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AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-second session
Quebec City, Canada
2 - 10 July 2008

**DECISIONS ADOPTED
AT THE 32nd SESSION
OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
(QUEBEC CITY, 2008)**

Last changes are highlighted

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2. REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

Decision: 32 COM 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,
2. Authorizes the participation in the 32nd session as observers those representatives of the international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, who have requested observer participation at the session and as listed in Section A of the document *WHC-08/32.COM/2*;
3. Further confirms the participation in the 32nd session as observers of all those invited by the Director-General of UNESCO in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and as listed in Section B of the document *WHC-08/32.COM/2*.
4. Notes the ever-increasing interest in the implementation of the *Convention* by States Parties and observers and the challenges that the resultant growth in demand for participation in the Committee's sessions poses for the host country;
5. Notes further the need to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee's proceedings;
6. Recognizing the importance of the participation of States Parties;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to develop draft principles, policies and procedures to guide the process of evaluating and confirming requests for participation at meetings of the World Heritage Committee;
8. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to propose any changes to the Rules of Procedure, the *Operational Guidelines* and the Host Country Agreement that may be warranted to operationalize the principles, policies and procedures described above, for examination at its 33rd session in 2009.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

3A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Decision: 32 COM 3A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the document *WHC-08/32.COM/3A.Rev*,
2. Adopts the agenda included in the above-noted document.

3B. ADOPTION OF THE TIMETABLE

Decision: 32 COM 3B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/3B.Rev*,
2. Adopts the timetable included in the above-mentioned document.

4. REPORTS OF THE RAPORTEURS

4A. REPORT OF THE RAPORTEUR OF THE 31ST SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (CHRISTCHURCH, 2007)

4B. REPORT OF THE RAPORTEUR OF THE 16th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION* (UNESCO, 2007)

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

Decision: 32 COM 5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/5*, *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.5A* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.5C*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 5.1** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the results of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of its five Strategic Objectives, and in particular the work underway to fully integrate local communities in every aspect of World Heritage site conservation and management;
4. Further notes with appreciation the results of the activities of IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM over the past year in support of the implementation of the *Convention*;
5. Notes that there are a range of emerging issues relating to workload, resourcing, governance and future challenges for the operation of the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Convention that would benefit from further exploration with the results of initial work to be discussed at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee.
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee a summary statement of the issues addressed during the year and recommendations for improving the work of the Centre for the consideration of the Committee.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON FUNDING INITIATIVES

6A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND

Decision: 32 COM 6A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/6A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 11C.1**, **30 COM 11F** and **31 COM 23B** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006), and at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively;
3. Takes note of the Report of progress made in the implementation of the African World Heritage Fund;

4. Expresses its appreciation to partners at all levels for their support, and their technical and financial assistance to the African World Heritage Fund;
5. Welcomes the report of the first advocacy meeting organized in Abuja (Nigeria) from 24-25 April 2008;
6. Notes the delay in collecting the funds from partners who have committed contributions;
7. Requests the Board of Trustees to engage staff dedicated to resource mobilization, including follow-up of commitments;
8. Calls upon the State Parties to the *Convention*, the African Union, the public and private institutions, the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue supporting and contributing to the African World Heritage Fund;
9. Appeals to the international community to support the African World Heritage Fund and its funding strategy so as to ensure that the targeted Endowment Fund is quickly consolidated to enable the Fund becoming operational;
10. Requests the African World Heritage Fund to submit a detailed progress report both on the African World Heritage Fund's activities and on the strategy for future activities of capacity building for the preparation of nominations and of tentative lists, as well as for conservation and management plans of African properties, for examination at its 33rd session in 2009.

6B. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CREATION OF THE PACIFIC WORLD HERITAGE FUND

Decision: 32 COM 6B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/6B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 11C**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note of the developments that have taken place with regard to the establishment of the Pacific World Heritage Fund;
4. Encourages the States Parties of the Pacific region to work with the World Heritage Centre on the development of this proposal, building on lessons learnt from the African World Heritage Fund and adapting it to the region's needs.
5. Invites the States Parties of the Pacific region to present a progress report on this initiative, for the consideration of the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

7. EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

7.1 PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS MEETING ON WORLD HERITAGE AND BUFFER ZONES

Decision: 32 COM 7.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7.1*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 9**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and thanking the States Parties of Israel and Switzerland for jointly hosting the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and Buffer Zones (Davos, Switzerland, 11-14 March 2008) in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre;
3. Notes the detailed report provided by the expert meeting which reflects on a wide range of issues relevant to World Heritage and buffer zones and also notes the publication under preparation for the World Heritage paper series;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to use the terms “property” and “buffer zone” in all documents, and to stop using the term “core zone”.
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare draft revisions to the *Operational Guidelines*, taking account of the Committee’s debate on the results of the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and Buffer Zones by **1 December 2008**, with particular emphasis on developing a lexicon of terms;
6. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to circulate these draft revisions to States Parties for comment, so that the proposed revisions can be submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

7.2 PROPOSAL FOR THE PREPARATION OF A REVISED RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE SAFEGUARDING AND CONTEMPORARY ROLE OF HISTORIC AREAS

Decision: 32 COM 7.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7.2*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 5D**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) and Resolution **15 GA 7**, adopted at the 15th General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention* (UNESCO, 2005),

3. Noting decision 179EX/25 regarding a “Proposal by the Director-General for the preparation of a revised recommendation concerning the safeguarding and contemporary role of historic areas” that includes a full preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of the issue;
4. Commends the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, and partner organizations UIA (International Union of Architects), IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects), IFHP (International Federation for Housing and Planning), OWHC (Organization of World Heritage Cities) and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture for their continued support and participation in this important initiative;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a plan of action and timetable, setting out the timeframe for developing new Orientation Guidelines on management of historic urban World Heritage properties including impact assessment tools, for submission to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

7.3 REPORT ON THE REINFORCED MONITORING MECHANISM

Decision: 32 COM 7.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7.3*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 5.2** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the information provided on the activities carried out under the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism;
4. Requests, in light of the report on the implementation of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism, the World Heritage Centre to develop a protocol for implementing the mechanism, to address:
 - a) the frequency of reporting;
 - b) the expected results of reporting;
 - c) the distribution of reports;
 - d) cost estimates and budget management.

for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

5. Decides to allocate an amount of 50,000 USD for the implementation of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism from the World Heritage Fund for 2008-2009.

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

NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its utmost concern about the security situation in northern Central African Republic and its impact on the property, in particular the continued large scale poaching of wildlife, which could soon lead to the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List;
4. Requests the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to contact the authorities of the Central African Republic to discuss conservation issues facing the property and necessary management measures;
5. Regrets that the planned joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission had to be postponed again due to the insecurity;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation allows, to assess the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the potential for its rehabilitation and to develop an emergency action plan for the property, including the corrective measures, with all concerned stakeholders;
7. Encourages the State Party, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, the ECOFAC programme and other relevant stakeholders, to hold a workshop to discuss a strategy to improve the protection of the values of the property prior to the mission, with funding from the World Heritage Fund;
8. Urges the State Party to take all measures possible to halt poaching in the property and, in collaboration with the States Parties of Chad and Sudan, to consider developing transboundary cooperation to address this issue;
9. Also calls upon the international community to further support urgent conservation measures to prevent the property from losing its Outstanding Universal Value ;
10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
12. **Decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Welcomes the improvement of the security situation in the property which could allow the management authority to regain control over the entire property in the near future;
4. Notes that some progress was made in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular with regard to community outreach activities and reinforcing anti-poaching patrols;
5. Regrets that no ecological data were provided to assess the conservation status of the property and help define the boundaries of the management zones;
6. Urges the State Party to increase its efforts to fully implement all the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2006 Reactive Monitoring mission within the timeframe set at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), in particular regarding the completion and implementation of the management plan;
7. Calls upon the international community to financially support the management and rehabilitation of the property;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report by **1 February 2009** on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, including a copy of the draft management plan, an overview of

current and projected budgets for the management of the property and information on available ecological data, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

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

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the State Party of Guinea did not submit the report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission;
4. Notes the positive efforts of the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to address the challenges facing the property ;
5. Also notes that the 2008 Reactive Monitoring mission to the portion of the property in Côte d'Ivoire observed that the Outstanding Universal Value appears to be maintained but that data on wildlife, in particular endangered species, is insufficient to evaluate the status of criterion(x);
6. Also regrets that the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire did not inform the World Heritage Committee of the planned mining exploration in its part of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Expresses its utmost concern about the planned mining activities in the Côte d'Ivoire part of the property and considers it incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property which, if implemented, would lead to the irreversible loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of this property;
8. Urges the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to reconsider its plans for mining exploration or exploitation within the property and requests the State Party to confirm before the Committee's 33rd session in 2009 that all mining concessions within the property have been revoked;
9. Calls upon the holders of any mining concession covering the property to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003) and not to mine within World Heritage properties;

10. Urges the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to implement immediately the recommendations of the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre /IUCN monitoring mission which can be considered as corrective measures:
 - a) re-establish the presence of the protected area authority Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Reserves (OIPR) within the property and resume management activities, establish cooperation mechanisms and strengthen communication with the local communities;
 - b) conduct a wildlife survey of key species to clarify the status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and establish a comprehensive monitoring programme to monitor and control threats in particular from poaching;
 - c) define a buffer zone, in consultation with local stakeholders, with the appropriate legal status to strengthen the conservation of the property through sustainable management of the natural resources within this buffer zone;
 - d) develop a management plan in close cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the local community, and harmonise this plan with the plan being developed in Guinea;
 - e) define a sustainable finance mechanism for the entire property together with the State Party of Guinea;
11. Encourages the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire, in cooperation with its development partners, to increase its support to improve the livelihoods of local communities;
12. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to meet and resume tripartite discussions with Liberia to enhance the required coordination which will be essential to implement the recommendations from the 2007 and 2008 monitoring missions. The States Parties may wish to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organize a meeting before the 33rd session of the Committee;
13. Urges the State Party of Guinea to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and the other recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission;
14. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea and the mining company SMFG to conduct the environmental impact assessment of the mining project, in accordance with the highest international standards and collect the necessary baseline data in order to clarify and quantify the potential impact of the planned exploitation on the property, in close consultation with all stakeholders, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and to submit to the World Heritage Committee any intermediary results;
15. Requests the international community to assist by all possible means the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to achieve the Desired State of Conservation of the property;
16. Also requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

17. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2007 and 2008 missions, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
18. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision : 32 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of guards who were killed during operations related to the protection of the property;
4. Regrets that, despite the peace efforts undertaken by the State Party in the eastern part of the country, and the Peace Conference, permanent insecurity inside and around the property continues to hinder conservation activities ;
5. Notes with concern the results and conclusions of the Reinforced Monitoring mission of August 2007 indicating that the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List is becoming increasingly threatened and that the accumulating threats could have an irreversible impact on the property and its integrity ;
6. Urges the State Party, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), to implement the Act of Commitment adopted on 23 January 2008 at the end of the Goma Peace and Development Conference in the two Kivus that provides for the disarmament of all armed national and foreign groups in this region ;
7. Requests the State Party to implement the urgent actions recommended by the Reinforced Monitoring mission of August 2007, in particular :
 - a) halt all production of charcoal inside the property and promote alternative sources of energy;
 - b) withdraw the non-strategic military postings;
 - c) take steps to improve security in the property and its periphery, and in this endeavour to seek any cooperation that may be extended, consistent with its mandate and capabilities, by MONUC;

