING AND LAUNCHING OF THE FOURTH CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

Decision: 48 COM 9A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/9A,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 10** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO 2025),

3. Takes note with appreciation of the World Heritage Centre's efforts to launch the Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

4. Also takes note of the ongoing work on the Analytical Framework for the Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue to develop new methods of analysis and technical improvements;

5. Decides to adjust the timeframes of the Regional Action Plans adopted under the Third Cycle in order to align them with the revised Periodic Reporting timeline, as set out in the Annex of the Document WHC/26/48.COM/9A;

6. Requests the Secretariat to include in the Regional Reports of the Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the final assessment of the implementation of the Regional Action Plans resulting from the Third Cycle, to be presented along with the new Regional Action Plan resulting from the Fourth Cycle at the corresponding session for each region;

7. Also decides not to proceed with the mid-cycle assessment of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Europe and North America region in 2027, as adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), and invites the Secretariat, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions, to initiate consultations on its implementation as early as feasible, in support of the preparation of the Fourth Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise, and to submit the resulting Regional Report together with the proposed new Regional Action Plan for examination by the Committee at its 52nd session;

8. Welcomes the offer of the Government of Uganda to host and co-organize the regional launch meeting for national focal points for the Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region and encourages all States Parties of the Africa region to participate actively in this workshop;

9. Also encourages the active engagement of the States Parties in the Fourth Cycle of the Periodic Reporting process, including by organizing meetings, translating relevant documents and making available the necessary resources to ensure that the process achieves its objectives.

9B. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN FOR THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, AND THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONS

Decision: 48 COM 9B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/9B,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 10A**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Expresses its sincere appreciation to the States Parties in the region of Asia and the Pacific for participating in the mid-cycle assessment;

4. Welcomes the report on the status of implementation of the Third Cycle Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific;

5. Commends the efforts of the States Parties and all other identified key actors, including the Category 2 Centres, 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 plans;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the World Heritage Centre, the 14 UNESCO Offices in Asia and the Pacific, the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres in the region in providing technical support to States Parties for the implementation of activities to achieve the objectives outlined in the Action Plan, and requests that they continue to do so, whenever feasible;

7. Reminds the States Parties that have not yet done so to submit to the World Heritage Centre any remaining outstanding retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2027** as well as any clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2026**;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the Category 2 Centres in the region and other relevant regional stakeholders, with the aim of preparing a final assessment report reflecting its overall implementation, to be presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2029.

Decision: 48 COM 9B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/9B,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 10B**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Expresses its sincere appreciation to the States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region for participating in the mid-cycle assessment;

4. Welcomes the report on the status of implementation of the Third Cycle Framework Action Plan in the Latin America and the Caribbean;

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, the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres in the region 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 2027**, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2026**;

8. Also requests the Secretariat to continue monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Category 2 Centres in the region, 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 2029.

10. REVISED VERSION OF CHAPTER V AND ANNEX 7 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 48 COM 10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/9A and WHC/26/48.COM/10,

2. Recalling Decision **47 COM 10** adopted at its 47th session (UNESCO, 2025),

3. Adopts the revised Chapter V of the Operational Guidelines “Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention” and the revised Annex 7 to the Operational Guidelines, on the Format of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire, contained in Annex of Document WHC/26/48.COM/10.

11. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Decision: 48 COM 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/11,

2. Decides to approve the following International Assistance requests:

   a) "Urgent Conservation Measures for the Rachid Karami International Fair (RKIF's) Water Tower" (Lebanon) for an amount of US$ 76,240 under the Conservation & Management Assistance-Cultural heritage budget. The detailed conservation plan, including costed activities, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before the restoration works are launched;

   b) "Developing management, conservation and protection capacity of the Koh Ker World Heritage site" (Cambodia) for an amount of US$ 85,000 under the Conservation & Management Assistance-Cultural heritage budget. The CVs of the experts will be provided to the World Heritage Centre prior to the start of implementation;

   c) "Assistance in developing a Management Plan for UNESCO World Heritage property 'L'viv - The Ensemble of the Historic Centre'. Conservation and risk management" (Ukraine) for an amount of US$ 77,000 under the Conservation & Management Assistance-Cultural heritage budget;

   d) "Capacity building and harmonization of environmental and social impact assessments for the protection of the Sangha Trinational" (Congo) for an amount of US$ 63,890 under the Conservation & Management Assistance-Natural heritage budget, it being understood that the costs associated with the participation of IUCN and ICCROM (fees for two international experts, international travel expenses, and administrative and technical coordination by IUCN and ICCROM), estimated at approximately US$ 26,000, will be covered from other funds;

3. Taking note of the amount left for approval for the 2027 funding cycle under the International Assistance budget, approves additional funding for 2027 up to a maximum of US$ 280,000 for the Preparatory Assistance budget and up to a maximum of US$ 700,000 for the Conservation & Management Assistance budget;

4. 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.

12. PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE BIENNIUM 2024-2025, REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2026-2027, FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION 47 COM 13

Decision: 48 COM 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/12,

Part One: Final report on the World Heritage Fund for the 2024-2025 financial year

2. Takes note of the financial report for the 2024-2025 biennium, which ended on 31 December 2025, as set out in Annexes I and II to Document WHC/26/48.COM/12;

3. Recalls that the payment of assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions is, in accordance with Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention, an obligation incumbent on States Parties that have ratified the Convention, and urges all States Parties that have not yet paid their assessed contributions in full, including those for 2026, and including voluntary contributions under Article 16.2 of the Convention, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible;

4. Thanks those States Parties that have already made additional voluntary contributions in recent years, and also calls on all States Parties to consider allocating voluntary contributions, as well as a supplementary unrestricted voluntary contributions, to the World Heritage Fund, in accordance with the Roadmap for the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;

Part Two: Progress Report on the World Heritage Fund for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2026

5. Takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Fund for the 2026-2027 biennium;

6. Recognizing the need for additional human resources at the World Heritage Centre, urges States Parties to allocate voluntary contributions to the sub-account of the World Heritage Fund dedicated to human resources;

7. Recalling paragraph 168bis of the Operational Guidelines, thanks those States Parties that have already made voluntary contributions to the sub-account dedicated to the evaluation of nominations in order to support the submission of requests for preliminary assessment and nomination files, and calls on other States Parties to consider making such voluntary contributions;

8. Decides that, in order to take account of exchange rate fluctuations, contracts for the implementation of the preliminary assessment shall be drawn up annually with the Advisory Bodies at a maximum cost of US$ 17,556 per file for 30 to 35 files, and at a maximum cost of US$ 23,161 per file for fewer than 30 files for the 2026-2027 biennium;

Part Three: Follow-up to Decision 47 COM 13

9. Recalling its Decision **47 COM 13**,

10. Recalls that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and the overall funding of World Heritage are strategic issues and a shared responsibility that concern all States Parties and stakeholders, and which affect the overall credibility of the World Heritage Convention everywhere, and in particular the effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection;

11. Recalls Decision **46 COM 5A** (New Delhi, 2024), paragraph 11, by which the Committee invited the Director-General to reinforce the World Heritage Centre notably by allocating more financial and human resources to it and by supporting its fundraising activities, in line with UNESCO financial rules and regulations;

12. Also recalls the discussions during the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on mandate implementation review in the context of the UNESCO80 Roadmap adopted at the 224th session of the Executive Board;

13. 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 voluntary/in-kind advisory services in this field.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

No decision.

14. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 49TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 48 COM 14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides that its 49th session will take place in **Istanbul (Türkiye)**, from **27 June to 7 July 2027**;

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. Recalling its Decisions **47 COM 15** and **20 EXT.COM**, adopted at its 47th session and 20th extraordinary sessions (UNESCO, 2025) respectively, which elected its Bureau whose mandate will be until the end of its 48th session,

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) **H.E. Mr Mustafa Yurdakul (Türkiye)** as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 48th session of the Committee (Busan, 2026) until the end of the 49th session of the Committee,

   b) **Armenia,**
   Grenada,
   Viet Nam,
   United Republic of Tanzania, and
   Kuwait,
   as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 48th session of the Committee (Busan, 2026) until the end of the 49th session of the Committee,

   c) **Mr Artem Kuzmin (Kazakhstan)** as the Rapporteur of the World Heritage Committee whose mandate will begin at the end of the 48th session of the Committee (Busan, 2026) until the end of the 49th session of the Committee;

6. Further decides that the Bureau of the 50th session will be elected at the end of the 49th session of the Committee in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee.

15. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 49TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 48 COM 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/26/48.COM/15.Rev,

2. Adopts the following provisional Agenda:

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 48th session of the World Heritage Committee (Busan, 2026)
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 the World Heritage Convention and sustainable development

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 2027

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

PERIODIC REPORTS

9. Progress report on the Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the Arab States and Africa regions

CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

10. Proposal for a sixth ‘C’ to be added to the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee (Item proposed by the Republic of Korea)

11. Proposal to Enhance Indigenous Peoples' Engagement in the World Heritage Convention (by Decision **48 COM 5A**)

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

12. International Assistance
13. Report on the execution of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2026-2027, Budget proposal for the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2028-2029

CLOSING SESSION

14. Other business
15. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 50th session of the World Heritage Committee
16. Provisional Agenda of the 50th session of the World Heritage Committee
17. Adoption of the report of Decisions
18. Closing session

3. Decides to establish a consultative body on the Operational Guidelines which will meet at its 49th session.

16. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF DECISIONS

No decision.

17. CLOSING SESSION

No decision.