- d) ensure transparent management of income resulting from tourism and develop and implement a profit-sharing strategy with local communities;
 - e) strengthen communication activities and awareness raising for the authorities concerned and local populations;
8. Also requests the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the Reinforced Monitoring mission of August 2007, in particular the recommendations for the institutional strengthening of the management authority for the protected areas, ICCN, as well as the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius 2006);
 9. Brings to the attention of the State Party that the presence of the Nyaleke army training and reunification camp inside the property, as well as the granting of mining and oil exploration concessions endangers the integrity of the property;
 10. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
 11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the disarmament of the armed groups within the property and information on monitoring the state of the threatened species, the extent of encroachment and deforestation in the region, and the level of poaching, as well as progress accomplished in the implementation of the recommendations of the Reinforced Monitoring mission and the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
 12. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
 13. Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the positive efforts made by the State Party in addressing the challenges facing the property;

4. Also acknowledges the great financial and technical support provided for the conservation of the property by various partners;
5. Recognizes that challenges for the conservation of the property remain numerous;
6. Notes with concern the results of the preliminary inventory for the lowland sector, indicating the quasi-disappearance of the elephant, a 25% reduction in the gorilla population, continued poaching and artisanal mining operations in all the areas visited, as well as militia presence ;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with ICCN, the management body for the protected areas, to continue with the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in close cooperation with the local communities surrounding the property ;
8. Urges the State Party, in cooperation with MONUC, to implement the Act of Engagement adopted on 23 January 2008 following the Goma Peace and Development Conference in the two Kivu that foresees the disarmament of all national and foreign armed groups in this region ;
9. Reiterates its request for the immediate withdrawal of all mining concessions that have been granted within the property;
10. Also requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre the revised version of the Environmental Impact Study concerning the refurbishment of the RN3 road containing new proposals on mitigation measures, before taking a final decision with regard to the project, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
11. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2009** a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the disarmament of armed groups within the property, the road refurbishing project, as well as progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
13. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
14. Decides to retain **Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its utmost concern as regards the results of the workshop on Survival Strategies for the Northern White Rhino that indicates that the sub-species is in imminent danger of extinction and notes the conclusion of the experts that only the capture and transfer to an appropriate and secure place, beyond the Congolese borders, presents sufficient guarantee for the survival of this sub-species ;
4. Notes that a recent search mission has failed to locate any Northern white rhino and underlines the urgency of establishing the number of surviving rhino in the property;
5. Urges the State Party, if remaining Northern white rhino are located, to consider undertaking their translocation from Garamba National Park to a safe place ex situ, including beyond the Congolese borders, to guarantee the survival of the sub-species and with the objective of building up the population in situ as soon as the situation permits, and requests the State Party of the Czech Republic to facilitate the participation of the Dvur Kralove Zoo in this programme;
6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with ICCN, the management body for the protected areas, to continue the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
7. Calls upon the State Party to seek cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), within its mandate and capabilities, to assist the Park authorities in the framework of its deployment around the property and to support the conservation of the property, in particular as regards disarmament;
8. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on the situation regarding the requested translocation of the last northern white rhino to a secure place, as well as progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
10. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
11. Also decides to retain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with concern reports of continued poaching, in particular poaching of elephants, by the army;
4. Expresses its satisfaction that the State Party has begun the implementation of some of the corrective measures established by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), notably the organization, with support from the World Heritage Fund, of a mixed anti-poaching operation;
5. Requests the State Party, in cooperation with ICCN, the management body for the protected areas, to urgently pursue the implementation of the corrective measures, and to propose a timetable for their implementation ;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of all the corrective measures, with a proposal for a timetable for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
8. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
9. **Also decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with concern the preliminary results of the inventory, showing substantial reductions in the population of flagship species, including elephants and okapis, thus significantly impacting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Welcomes the progress achieved in regaining management control over the property and in addressing poaching and small-scale mining in the property;
5. Requests the State Party, in consultation with ICCN, to continue to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius 2006);
6. Regrets that the environmental management plan developed for the rehabilitation of the RN4 road crossing the property is not addressing the long-term impacts on the integrity of the property and expresses its concern about the increase in illegal exploitation of forest products in the vicinity of the Reserve, in particular timber and bush meat has already been reported;
7. Urges the State Party to develop an additional environmental management plan for the RN4 to address the long term impacts, in particular to control increased immigration into the property and increasing wild meat trade and to provide three printed and electronic copies of it, as soon as it is ready, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its request to revoke any mining concessions that might have been granted in the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property after the high-level meeting is held in Kinshasa to assess its state of conservation and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures in view of establishing the Desired state of conservation for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, update the corrective measures required and set a timeframe for their implementation;
10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures as well as the requested additional environmental management plan for the RN4, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

12. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;
13. **Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the request of the State Party to postpone the monitoring mission requested at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) to allow for more time to implement the corrective measures;
4. Requests the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and, in particular, to mobilize the necessary funding for and start the implementation of the management plan, which includes the strategy to address the grazing pressure and the alternative livelihoods project, as soon as it is finalized ;
5. Calls upon the international community to financially support the implementation of the management plan and encourages the State Party to organize a donor conference with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office in Addis Abeba and IUCN to identify potential donors and funding. The State Party might want to apply for assistance from the World Heritage Fund to organize this conference;
6. Takes note of the initial draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Desired state of conservation prepared by the State Party and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party in finalizing them;
7. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) in view of a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. **Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its utmost concern about the continued degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, in particular the reduction in key wildlife populations and the degradation of the vegetation cover as well as about the renewed insecurity in the northern part of the property, which is hampering efforts by the State Party to halt this degradation;
4. Appreciates the support already provided by the international donor community and calls upon it to increase its support to the State Party for the protection and ecological restoration of the property;
5. Notes the State Party's interest in holding a regional workshop looking at the impact of conflict on natural resources and biodiversity in the region and encourages the State Party to collaborate with partners to hold such a workshop with a focus on improving security and protection of World Heritage properties during times of conflict;
6. Requests the State Party to organize, in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its relevant specialist groups, a comprehensive survey of the property, in particular populations size and distribution of threatened species in order to evaluate the status of its Outstanding Universal Value and to develop population recovery and rehabilitation programmes;
7. Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including on the status of the vulnerable species and ecosystems, as well as progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and the implementation of the COGERAT project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the State Party has not been able to implement the urgent corrective measures within the 12 month timeframe set at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and that no information was provided on the status of wildlife populations or on progress in addressing threats from illegal logging, road construction, the proposed dam at Mako on the Gambia river, and potential mining exploration and exploitation in the region;
4. Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the priority action plan that was developed and to provide information on its efforts to establish a private public partnership for the urgent implementation of the plan;
5. Calls upon the international donor community to continue to support the implementation of the corrective measures set by the World Heritage Committee;
6. Requests the State Party and UNDP to report on the results and progress of the Integrated Ecosystem Management Programme (PGIES);
7. Also urges the State Party to speed up the implementation of the corrective measures and in particular the urgent measures recommended by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including the status of wildlife populations, and on progress in implementing the corrective measures, information on the implementation of the priority action plan and status of the envisaged public private partnership, the current status of the proposed dam on the Gambia river as well as any potential mining activities in the region, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the conclusion of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been significantly impacted by the past civil strife and that recovery had only just started and was still in its initial stages;
4. Considers the presence of viable populations of all key species and a clear upward trend of these populations as key elements of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Commends the State Party, in particular the Bodoland Territorial Council and the management authority, for their efforts to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), but notes however that further work is still needed;
6. Urges the State Party to complete the implementation of the corrective measures and conservation activities, as follows:
 - a) urgently conduct a baseline survey on recovery of wildlife populations and set up a full monitoring system which will allow monitoring and documenting the recovery of the flagship species;
 - b) resolve the problem of fund release which did not progress significantly since the last mission;
 - c) complete the work for the reconstruction and improvement of the park infrastructure;
 - d) fill the remaining vacant positions in the park by recruiting the best elements of the volunteers, and/or others, into permanent staff positions;
 - e) strengthen and consolidate park management operations, in particular the efforts for reducing illegal logging and wildlife poaching in Panbari Range;
 - f) continue the efforts for reintroduction of the one-horned rhino and assess the need and feasibility for a restoration programme of the swamp deer;
7. Welcomes the initiative of the Bodoland Territorial Council to increase the protection status of the remaining high value reserve forests outside the property;

8. Requests the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2007 mission, in particular finalising the management plan, developing a capacity building programme for park field staff as well as local stakeholders and developing a regional vision on tourism taking into account the limited carrying capacity of the property;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the results of the requested baseline survey, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2007 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

13. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Reminds the State Party that the state of conservation report has to be submitted in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Convention (French and English);
4. Commends the State Party for progress achieved on the implementation of some of the key corrective measures in the Action Plan produced in response to the Presidential Decree No. 270, on its continuing success in the area of control and eradication of introduced species and on the progress made in establishing and capitalizing the Galapagos Invasive Species Trust Fund, and urges the State Party to continue their implementation;
5. Also urges the State Party to undertake a rigorous and transparent process whereby the position of the Galapagos National Park Service Director is filled without delay and underscores the importance of ongoing institutional and political commitment to avoid further instability of this position ;

6. Requests the State Party to include in future reports sufficient quantitative information to objectively assess the actual impacts in the field of the activities implemented towards addressing the conservation, social and development problems affecting the property and provide a definite timeframe for its completion;
7. Notes with concern that fundamental conservation issues and conflicts associated with the key threats that justified the inscription of this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger remain;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the results of the requested baseline survey, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, with particular emphasis on the identified corrective measures in its 15 point Action Plan. The report should also address the concerns noted above, along with progress on the various actions tasked by the Presidential Decree No. 270;
10. Decides to retain the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the State Party for its continued efforts for the conservation and rehabilitation of the property, and particularly for the development of improved mechanisms for community involvement in the rehabilitation and the maintenance of the property;
4. Acknowledges receipt of a Statement of significance and a Statement of authenticity/integrity, but regrets that these are not in conformity with the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity, as outlined in the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Notes with concern that the report does not provide detailed and explicit information on the progress made on delineating boundaries for the two components of the property and their buffer zones; requests the State Party to undertake this exercise as a matter of urgency and encourages the State Party to submit, if necessary a request for International Assistance for this purpose;
6. Notes with concern the challenges faced by the property from climate change, leading to among others beach erosion;
7. Notes the danger posed to heritage by these challenges and their overwhelming nature;
8. Requests partners to continue to assist the State Party financially and technically to address these challenges;
9. Reiterates its request to the State party to use the management plan as the main vehicle for managing the site and for ensuring co-ordination of all activities affecting the property;
10. Adopts the following as the Desired state of conservation for the property in view of its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) at least 70% rehabilitation of the heritage monuments;
 - b) surveyed and demarcated boundaries as well as the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati;

- c) established proper land-use plan;
 - d) demonstrate progress in the implementation of the management and the conservation plan;
 - e) fully established on-site administrative structures;
 - f) halted sea-wave action;
11. Adopts the following timeframe for the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures:
- a) changes within two years:
 - i) delineate the boundaries for the two components of the property and their buffer zones to be submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
 - b) changes within three years:
 - i) implementation of the management plan should be advanced, and there should be signs of added rehabilitation of architectural heritage;
 - ii) management structures should be well established in each serial site with an operational office and staff;
 - iii) establishment of a proper land-use plan to protect sites integrity and resolve future land conflicts;
 - c) changes within five years:
 - i) recovery of most of the architectural heritage for conservation should have been completed (though full recovery will take much longer and will require sustained effort for over a decade);
12. Invites the State Party to consider an extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati and recommends that the State Party submit this extension with the delineation of the boundaries for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
13. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assist the State Party in developing the previously requested Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and in exploring how to ensure that the site's management plan can function as the key, central co-ordinating mechanism in managing the property, and finally to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property;
14. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including the progress in implementing the corrective measures, and the re-evaluation of the timeframe for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
15. **Decides to retain the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

ARAB STATES

15. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7A.19** and **31 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the actions being taken to address the existing threats and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Invites the State Party to consider a request for International Assistance to support the preparation of the conservation and management plans;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, 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 33rd session in 2009;
7. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with great concern the continuing difficult situation in Iraq and deplores the loss of human lives;

4. Requests the State Party to take possible emergency measures to protect the eastern part of the property from the rising waters of the Tigris River and to undertake necessary maintenance and conservation work to avoid further damage;
5. Encourages the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures identified:
 - a) relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
 - b) emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;
 - c) establishment of a local management unit on the site;
 - d) preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
 - e) protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Calls upon the international community to assist; in every way possible, the State Party in the protection of this property, with the advice of ICOMOS;
8. Requests the State Party, should the situation allow, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Ashur;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** an updated report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 8B.23** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with great concern the continuing difficult situation in Iraq and deplores the loss of human lives;

4. Also notes with concern the continued destruction of the archaeological remains, e.g. through vehicular movements and calls upon the State Party to ensure that this is addressed;
5. Encourages the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures identified:
 - a) establishment of a local management coordination unit on the site;
 - b) preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
 - c) maintenance and emergency conservation activities;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Calls upon the international community to assist, in every way possible, the State Party in the protection of this property, with the advice of ICOMOS;
8. Requests the State Party, should the situation allow, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Samarra;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

I

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2* and *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.3*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Also recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including, as appropriate, the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, 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 the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,

4. Affirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and 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,
5. Welcomes the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem developed in the context of the Director-General's comprehensive initiative for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls and strongly supports its implementation in coordination and consultation with the concerned parties;
6. Thanks international donors for their generous contributions to the Action Plan and calls upon the international donor community to further support, through extra-budgetary funding, activities aimed at the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, in particular in the context of the Action Plan;
7. Asks the World Heritage Centre to make technical expertise and assistance available for the future conservation works foreseen in the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, taking into consideration the activities foreseen in the context of the Action Plan, as needed;
8. Takes note of the concerns expressed about the archaeological excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, and asks the Israeli authorities to provide the World Heritage Centre with all relevant and detailed information about them;
9. Urges Israeli authorities to prevent any actions that could undermine the authenticity and integrity of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls;
10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem at its 33rd session in 2009;

II

1. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.18** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting/Decision, adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 176th session, and Decision 179 EX/9 adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 179th session (April 2008),
2. Affirming that the design of the Mughrabi ascent should maintain the authenticity and integrity of the site, and that no measures, unilateral or otherwise, should be taken which will affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, in accordance with the *Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* of 1972,
3. Reaffirming the purpose and spirit of the professional encounter at the technical level of 13 January 2008, as well as the follow-up meeting of 24 February 2008,
4. Requests the Israeli authorities to continue the cooperation engaged with all concerned parties, in particular with Jordanian and Waqf experts;

5. Asks the World Heritage Centre to organize a technical follow-up meeting at the site with all concerned parties for additional exchanges of information to enable all necessary inputs to be considered;
6. Being aware that the process for the design of the Mughrabi ascent, which allows the taking into consideration of the proposals submitted during the professional encounter, is still underway, requests the World Heritage Centre to follow closely, in the context of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism, the developments associated with this process;
7. Thanks the World Heritage Centre for facilitating the holding of the professional encounter at the technical level of 13 January 2008, as well as the follow-up meeting of 24 February 2008, between Israeli, Jordanian and Waqf experts, as requested by Decision **31 COM 7A.18**;
8. Takes note of the proposals for the design of the Mughrabi ascent, as evaluated by the Advisory Bodies, and asks that the proposed final design be provided to the World Heritage Centre;
9. Welcomes the regular information provided by the Israeli National Commission to UNESCO on the on-going activities related to the Mughrabi ascent, and urges the Israeli authorities to limit those archaeological activities to consolidation and stabilization works;
10. Decides to continue with the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism for the state of conservation of the Mughrabi ascent, and requests a report from the World Heritage Centre at least every three months, until the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009;

III

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

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party to stop building violations and demolitions, to carry out a survey of the buildings, to complete heritage protection laws and to draft the conservation plan and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);

4. Welcomes the joint German Technical Assistance (GTZ), Yemeni Government and Social Fund for Development (SFD) project and the considerable funding and expertise that this has provided; and also notes that first phase will be completed in June 2010;
5. Welcomes, in particular, the emphasis that the joint project puts on integrating the local community's social, cultural and economic needs with the preservation of the property;
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. **Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the commitment of the State Party and the international community to the safeguarding of this property and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Calls upon the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support, in particular to implement the above corrective measures;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

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

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the efforts and commitment of the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures, particularly the completion of the management plan for the property, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Welcomes the three-year timeframe proposed at the UNESCO 6th Expert Working Group Meeting in Tokyo in January 2008, to meet the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Calls upon the international community to continue providing technical and financial support, in particular to achieve the Desired state of conservation;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. **Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 128)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **31 COM 7A.22** and **31 COM 8B.59**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the commitment of the State Party and the international community to the safeguarding of this property and the progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an up-dated Nomination file based on the property boundaries approved in Decision **31 COM 8B.59**, and the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a report on the progress made in implementing the corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. **Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party in the overall preservation and conservation of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission so as to assess the progress made towards the Desired state of

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for its examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

6. Recommends that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Committee a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a progress report, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. **Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

24. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note of the progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures identified by the World Heritage Committee in 2006, including by restoring and maintaining 42 communal irrigation systems within the property and by setting up a Project Development Unit to mobilise financial resources;
4. Welcomes the steps undertaken towards the development of a twinning programme of exchange and cooperation between the World Heritage property of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the Cinque Terre property (Italy);
5. Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), particularly with regard to the implementation of the 2004 conservation and management plan; the development of a resource strategy; of zoning, land-use plans and of a specific plan for the promotion of community based tourism at the property; and the establishment of appropriate control procedures for development projects within the property;
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a revised timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Also requests the State Party to supply further details of the proposed mini-power project, including benefits to local communities, and to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. **Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

25. **The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maidan Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)**

Decision: 32 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the establishment of a management structure within the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as significant progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt the completed "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" and to integrate it into the urban planning system of the City of Baku;
5. Also notes the initiation of a conservation master plan for "Icherisheher" and requests that the development of this planning tool be integrated within the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan";
6. Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Urges the State Party to prepare, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, including rehabilitation methodologies, as well as for the design of new constructions and street furniture;
8. Also urges the State Party to halt any demolition until further inspection by the Reactive Monitoring mission and review with assistance of the Advisory Bodies the rehabilitation and rebuilding works in progress;

9. Encourages the State Party to clearly define and approve an institutional coordination framework for the active involvement of stakeholders;
10. Invites the State Party to consider the extension of the buffer zones to integrate the 19th and 20th century urban areas;
11. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in order to review the implementation of the corrective measures;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report, on the state of conservation of the property, and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
13. **Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.77** and **31 COM 7A.27** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively, and in particular its concern that the construction project of the Waldschlösschen Bridge would irreversibly damage the values and integrity of the property in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the *Operational Guidelines*,
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party invited a Reinforced Monitoring mission to review the bridge construction project and any alternative solutions;
4. Also notes the report provided by the Reinforced Monitoring mission of February 2008 confirming that the current bridge project would irreversibly damage the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property;
5. Regrets the fact that the authorities, having allowed the construction works to proceed, have seriously compromised the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Expresses its deep concern that the work planned will irreversibly damage the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property;
7. Strongly requests the State Party to immediately halt the current construction works and restore the property to its former state of conservation;
8. Strongly urges the State Party to reconsider the alternative tunnel option;

9. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property and requests the State Party to provide progress reports as relevant;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including a progress report on the implementation of the issues above-mentioned, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
11. Further decides to retain the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with the deletion of this property from the World Heritage List at its 33rd session in 2009, if the planned works on the bridge continue and the damage already caused is not reversed.

27. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo [Serbia] (C 724)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.53**, **30 COM 8B.54**, and **31 COM 7A.28** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the continuing difficulties to monitor the property and the challenges to the follow-up to the intersectoral mission of January 2007;
4. Recalls its request for a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**;
5. Also recalls its request, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones; adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan;
6. Reiterates its requests for the development, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, of a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, continued efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to address the Desired state of conservation defined, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Also requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

9. **Requests** the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. **Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made with re-routing the road A-16, the completion of the first phase of the Priority interventions programme and the participation process for management plan implementation;
4. Requests the State Party to undertake a comprehensive structural assessment of priority buildings and to seek actively the necessary funds for stabilizing and conserving the remaining 21 buildings;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on the progress made in the above mentioned areas and in the implementation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. **Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party in implementing some of the corrective measures identified;
4. Remains concerned that protective legislation for the property is still not officially approved and in force and that the management plan has not been fully implemented;
5. Requests the State Party, in light of the new tourism pressures, to incorporate into the management plan, an approach to public use and visitor management;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made in implementing the corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

30. Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with appreciation the important efforts made by the State Party to mitigate decay factors at the property and the actions implemented to date;
4. Also notes that the State Party has initiated participatory workshops to improve the awareness of earthen traditional techniques, and welcomes the assistance of the

States Parties of Peru and Spain to develop capacity building for artisans and professional staff;

5. Urges the State Party to officially approve the PLINCODE (Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela) at the presidential level so as to fully complete the Plan and its implementation, and further recognizes that a commitment has been made to sign it by the end of July 2008 ;
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Endorses the recommendations made by the Reactive Monitoring mission of May 2008 and encourages the State Party to implement them, by following the prioritized corrective measures identified to meet the Desired state of conservation and timeline for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made on the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

GENERAL DECISIONS

31. World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Decision: 32 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the State Party for its effort to control poaching but expresses its concern about the ongoing threats to the integrity of the properties;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt a comprehensive approach to address the urgent threats to the properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) based on the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee as well as the recommendations from monitoring missions;
5. Calls on all States Parties to the *Convention* to use their bilateral contacts to raise international awareness and promote the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;

6. Regrets that the State Party has postponed the high level meeting between the authorities of DRC, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of IUCN, donors and other interested parties to identify strategies to address the on-going deterioration of the state of conservation of the five properties from DRC inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger before the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, and urges the State Party to set a date for this meeting as soon as possible, in consultation with the Office of the Director-General of UNESCO, and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the office of the President of IUCN;
7. Welcomes the commitment of the United Nations Foundation, the African World Heritage Fund, and the States Parties of Italy and Belgium in supporting the activities for restoring the Outstanding Universal Value of the five properties;
8. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in developing a trust fund for the DRC properties;
9. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the five properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

32. Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage properties

Decision: 32 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.a**, **30 COM 7.1** and **31 COM 7.1**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling Resolution **16 GA 10**, adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* at its 16th session (UNESCO, 2007),
4. Noting the real danger from climate change faced by many World Heritage properties,
5. Decides to adopt the criteria proposed for assessing properties which are most threatened by climate change for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, noting that the emphasis of the corrective measures to be recommended should be on “adaptation” rather than on “mitigation”;
6. Approves the following amendments to the *Operational Guidelines*:
 - a) Amendment to Paragraph 179 (b) (vi):

threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.
~~*gradual changes due to geological, climatic or other environmental factors.*~~

b) New Paragraph : Paragraph 180 (b)(v):

threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.

c) Amendment to Paragraph 181:

In addition, the ~~factor or factors which are threatening~~ *threats and/or their deleterious impacts* on the integrity of the property must be those which are amenable to correction by human action. In the case of cultural properties, both natural factors and man-made factors may be threatening, while in the case of natural properties, most threats will be man-made and only very rarely a natural factor (such as an epidemic disease) will threaten the integrity of the property. In some cases, the ~~factor or factors which are threatening~~ *threats and/or their deleterious impacts* on the integrity of the property may be corrected by administrative or legislative action, such as the cancelling of a major public works project or the improvement of legal status.

7B. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Mount Kenya National Park / Natural Forest (Kenya) (N800)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.4**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that a management plan has not been finalized and urges the State Party to prioritise this activity;
4. Requests the State Party to conduct a review of the threats facing the property, including the following:
 - a) fencing:
 - i) take the necessary measures to halt the current fence construction within and adjacent to the property;
 - ii) conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment study on existing and planned fences, including those under construction;

- iii) ensure that any implementation of fencing respects the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment study, and does not compromise the values of the World Heritage Property, including the routes of migratory species;
 - iv) assess the protection status of the Hombe forest and its potential for re-inclusion as part of the property;
 - b) update, complete, adopt and implement the management plan;
 - c) assess the threat to the values of the property from encroachment, deforestation, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict;
- 5. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
- 6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property during the long dry season between December 2008 and February 2009;
- 7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, three printed and electronic copies of the finalised management plan and a state of conservation report including the impact of the fence on wildlife and any other threats to the values of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

2. Vredefort Dome (South Africa) (N1162)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
- 2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.4**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
- 3. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2008 Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as possible, including:
 - a) through its relevant Ministry and the Department of Environment and Tourism, undertake urgently all the necessary steps to have the property proclaimed under national law and adopt the 2007 integrated management plan;
 - b) in consultation with the landowners, clearly demarcate appropriate boundaries of the buffer zone of the property and obtain endorsement for its legal proclamation and for the 2007 Integrated management plan to ensure adequate legal protection of the property and its effective management;
 - c) provide as a matter of priority the urgently required resources for management and for staff and services within the property;

- d) take urgent action to reduce the level of pollution in the Vaal River and conduct regular monitoring, including the monitoring of ground water quality and levels;
 - e) establish clear policies for appropriate land use, particularly in relation to agriculture and tourism;
 - f) ensure development is effectively regulated in relation to environmental legislation and that any development does not threaten the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property;
 - g) ensure that the issue of fire hazard is addressed as a matter of urgency through the provision of an on-site fire fighting facility equipped and manned for rapid response;
4. Calls upon the international community to assist the State Party by mobilizing financial resources to enable the efficient management of the Vredefort Dome;
 5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2008 monitoring mission, and in providing adequate legal protection to the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

3. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N199)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its sincerest condolences to the family of the game reserve officer who was killed recently;
4. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 mission;
5. Expresses its utmost concern about reports received by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN of uranium prospecting within the property and in the wildlife corridor; and reiterates its position that mining is incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to halt any prospecting or other mining developments within the property and calls upon the holders of any mining or exploration permit covering the property to respect international standards with respect to mining in World Heritage properties, as outlined in the International Council on Mining and Metals Position Statement on Mining and Protected Areas (2003) and not to mine or explore within World Heritage properties;

7. Notes with concern other potential developments within or in the vicinity of the property which might impact its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity, in particular planned dam developments and the proposed upgrading of the Tunduru- Songea road and also urges the State Party to submit information to the World Heritage Centre on the status of these projects and their potential impact on the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Further urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission;
9. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as foreseen in Decision **31 COM 7B.3**, to take place during the 2008/2009 dry season in order to assess the state of conservation of the property, in particular the effective management and impact of hunting activities on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including the status of wildlife populations, the levels of hunting and poaching, status of the planned and on going mining and development projects with potential impact on the property and on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

4. Mosi-oa- Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe) (N509)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress of the States Parties to improve the institutional arrangements for managing and protecting this transboundary property;
4. Notes with concern the challenges and threats to the integrity of the property, in particular from urban development, increasing tourism numbers, invasive species, and insufficient funds to implement the joint management plan;
5. Calls upon the international community to offer financial and technical support for the implementation of the joint management plan and related programmes, including research and monitoring, and actions to ensure land use compatibility within the property;

6. Requests the States Parties to continue their joint efforts to implement the Institutional Framework and Legal Cooperation, Tourism Development, and Resource Conservation Programmes;
7. Also requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress in identifying funding to implement the joint management plan and related programmes, and in addressing the threats and challenges facing the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

ARAB STATES

5. Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley) (Egypt) (N 1186)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.5**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the significant progress achieved by the State Party in strengthening the management capacities and facilities in the property in line with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription;
4. Reiterates the recommendation of the IUCN Evaluation to consider a nomination of the Gebel Qatrani area for natural criteria as an extension to the existing property;
5. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the mission, to reinforce and complement the earlier recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription:
 - a) develop a proposal for changing the boundary of the property, taking into account recommendations at the time of inscription as well as recent additional fossil discoveries to the north of the property, and the possibility to link the property with the Gebel Qatrani area;
 - b) address the issue of uncontrolled vehicle access in the north of the property;
 - c) ensure adequate funding for the property to ensure running costs and maintenance of infrastructure;
 - d) finalize the current revision of the management plan and submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010** a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

6. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report as requested at its 31 session (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Welcomes the findings of the IUCN Management Effectiveness Assessment on the positive progress in managing the property; but notes with concern the many threats which the property continues to face;
5. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of its previous decisions; and in particular to report on the following issues:
 - a) monitoring the status of values of the property;
 - b) protection of marine resources from overexploitation and pollution; and
 - c) status of the proposed Oil spill emergency response plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress in implementing the previous recommendations, together with a copy of the management plan for the next period, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

7. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N1094)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7A.12** and **31 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for its successful management of limited water resources in 2006-7 and notes with satisfaction the continuation of the policy of considering Ichkeul as a net consumer of water;
4. Also notes that the State Party has begun the process of establishing a management structure, with powers of decision making and financial autonomy, as recommended by the 2006 mission, and has recently established an Agenda 21 Committee;

5. Welcomes the measures proposed in the management plan to achieve management of water resources through cooperation with the authorities responsible for the dams and through mathematical modelling;
6. Expresses its satisfaction at the continuing improvement of the state of conservation of the property, in particular the restoration of fresh water conditions, which have allowed the development of improved fish catches, greater expansion of water plants and the numbers of aquatic birds;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission and the implementation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

ASIA-PACIFIC

8. Purnululu National Park (Australia) (N1094)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **27 COM 8C.11** and **29 COM 7B.11**, adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the continued commitment of the State Party to address the conservation concerns of the property and its report on ongoing and planned measures;
4. Notes with satisfaction the transfer of management of the Ord River Regeneration Reserve to the Western Australia Department for Environment and Conservation, and the commitment to extend the Purnululu Conservation Area in 2015, as a means of providing enhanced wider protection of the World Heritage property;
5. Also notes the State Party's intentions in relation to the review of the Purnululu National Park Management Plan and requests the State Party, in consultation with IUCN and ICOMOS, to:
 - a) confirm the adequacy of sustainable finance for the management of the property and its surrounding areas;
 - b) pursue the on-going consideration of indigenous cultural values of the property;
 - c) facilitate a discussion over priority issues that should be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee;
6. Also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the legal resolution of the native title to Purnululu National Park when this is known, in order to establish an achievable schedule to report on these issues to the World Heritage Committee;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on progress made on the state of conservation of the property assessing the specific issues raised above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.

9. Macquarie Island (Australia) (N629 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the progress made with the planning and preparation for the implementation of the plan for the eradication of invasive rabbits and rodents that adversely impact the property's values and integrity;
4. Requests the State Party to proceed swiftly with the implementation of the eradication plan and to secure and allocate sufficient financial and technical support for key pre and post eradication monitoring activities, such as vegetation and seabird monitoring on the island, which will help to demonstrate the benefits of the eradication project;
5. Recalls the 2003 recommendation of the Bureau of the UNESCO Man-and-Biosphere (MAB) Programme's International Coordinating Council to consider withdrawing Macquarie Island from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and to focus on the World Heritage status of this property, considering that it is not a functional biosphere reserve as it lacks human residents and does not demonstrate sustainable development;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the progress made with the implementation of the eradication plan, the estimated size of the rabbit population on the island, and the potential impact on the island's seabirds of long-lining fishing trials in the waters around the island, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

10. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Offers its sympathy for the tragic loss of life as a result of cyclone Sidr;

3. Calls upon the international community to support the State Party in its efforts to re-establish full management capacity at the property as soon as possible;
4. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission, and place particular emphasis on the following:
 - a) produce a detailed restoration and recovery plan;
 - b) restore management capacity to:
 - i) restore field stations and forest patrols;
 - ii) communication and transport equipment;
 - iii) implement ecological monitoring;
 - c) support the revival of livelihood activities, including ecotourism;
 - d) engage with local communities to communicate the importance of the property to sustainable livelihoods and to determine alternatives to encroachment into the property;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on progress in implementing the recommendations of the mission and on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the State Party for consulting with stakeholders on the modification of the boundaries of the property; and for its Comprehensive River Basin Planning process and encourages it to extend this consultation with stakeholders, particularly the local communities, on its plans for dam building in the region;
4. Requests the State Party to provide the following documents and reports when complete and as soon as possible for review and comment by the World Heritage Committee before their finalisation and implementation:
 - a) Environmental Impact Assessments for Comprehensive River Basin Planning and Special Hydroelectric Dam Planning for the following rivers:
 - i) middle and lower reaches of the Nujiang River: The Report on Hydroelectric Dam Planning in the Middle and Lower Basins of Nujiang River for the 9-scalar dam;

- ii) upper reaches of Lancang River: The Report on Hydroelectric Dam Planning in the Upper Reach Segment of Lancang River for the 5-scalar dam; and
 - iii) middle reaches of the Jinsha River: The Concise Report on the Comprehensive Planning for use of Yangtze River Basin for unspecified dams;
- b) Environmental Impact Assessments or operation plans for planned or existing mines demonstrating environmental management practices to prevent negative effects on the property;
 - c) plans and justification for the modification of boundaries, including how ecological connectivity issues are being addressed.
5. Also requests the State Party to highlight specific direct and indirect impacts of dam construction on the values of the property;
 6. Further requests, in addition to the reporting on points above, the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including status of hydroelectric dam planning and development and boundary modification, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

12. Kaziranga National Park (India) (N 337)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **26 COM 21B.10**, adopted at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002),
3. Notes the important on-going efforts of the State Party to protect the property, in particular for the strategic extensions to the National Park in order to address issues of integrity affecting the existing property;
4. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to create a protected area in the Karbi Anglong hills and to ensure the connectivity with the existing National Park, in order to ensure long term integrity of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to ensure that adequate funding and staffing is provided for the management of the property and that funds provided by the central Government are transferred in a timely manner to the property;
6. Expresses its concern about the planned upgrading of the NH37 national highway into a four-lane highway, which would block wildlife migrations and could threaten the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List and also requests the State Party to submit the plans for this development, including the Environmental Impact Assessment, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before any decision on the upgrading of the road is taken;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on the management and planned upgrading of highway NH37, efforts to curb poaching and on funding and staffing for the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

13. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with concern the ongoing problems of water supply caused by reduced summer monsoon rains in the last four years and the resulting problems with invasive vegetation, notably *Prosopis juliflora* and *Eichhornia crassipes*;
4. Also notes with concern the continuing absence of any information to gauge the effects of the repeated droughts on the diversity and abundance of birdlife in the property, placing in doubt its Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Further notes the efforts of the State Party to address the water shortage as manifested by its investment in the Chiksana Canal and in the Govardhan Drain diversion projects, and in the proposed Dholpu-Bharatpur water supply project;
6. Welcomes the increased involvement of local stakeholders in the management of the property and suggests that formal structures be established to enable local stakeholders to be consulted on management and to participate in the conservation of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2008 Reactive Monitoring mission, notably to:
 - a) complete the Govardhan Drain diversion project in time to take advantage of the 2008 monsoon, and report on progress in the Dholpur-Bharatpur drinking water project;
 - b) complete the *Prosopis* invasive plant control measures and put into place a permanent control programme for this, and other invasive plants;
 - c) collaborate with local communities and stakeholders on management of the property in particular for the eradication of invasive vegetation;
 - d) implement a monitoring programme of breeding and wintering birds in the property and in the region as soon as possible, with special attention to the Siberian Crane, to enable monitoring of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; and to make the results of such monitoring available to international conservation organisations, engaging with conservation organisations as appropriate;

- e) continue to invest in the maintenance and improvement of the property's infrastructure, including tourism infrastructure;
 - f) carry out a public use planning exercise with the objectives of better defining management authority, state and central government investments in this regard;
 - g) support the efforts to identify and improve management of satellite wetlands surrounding the property as a strategy to enhance the resilience of bird populations to climatic and hydrological variations in the region;
8. **Also requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress in implementing the above-noted recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.12** and **31 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Recognises the efforts of the State Party to implement the draft Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and its efforts to combat illegal logging, and urges the State Party to complete and fully implement the EAP in 2008;
4. Regrets the escalation of threats, in particular the severity of encroachment, which have degraded the integrity of the property;
5. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the EAP;
6. Requests the State Party to address the key recommendations from the previous Reactive Monitoring missions, and in particular to:
 - a) provide sufficient financial support to the park authorities for effective staffing, enforcement, prosecution and restoration and to identify alternative sources of income for local communities to help reduce illegal activities;
 - b) communicate and collaborate with government agencies at all levels to ensure that policies, laws, enforcement, and private enterprise support and do not counter the efforts of the park authorities;

- c) halt all encroachment immediately, including by issuing the decree on encroachment, and monitor and remove settlements and plantations from encroached areas to facilitate their restoration;
 - d) ensure legal protection from road building and mining, and establish legal exceptions for any laws that allow these activities in the property;
 - e) enforce the boundaries of the property and maintain, patrol and communicate these boundaries to concessionaires, local authorities and other stakeholders.
- 7 Also requests the State Party to hold a coordination workshop, to coincide with the planned 2009 joint Reactive Monitoring mission, with government agencies and other stakeholders to ensure the harmonisation of policies for the protection of the values and integrity of the property;
 - 8 Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
 - 9 Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a state of conservation report to include progress in implementing the EAP, the above recommendations of the previous monitoring missions, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes with concern the extensive threats to the property in the Lake Habema and southern lowland regions and the inadequate functioning of the management agency;
4. Acknowledges the increased funding allocated to the property in 2008 as compared to 2007 and the cooperation with international partners to improve conservation; however, also notes with concern reports of projected future overall funding reductions from an already inadequate level of funding;
5. Calls upon the international community to continue to support the property and increase financial and technical assistance;
6. Urges the State Party to increase political, financial and technical support for the property; and to engage more closely with the Papua provincial government to ensure that adequate legal protection and financial support is accorded to the property for its effective management;

7. Requests the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2008 Reactive Monitoring mission and to prioritise those which are most urgent, in particular:
- a) address the threats in the Lake Habema Region of the property from road construction, forest die-back and illegal logging through the following activities:
 - i) cease road construction, rehabilitate recently constructed roads and mitigate impacts;
 - ii) engage with local and provincial governments to resolve the threat of road development and potential impacts arising from decentralisation of government;
 - iii) engage with all indigenous communities within the property to identify options for sustainable development;
 - iv) identify and control die-back disease threatening the Nothofagus forests in the Lake Habema region;
 - v) address illegal logging;
 - b) improve management agency functioning through the following activities:
 - i) finalise and implement the 2005 – 2010 (2007-2012) strategic plan;
 - ii) initiate consultation for strategic (precinct) planning of Lake Habema Region;
 - iii) seek external assistance for capacity building, technical assistance, equipment, and financing;
 - iv) increase capacity of staff through training and recruitment of technical experts;
 - v) survey and map ecosystems within alpine-montane landscapes in the property to improve basis of management;
 - vi) conduct independent technical and engineering assessment and design of road construction options in alpine-montane tract to minimise environmental impact;
 - c) improve management of the southern lowlands region through the following activities:
 - i) mark marine boundaries and promote awareness within Government and the fishing industry to halt illegal fishing;
 - ii) collaborate with appropriate agencies on law enforcement to effectively protect the marine environment;
 - iii) initiate a programme to control and prevent further spread of hyacinth into the property;
 - iv) develop liaison with Freeport for tracking of results of on-going monitoring of the impact of effluent discharge from mine tailings;
 - v) promote independent monitoring of marine portion of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a report, by **1 February 2010**, on the state of conservation of the property, and progress on the implementation of recommendations of the 2008 monitoring mission, in particular on

the cessation of damaging road construction, rehabilitation of existing roads, mitigation of impacts, and research into forest die-back, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

16. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Corr*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.6**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Commends the State Party for responding effectively to the recommendations made at the time of inscription of the property;
4. Takes note of the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and requests the State Party to implement them, with particular emphasis on the following:
 - a) explore with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) the obtaining of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) designation for the marine component of the property, with a view to giving it an added layer of protection;
 - b) integrate the marine management plan with the overall management plan of the property and clearly identify activities, results and objectively verifiable indicators, assign clear roles and responsibilities and elaborate a time-frame for its implementation;
 - c) complete the revision of the overall management plan for the property and integrate all the other individual plans, including the one for the marine component, salmonids, sika deer, and for ecotourism and proper use;
 - d) consider identifying and designating locally relevant conservation zones, including no-take zones and practices, within the marine habitat, to ensure sustainable productivity of the marine biodiversity, including of the fishery resource;
 - e) continue the cooperation which has been initiated with the Russian Federation to find long-term solutions to resource use problems, particularly the unsustainable harvesting of the Walleye Pollock, and for regular exchange of scientific information;
 - f) continue and accelerate measures to promote the free movement of salmon within the property and also to increase salmon escapement, giving priority attention to the modification of structures on the Rurua River, and monitor impacts on salmon populations;
 - g) develop clear indicators to help define acceptable limits for the impact of grazing on natural vegetation, and monitor the impacts of control measures on sika deer populations and the biodiversity and ecosystems of the property;

- h) develop a consolidated ecotourism strategy for the property and ensure that it is closely linked and integrated with regional strategies for tourism and economic development within Shiretoko;
 - i) develop a Climate Change Strategy for Shiretoko which includes:
 - i) a monitoring programme; and
 - ii) adaptive management strategies to minimise any impacts of climate change on its values;
5. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed regularly on the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2008 monitoring mission and submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a report on the above issues for examination by World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

17. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.22**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Encourages the State Party to manage the high visitor levels by integrating visitor and tourism planning into the overall management of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to complete as soon as possible the Environmental Impact Assessments for the widening of Highway 304 and for the design of the wildlife corridors and to allocate the required financial resources to proceed urgently with the consideration of these corridors;
6. Also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all recommendations and plans that have been recently developed to enhance the conservation and management of the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on progress achieved on the implementation of these recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

18. Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy) (N 908)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.24**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the detailed report by the State Party addressing major threats identified by the 2007 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission;
4. Welcomes that all the new mining activity that could affect the property has been stopped, and requests the State Party, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to ensure that these mining activities will not be reopened in the future;
5. Also requests the State Party to take action, by **1 February 2009** to fully implement items b) to i) of Decision **31 COM 7B.24**;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed and updated report, on the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

19. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets the fires which occurred in August 2007 in the vicinity of the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to include risk reduction in its management of the property, particularly in relation to the impact of fires on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a clarification on the status and exact location of the hydro-electric dams for which tenders were issued in November 2007, a report on its management of risks to the values of the property, and a report on the overall state of conservation of the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

20. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.20** and **31 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with concern that a large part of the property on the Belarusian side might not have been managed according to World Heritage standards given that the State Party considered that only the strictly protected zone of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List, not the whole National Park;
4. Reiterates its request to both States Parties to ensure that the management of the property and surrounding areas does not adversely impact on the values and integrity of the property, and to continue their efforts to implement the recommendations of the joint 2004 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission, as confirmed by the 2007 recommendations of the European Diploma Group of Specialists;
5. Requests both States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, preferably in September or October 2008, in order to:
 - a) assess the state of conservation of the property and surrounding areas that are intended to be proposed as extensions to the property;
 - b) resolve the boundary issue on the Belarusian side before the revision of the functional zoning of the national park is completed and obtain a map of the whole transboundary property;
 - c) review progress made with the management plans for the national parks and make recommendations on the consideration of World Heritage requirements in them; and
 - d) advise on the possibility to re-nominate the property under additional criteria, with extended and consolidated boundaries and with appropriate buffer zones;
 - e) assist in reviewing the draft Statement for Outstanding Universal Value for the property prepared by the Periodic Reporting Meeting held in Wrocław, Poland (September 2007)
6. Also requests both States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, updated reports on the state of conservation of the property and on further progress made in implementing pending recommendations from the 2004 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

21. Danube Delta (Romania)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.24**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Regrets that the States Parties of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine did not provide a report as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session, and also regrets that the State Party of Ukraine did not keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed about the reopening of navigation routes, any actual or potential impacts on the Danube Delta World Heritage property, and the implementation of proposed mitigation measures;
4. Notes that the development of the Bystroe Canal does not conform to the Espoo Convention and that concerns have been raised through the Bern, Ramsar, Water and Aarhus Conventions on impacts associated with the canal;
5. Notes with concern that the European Union has a variety of economic and environmental projects in the River Basin of the Danube that are not harmonized or coordinated with the environmental requirements for the protection of the Danube Delta;
6. Urges the State Party of Romania to implement the recommendations and agreed actions of the Odessa Conference of 2006, and in particular to strengthen cooperation with the States Parties of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova;
7. Requests the State Party of Romania to finalise, adopt and implement the following:
 - a) rules for navigation in the Danube Delta;
 - b) guidelines on architecture and building activities in the Danube Delta; and include mitigation measures for hydrological impacts from construction in these guidelines;
 - c) tourism Master Plan, while making every effort to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - d) mechanism for transboundary cooperation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of projects affecting the Delta;
8. Also requests the State Party of Ukraine to provide regular updates on the status of the Bystroe Canal project;
9. Further requests the State Party of Romania to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including a copy of the River Basin Management Plan for the Danube Delta and the tourism plan for the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

22. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N768 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with concern that the State Party has not rejected plans to construct a gas pipeline which, if it were to pass through the property, would constitute a threat to its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Requests the State Party to provide full details of the feasibility study for the gas pipeline project including results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (considering both environmental and social/cultural impacts) to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Also requests the State Party to fully consider and effectively implement the recommendations of the 2007 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to strengthen the protection and management of the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 mission for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.25** and **31 COM 7B.26** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling Decision **24 COM VIII.44-49** (Cairns, 2000) on World Heritage and mining and the subsequent commitment by major stakeholders in the mining industry (International Council on Minerals and Metals, 2003) not to mine in World Heritage properties,

4. Notes that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property remains intact and is not subject to immediate threat but that important issues related to the integrity and management of the property exist which, if not addressed, could jeopardize its Outstanding Universal Value and integrity;
5. Urges the State Party to implement the following recommendations of the 2007 mission in order to strengthen the protection and management of the property:
 - a) upgrade the protection regime of the regional Nature Parks, either by upgrading them to National Park status, as originally foreseen by the State Party, or by revising their zoning to better conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and in particular its biodiversity values;
 - b) establish a management structure and institutional strategy for the property, which can ensure that all resources in the property are managed with the objective of conserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its integrity;
 - c) develop an integrated management plan for the entire property, defining its management objectives based on its Outstanding Universal Value and associated conditions of integrity, setting common standards for management to maintain the World Heritage values across the property and define planning and management responsibilities for the different management entities;
 - d) develop or revise the management plans for each of the six components of the property as part of the integrated management plan that detail how each will be managed to maintain the values for which the whole property was inscribed as well as how these plans will be resourced to ensure their implementation;
 - e) precisely set the boundaries of the property within the management plan, by translating the boundaries identified at the time of inscription into geographical coordinates;
6. Requests the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2007 mission to address key conservation issues, in particular:
 - a) submit to the World Heritage Committee, the Environmental Impact Assessments for existing and planned mineral mining, geothermal exploitation as well as exploration projects situated near the boundaries of the property;
 - b) monitor closely on-going mining, gas pipeline, and mineral or geothermal exploration activities close to the boundaries of the property to avoid adverse impacts on the property and to ensure that the highest environmental standards are met;
 - c) submit an additional scientific report on the state of conservation of the salmon populations in the property, showing the trends since the time of inscription;
 - d) as part of an overall management framework, establish an access policy for the entire property, based on establishing an overall framework for access control and limiting accessibility;
7. Also urges the State Party to provide, by **1 November 2008**, information on the alleged changes in the regulations of Bystrinsky Nature Park to allow geological prospecting and reported plans to change the boundaries of the park to accommodate mining activities;

8. Invites the State Party to consider addressing the issue of joint management plans, management frameworks and management standards for all natural World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation composed of federal and regional protected areas through a national law for the management of natural World Heritage properties that meets the State Party's obligations to the *Convention*;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Welcomes the steps taken by the State Party to implement some of the recommendations from the 2005 monitoring mission, but notes that many have not yet been fully addressed;
4. Urges the State Party to implement the remaining recommendations effectively;
5. Requests the State Party to complete its review of the legal provisions relevant to the property and to ensure that the law "On protection of Lake Baikal" and other laws and regulations are effectively implemented ;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on any exemptions or amendments to the prohibited activities listed in Resolution 643 of the Baikal Law, and to confirm that activities incompatible with the World Heritage status, including mining, will continue to be prohibited;
7. Encourages the State Party to ensure adequate funding for management and monitoring of the property;
8. Also urges the State Party to finalise, as soon as possible, the municipal sewage treatment facilities to enable the operation of the closed water system within the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill;
9. Further requests the State Party to set up legal and administrative frameworks to regulate tourism and recreation, to urgently develop and adopt effective planning regulations, and to establish a sustainable tourism strategy for the property;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a clear and detailed report on the state of conservation of the property addressing the points above, and including the status of the Kholodninksoe zinc and lead deposit, and outlining further progress made in implementing the remaining

recommendations of the joint 2005 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the current and potential threats to the property from roads, logging and lack of effective management;
4. Welcomes the recent decision of the State Party to change plans concerning the location of the Sliding Center (luge-bobsleigh), Olympic Mountain Village and the Biathlon Stadium from close proximity to the property and to relocate them to a new location;
5. Urges the State Party to halt all activities affecting the values and integrity of the property, in particular, the extensive risks to the property from the current plans for the developments for 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and road plans;
6. Requests the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2008 monitoring mission as a matter of urgency, and in particular the following:
 - a) halt further construction of the road to Lunnaya Polyana, and ensure it is not enlarged, asphalted and used for recreational use, and the traffic is strictly regulated;
 - b) restore the legal protection for the buffer zone of the property and ensure that it is managed fully in accordance with its World Heritage status;
 - c) stop illegal logging of forests, rehabilitate the logged areas and monitor their ecological recovery;
 - d) abandon plans for recreational use and development in Lagonaki Plateau, Mt. Fisht and Mt. Oshten areas, and ensuring that the use of infrastructure and equipment already existing on site is strictly limited;
 - e) ensure that the Biosphere Centre built at Lunnaya Polyana is used for management, research and monitoring, or visitor information purposes only, and not converted into a recreational facility;
 - f) prevent construction of facilities and infrastructure related to the 2014 Winter Olympics within or in the proximity of the World Heritage property, especially in very sensitive areas like Grushevy ridge;
 - g) identify alternative locations to the proposed locations of the Olympic Mountain Village, the Sliding Center and the Biathlon stadium, as well as associated roads and

infrastructure, located in the adjoining Sochi National Park and in the immediate proximity of the Southern boundary of the property. Suitable international biodiversity experts should be involved with this process to enhance transparency and credibility;

- h) subject all construction projects of the 2014 Winter Olympics facilities and infrastructure to a full and independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure which explicitly assesses the likely impacts of projects on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property, as well as on the Sochi National Park;
7. Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a dialogue with the International Olympic Committee to put in place an agreement regarding Olympics and World Heritage to parallel the ICMM position statement on the prohibition of mining in World Heritage Sites;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with copies of all new infrastructure planning and Environmental Impact Assessment documents, to include summary translations in one of the two working languages of the *Convention* for review as soon as these documents are available and before construction begins;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress in finding alternative locations for the Olympic Games development and infrastructure, and all the other recommendations of the 2008 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

26. Natural System of "Wrangel Island" Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 14B.14**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that there has been no reported progress made by the State Party in implementing the World Heritage Committee's decision at the time of inscription;
4. Requests the State Party to take the necessary steps to complete the management plan for the property as soon as possible, and send it in three copies to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, before the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

27. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Welcomes the completion and dissemination of a visitor code of conduct;
4. Notes the importance of decisive action in relation to threats to the property and requests the State Party to finalise plans for rapid implementation of the eradication of the invasive Polynesian rat and to consider the appointment of a ranger for Henderson Island;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the overall state of conservation of the property, including reference to alien fauna and flora, sustainable use of timber, turtle nesting beaches, extinctions, ex situ conservation and translocation, the rat eradication scheme, as well as the planned ranger appointment for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010, and further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a copy of the Environmental Strategy for the Pitcairn Islands, when it is available.

28. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom) (N 369)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.27**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Takes notes of the detailed report provided by the State Party on the developments concerning the visitor centre and improved planning processes and management of the property;
4. Welcomes the involvement with stakeholders in implementing the decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003) and 29th (Durban 2005) sessions and the recommendations of the 2003 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to build a new visitor centre and notes that planning permission was not granted for a private investor development proposal;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an update report on the situation of the planning and design for the visitor centre, for review.

29. Yellowstone National Park (United States of America) (N 28)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Acknowledges progress in implementing the New World Mining District Response and Restoration project, restoring the roads within the guidelines of the National Environment Policy Act, and in implementing water quality improvement measures;
4. Requests the State Party to continue to address the threats identified in this and previous reports in particular:
 - a) accelerate the adaptive management changes under the Bison management plan, including:
 - i) carry out a risk analysis for disease transmission from bison to cattle and include other ungulates by including a review of scientific knowledge on disease transmission, bison behaviour and genetics, and seasonal factors;
 - ii) consider changing cattle management practices so that bison can migrate naturally, and;
 - iii) promote and enhance stakeholders' participation and accountability and transparency on the implementation of this plan.
 - b) increase efforts to understand the causes for the slow recovery of the cutthroat trout;
 - i) carry out a scientific review of the programme to remove the lake trout invasive species;
 - ii) investigate the effects of reduced lake levels and drought on the cutthroat trout and consider the potential role of climate change in further affecting the recovery of this species;
 - c) assess the risk to grizzly bears from declining whitebark pine and investigate the severity of bark pine beetle infestation and the role of changing temperatures;
5. Notes the continued pressures from high visitor use and calls on the State Party to:
 - a) implement a sustainability programme to reduce the impacts of visitation and parks operations to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property can be transmitted to future generations;
 - b) continue assessing visitor numbers and the effects of visitor use on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - c) continue assessing winter visitation and the effects from snowmobiles;

6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in 2011 to review progress in implementing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress made in addressing the different issues above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Acknowledges the extensive on-going efforts of the Everglades National Park and the considerable funding of the State Party to protect and restore the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue providing sufficient funding to ensure the corrective measures are implemented as effectively and as quickly as possible;
5. Also encourages the State Party to conduct a vulnerability assessment and develop a risk reduction strategy for climate change, including effective solutions to restoring the water flow and functioning of the Everglades ecosystem that will allow it to adapt to projected sea-level rise;
6. Notes that previous state of conservation reports have not provided data and information on the status of many of the values for which the property was inscribed;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed state of conservation report, including information on species and ecosystems, and progress in implementing the corrective measures and achieving the desired state of conservation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

31. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is present though degraded, but also notes with serious concern the various specific threats which the property currently faces in particular threats due to biodiversity and visual impacts;
4. Notes with satisfaction the rejection of the hot air balloon concession;
5. Urges the State Party, in coordination with the State Party of Brazil, to implement the following recommendations of the 2008 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission in order to the strengthen the management and protect the biodiversity values of the property:
 - a) create a permanent and effective mechanism for transboundary co-operation, in particular for research, resource protection, and public use oriented to the appreciation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - b) continue joint efforts with the State Party of Brazil toward a coordinated revision of the management plans for the two adjacent properties, including development of shared indicators and standards for minimising visitor impacts, and establishing acceptable limits of change for biological and aesthetic values, including visual and audio impacts for all tourism and public use activities and associated infrastructure;
 - c) carry out a study of the short-term oscillation of water levels in the Iguazú River and Falls to quantify biological and visual impacts, and develop a monitoring process to track change and regularly inform decision-making;
 - d) carry out a study of the economic benefits of tourism to the local economies and an inventory of those local attractions that could aid in diverting visitation away from the Falls area and that would contribute to building local constituencies;
 - e) remove as soon as possible the unsightly remains of old elevated walkways that affect the visual integrity of the Garganta del Diablo overlook and vicinity, and restore the natural riverscape;
 - f) develop and implement a research and monitoring strategy for the key species that were specially listed when the site was inscribed;

6. Recommends that the State Party carry out a study to determine the technical and economical feasibility of acquiring the lands of the Argentine Peninsula Bottleneck for inclusion to the Iguazú National Park;
7. Also urges the State Party through its National World Heritage Committee to implement an early warning system to alert the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* to any plans for the development of a hydroelectric project on the Paraná River of Argentina and Paraguay that would impact the property;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2008 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

32. Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 31th session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is present though degraded, but notes with serious concern the various specific threats which the property currently faces, in particular threats due to biodiversity and visual impacts;
4. Urges the State Party, in coordination with the State Party of Argentina, to implement the following recommendations of the 2008 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission in order to strengthen the management and protect the biodiversity of the property:
 - a) create a permanent and effective mechanism for transboundary co-operation, in particular for research, resource protection, and public use oriented to the appreciation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - b) continue joint efforts with the State Party of Argentina toward a coordinated revision of the management plans for the two adjacent properties, including development of shared indicators and standards for minimising visitor impacts, and establishing acceptable limits of change for biological and aesthetic values, including visual and audio impacts for all tourism and public use activities and associated infrastructure; and short-term oscillations in the water levels of the Iguazu River and Falls;

- c) carry out a study of the short-term oscillation of water levels in the Iguaçu River and Falls to quantify biological and visual impacts, and develop a monitoring process to track change and regularly inform decision-making;
 - d) carry out a study of the economic benefits of tourism to the local economies and an inventory of those local attractions that could aid in diverting visitation away from the Falls area and that would contribute to building local constituencies;
 - e) develop and implement a research and monitoring strategy for the key species that were specifically listed when site was inscribed;
 - f) develop a qualified Ranger Corps for the Park specially trained in addressing conservation issues;
5. Also urges the State Party to implement an early warning system to alert the World Heritage Committee to any plans for the development of a hydroelectric project on the Iguaçu River that would impact the property;
 6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
 7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2008 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

33. Belize Barrier Reef System (Belize) (N 764)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Expresses its serious concern at the reported destruction of mangrove and coral reef ecosystems within the property with accompanying adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value and the integrity of the property;
3. Requests the State Party to urgently ensure that these destructive activities cease immediately and that the affected areas be ecologically rehabilitated; and to inform the World Heritage Committee of any existing or proposed development plans in waters / cays within or adjacent to the property as required under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

5. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in 2008/2009 to assess the extent of the reported damage and the state of conservation of the property;
6. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including measures taken to stop the destruction of mangroves and coral reefs and a description of progress in rehabilitating the reported damage to the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

34. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 1083)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Notes with satisfaction the review and assessment process initiated by the State Party to strengthen the conservation and management of this property;
3. Invites the State Party to consider requesting International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the review and assessment process;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and progress made on the implementation of the above mentioned review and assessment process for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

35. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica / Panama) (N 205 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the States Parties did not submit their reports in one of the two working languages of the *World Heritage Convention* (French and English);
4. Notes with concern the observations reported by the World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property, in particular:

- a) absence of any planned measures to mitigate the impact of the hydroelectric dams on the seven aquatic species which would otherwise be lost from the affected river systems;
 - b) significant incidence of cattle within the property, including the creation of illegal pastures within its boundaries;
 - c) longer term risk to the property posed by potential piecemeal development of hydroelectric dams and their associated infrastructure;
 - d) risk that communities displaced by the dam construction may migrate into the property if their needs are not adequately addressed;
 - e) low presence of the management authority at the property;
 - f) absence of an effective participatory management process involving civil society and government authorities;
5. Requests the States Parties to jointly address these concerns by urgently carrying out the following recommendations, noting points a)-e) as priorities:
- a) design, implement and monitor the effectiveness of mitigation measures in relation to the need to maintain the migratory corridors of the Changuinola and Bonyic rivers for the affected aquatic species; implement measures downstream to reduce mortality from pollution and illegal fishing (Panama);
 - b) develop and implement a plan to control and manage cattle within the property; integrating private lands into the property by 2018 (Costa Rica, Panama), and cease or rigorously control and manage the movement of cattle through the property (Panama) to avoid any effects on the Outstanding Universal Value and the integrity of the property;
 - c) ensure that the needs of all members of communities that may be displaced by the building of the hydro-electric dams are adequately met, ensuring that the property is not negatively affected (Panama);
 - d) identify and implement appropriate increases in management authority presence to support the effective management of the property (Costa Rica, Panama);
 - e) re-activate and support the bi-national Biosphere Reserve Committee for the property, incorporating government and non-government stakeholders, providing effective landscape level input into management planning issues, and use existing bi-national cooperation agreements, particularly those existing under the framework of the CCAD, to further enhance this work (Costa Rica, Panama);
 - f) carry out an analysis of the cumulative effects of potential further dam construction outside of the property (Panama) and of other infrastructure development (Costa Rica, Panama) on the property's Outstanding Universal Value and integrity to better guide future decision-making and restoration/mitigation programmes;
 - g) implement a systematic ecological monitoring system to improve understanding of the reduction in wildlife numbers reported to be taking place (Costa Rica, Panama);
 - h) carry out a detailed assessment of observed encroachment taking place on the Caribbean side (Costa Rica), and implement an appropriate response to stop further

encroachments and to ensure property boundaries are respected and their control enforced;

- i) assess the effectiveness of the follow-up on environmental crimes reporting, and implement corrective measures where necessary (Panama);
6. Reiterates its request to the States Parties to develop jointly, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010;
7. Also requests the State Party of Panama to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made in regards to the identification and implementation of mitigation measures in relation to the need to maintain the migratory corridors of the Changuinola and Bonyic rivers for the affected aquatic species as noted in point 5a) above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a joint report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the recommendations noted in points 5a)-i) above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

36. Alexander von Humboldt National Park (Cuba) (N 839 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.37**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the commitment from Sherrit International (Canada) to abstain from exploring or exploiting the mining concession granted within this property in line with the international policy statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties;
4. Requests the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to close down the mining concessions granted within the boundaries of the property, or those in its periphery that could affect the property;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and a statement on its commitment to refrain from all mining activities within the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

37. Sangay National Park (Ecuador) (N 250)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its state of conservation report in one of the two languages of the *Convention* (French and English);
4. Commends the State Party for its implementation of the “Enhancing our Heritage” management effectiveness toolkit;
5. Urges the State Party to continue monitoring the impacts of the Highway of Guamote – Macas, particularly on the section within the property; in particular to monitor changes in vegetation, wildlife behaviour and any sign of ecosystem fragmentation and to develop and implement a recovery programme where vegetation has been affected;
6. Welcomes the clarification on boundaries, buffer zones and land tenure provided by the State Party; and notes that the area of the World Heritage property has not been reduced;
7. Requests the State Party to clarify the discrepancies in the maps provided between the boundaries of the World Heritage property and the northern part of the national park and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2008**, clear maps in this regard, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts in implementing the recommendations from the 2006 monitoring mission and encourages international donors and partners

involved in the conservation and management of this property to continue supporting the State Party efforts for the effective implementation of these recommendations;

4. Urges the State Party to expedite efforts for completing the action plan required for the effective implementation of Recommendation 5 of the 2006 monitoring report and for finalizing a detailed map clearly demarcating the property; and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2008**, the finalized map, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on further progress achieved on the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2006 monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

39. Manú National Park (Peru) (N 402)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its state of conservation report in one of the two languages of the *Convention* (French and English);
4. Requests that the State Party provide an updated high resolution map of the World Heritage property clearly indicating the original boundaries as per the 1987 nomination dossier, and explaining the discrepancy between the surface area indicated in the original nomination dossier, and the current value of the property's surface area and the area being proposed for extension;
5. Invites the State Party to submit a request for boundary modification, including a precise map illustrating lands proposed for extension, and encourages the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre on statutory requirements for preparing and submitting such request;
6. Notes with concern continued reports of threats to the conservation and integrity of the property, including incidents of deforestation, agricultural encroachment, invasion and insecurity;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** with a report on the state of conservation, including full details on the reported threats and any other potential threats directly and indirectly affecting the integrity of

the property, along with management's response to these threats, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

40. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 14B.11**, and **31 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with concern that development continues to affect the integrity of the property, which if not urgently addressed is likely to lead to significant loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Welcomes the preparation of an integrated development strategy for the property and requests the State Party to take the necessary steps to adopt its recommendations as the foundation of a binding planning framework for the property under the laws of St. Lucia, noting the need for the State Party to reflect further on its recommendations in order to ensure that the anticipated levels of development that might result from this strategy do not prejudice the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Encourages the State Party to develop activities with local partners, including UNDP and IUCN, for a programme to strengthen the management of the property, including in relation to the capacity of the management agencies and the communities within and adjacent to the property to protect, manage and benefit from the World Heritage status;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a full State Party report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above, including detailed baseline information on current land use within the property and a description of the development application and review process, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

41. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.43**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note of the findings of the recent World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / IUCN monitoring mission to the property, and requests the State Party to:
 - a) institute a mechanism through the future Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) management plan reviews, and involving all relevant stakeholders, to monitor, assess and manage the ecological integrity of the TWWHA and adjoining reserves by considering activities related to forestry operations, road construction and regeneration fires in the areas adjacent to the property;
 - b) submit a proposal for modifying the boundaries of the TWWHA to include the adjacent 21 areas of national parks and state reserves, which are currently not a part of the inscribed World Heritage property but are covered by its management plan;
 - c) not to renew the existing leases for mineral exploration and exploitation within the property and immediately adjacent to it (such as in the Melaleuca Cox Bight area), after their expiry and to rehabilitate the areas concerned and to incorporate them into the World Heritage property. Further, no new mining licenses should be granted within the property or in the areas which are being recommended for addition;
 - d) maintain and improve the resourcing for the research, documentation, protection, monitoring and effective management for archaeological and Aboriginal cultural sites both those within the TWWHA and those in the adjacent forestry areas that reflect the wider context of Aboriginal land-use practices and are of potential Outstanding Universal Value;
 - e) manage the forestry areas outside the inscribed property in order to protect cultural sites of potential Outstanding Universal Value;
 - f) ensure logging roads in areas adjacent to the TWWHA consider the ecological integrity, possible cultural sites and aesthetic values of the property, and reclaim roads no longer required;
 - g) prepare and implement a vegetation management plan covering the TWWHA and the adjoining forest reserves jointly by national parks and the forestry authorities, to address representativity of vegetation types and to reduce risks, particularly from fires and climate change;

- h) implement the recommendations emanating from the recently completed 2008 review of the Tasmania Regional Forest Agreement;
 - i) establish an active programme for monitoring the impacts of climate change on the property and incorporate this programme into a risk-reduction strategy and action plan;
4. Also requests the State Party to revise the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property to include relevant recent natural and cultural knowledge available regarding the site, for approval by the World Heritage Committee;
 5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider, at its own discretion, extension of the property to include appropriate areas of tall eucalyptus forest, having regard to the advice of IUCN; and also further requests the State Party to consider, at its own discretion, extension of the property to include appropriate cultural sites reflecting the wider context of Aboriginal land-use practices, and the possibility of re-nominating the property as a cultural landscape;
 6. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including a revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and progress related to the above mentioned issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

42. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France / Spain) (C/N 773 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Congratulates the State Party of Spain for its efforts in addressing the conservation issues facing the property;
4. Notes progress achieved on the implementation of some of the recommendations of the 2007 Reactive Monitoring mission and encourages further work to implement the remaining recommendations;
5. Regrets the relocation of the Gavarnie Festival has not occurred, despite the commitment from the State Party of France at the time of the inscription of the property, considers that the continuation of the Gavarnie Festival within the inscribed property represents an ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as defined by Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*; and requests the State Party of France to

take the necessary steps to relocate the Festival in line with its previous commitments and past decisions of the World Heritage Committee;

6. Also requests the States Parties to implement a participatory process involving all key stakeholders associated with the conservation and management of the property, in order to raise the profile of the agropastoralism system and consider ways of sustaining and supporting it as a key part of the Outstanding Universal Value of the cultural landscape;
7. Acknowledges a number of new cross-border initiatives underway or planned and further requests the States Parties to ensure more effective and coordinated management and monitoring of this property and, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a joint draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, to guide management activities;
8. Requests moreover the State Party of France to define the management structure for its part of the property, finalise and implement the interim management plan, and agree on a process to harmonise this with the State Party of Spain;
9. Requests furthermore the two States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on progress in addressing the above recommendations and in particular on the relocation of the Gavarnie Festival, the coordinated management of the property and the completion and implementation of the interim management plan for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, and **strongly urges the States Parties to request inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

43. Mount Athos (Greece) (C/N 454)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) session,
3. Notes with satisfaction the continuous efforts between national authorities responsible for heritage conservation and the leadership of the monastic community, the Holy Community of Mount Athos, to collaborate fruitfully and effectively to ensure the long term conservation of the property;
4. Also notes that the submitted reports do not address the key issue concerning the development of an overall management framework for the property covering both the natural and cultural values, as recommended by the joint mission and endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Urges the State Party and competent authorities to continue to implement all recommendations of the 2006 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / IUCN mission;
6. Requests the State Party, in collaboration with the Monastic communities, to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** a report on progress made with the management framework and in implementing the recommendations of the joint 2006

World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / IUCN mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

44. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling **Decision 31 COM 7B.45**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Taking note of the Report on the Implementation of **Decision 31 COM 7B.45**, submitted by the State Party by 1 February 2008, and of the additional Report issued by the concerned Management Unit on June 2008;
4. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report in one of the working languages of *the World Heritage Convention* (French or English);
5. Takes note of the reported progress made by the re-established Integrated Management Unit in preserving the archaeological and natural values of the property and the awareness programmes for the local population, particularly with respect to the implementation of a participative strategy on the control of the western access to the property, the issuance of official tourist information on the risks of passing the night in Aguas Calientes village (Machu Picchu Pueblo), the evaluation of landslide risks and risks management plans, and to adequate budgetary improvements;
6. Further notes the need to sustain efforts in addressing a series of critical ongoing issues identified in past decisions of the World Heritage Committee, including:
 - a) improvement of effective governance mechanisms for the property,
 - b) further implementation of effective measures to address risks to the property,
 - c) adequate management and control of Aguas Calientes growth, and of derived impacts on the property through adequate infrastructure including improved waste disposal systems,
 - d) adequate visitor management;
7. Expresses its concern over the potentially negative consequences to the aesthetic values of the property by authorizing helicopter flights over the Sanctuary, and urges the State Party to make a scientific evaluation of the risks of this practice;
8. Also urges the State Party to further intensify action, supported by adequate human and financial resources, to sustain effective implementation of the following measures:

- a) further improvement of effective governance and integrated management of the property and particularly the Sanctuary, through the participation of all key stakeholders in the review and further implementation of the Management Plan;
 - b) further development and implementation of a comprehensive risk preparedness assessment to identify and respond effectively to the range of risks noted above;
 - c) development and implementation of an urban plan for Aguas Calientes to address effectively the following issues:
 - i) risk due to landslides;
 - ii) effective enforcement of the urban plan, particularly with regard to the number and height of buildings;
 - iii) controls on properties and the quality of the construction of the buildings;
 - iv) adequate capacities of medical and fire services for the local population and visitors;
 - v) more adequate management of solid and liquid waste and of adequate disposal systems;
 - vi) additional measures to support sustainable economic and community development consistent with the values of the property;
 - vii) development and effective implementation of plans to manage visitor use and provide alternatives for transport and access to the property, addressing the increasing congestion of Aguas Calientes;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the international community to work closely with the State Party to provide additional technical and financial support to enhance the local and national capacity to urgently and effectively implement these measures, and requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / IUCN mission to develop an action plan for the property, as part of the revised Management Plan;
10. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved on the implementation of the measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.
12. Decides to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property for the following two years and asks in particular that the Committee be informed of the results of the Reactive Monitoring mission and on any information relevant for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
13. **Strongly urges the State Party to consider requesting inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in Danger.**

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

45. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the safeguarding work for the totality of the structural elements of the property has been progressing since July 2007 in the framework of the implementation of the 2007-2011 management plan;
4. Draws the attention of the State Party to the need to integrate its entire reconstruction activities concerning the royal areas in the framework of a global reflection on their future reuse and their capacity to generate income to cover their daily maintenance;
5. Requests the State Party to submit, no later than **31 October 2008**, a reconstruction policy document for the palaces, that takes into consideration the objectives of the management and conservation plan, for examination by ICOMOS, ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre;
6. Encourages the State Party to pursue its funding strategy for conservation activities and presentation of the property thanks to income generated by the entrance fees to the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, no later than **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

46. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction that significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Aksum Obelisk re-installation project;

4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2008**, the map of the property indicating clearly the boundaries of the World Heritage property and buffer zones, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Encourages the State Party to submit an International assistance request to address the issue of rising water table level at the Stelae Park;
6. Requests the State Party to implement the site management road map and to take the necessary protective measures;
7. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission to Aksum end of 2009 with a view to assessing its state of conservation and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on progress made in the management of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

47. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.40** and **31 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value requested at the 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Commends the State Party for having extensively modified its temporary shelter project in accordance with the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and constructed them respecting the integrity of the property and its environment by using reversible constructions;
5. Requests the State Party:
 - a) to urgently undertake appropriate restoration and conservation measures for the Aba Libanos and Gabriel Rufael Churches;
 - b) to monitor closely:
 - i) the shelter of the Aba Libanos Church due to the unstable ground upon which the foundations are built;

- ii) in general, the establishment of the temporary shelters, verify their effectiveness and possible impacts on the integrity of the monuments;
 - c) to clearly identify the boundaries of the property and an adequate buffer zone to allow for the control of construction and land development surrounding the property and the respect of its Outstanding Universal Value, notably by:
 - i) the production of maps and documents concerning the property and its environment;
 - ii) the implementation of suitable legal and regulatory protection;
 - iii) the study of suitable urban and infrastructural solutions;
6. Encourages the State Party to implement the Conservation Action Plan for the property. This Plan should, in particular:
- a) identify and analyze the decay factors of the monuments;
 - b) identify and implement the most suitable sustainable solutions for the conservation of the property over and above the construction of the temporary shelters;
 - c) involve the local partners in the framework of sustainable economic and social development;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Also requests the State Party to establish a management plan, with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre integrating the conservation action plan, the measures for sustainable development involving local populations and the touristic enhancement of the property, the regulatory provisions for the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property along with maps clearly identifying the boundary of the property and the buffer zone, and the construction of the shelters, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

48. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
- 2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Notes the State Party's continued work on the management plan, which involved stakeholders and the local community, as well as its progress on the extension of the buffer zone and improvement of the property's infrastructure;
4. Reiterates its concern about the ongoing uncontrolled development at the property;
5. Also notes with concern oil exploration near the property and the possible construction of the new port facility and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Committee informed of any potential impacts on the property;
6. Strongly urges the State Party to continue work on the extension of the buffer zone and the protection of the property;
7. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts to improve the infrastructure in order to sustain the progress already made;
8. Also requests the State Party to finalize and approve the management plan as soon as possible so that it may be implemented;
9. Further requests the State Party to prepare the supplementary action plan as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) to include the identification of the key stakeholders for various actions as well as the necessary timeframe for carrying them out;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit the published regional development plan and the final management plan in three copies for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a progress report on the implementation of these recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

49. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2* and draft Decision **32 COM 7B.49 Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.47**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Deeply regrets that the State Party has completed 80% of the construction work for the new Ahmed Baba Cultural Centre without having provided new technical documents that could have permitted a review of the architectural design;
4. Acknowledges the restoration work being carried out on the Djingareyber Mosque but requests that this is adequately documented, with existing documentation being submitted to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS by **30 November 2008**, and in

- future subject to approval on appropriate methods and materials before work commences;
5. Expresses its concern at the adverse impact of the new construction for the Ahmed Baba Centre on the Sankore Mosque that has caused a significant loss of its historical authenticity, as well as having had deleterious effect on its inherent characteristics;
 6. Also expresses concern that little progress has been made in halting the decline of buildings in the Old City;
 7. Strongly urges the State Party to implement the following corrective measures that will mitigate the threats facing the property:
 - a) re-location of the amphitheatre, the Ahmed Baba house, and any other planned development of the classroom and visitor facilities to another location, in order to allow the creation of an urban open space which would allow the retention of the urban coherence of the historic square of Sankore;
 - b) creation of a national coordinating committee for Timbuktu, which would be the only authority to receive and evaluate projects which could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - c) evaluation of the various existing plans and other studies and the development of a Master plan for the Old City of Timbuktu, which would address both conservation and the aspirations of the city in the 21st century, while preserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - d) development of detailed building regulations and a land-use plan for the property and buffer zones;
 - e) development of a plan for the participation of the population of the town in matters of heritage so that it can in practice benefit from the projects and development;
 - f) extension of the boundaries of the World Heritage property to cover the whole of the Old City, in order to protect the monuments, as well as their urban context;
 - g) accelerated implementation of the short and medium term actions envisaged in the management plan;
 8. Invites the conservation community to support the State Party in its efforts to address the severe, cumulative threats that are impacting on this property;
 9. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
 10. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, with the aim of assessing the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, and to identify possible alternatives for the provision of additional facilities;
 11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2009, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

12. Decides to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism in monitoring the state of conservation to the property, and requests moreover the World Heritage Centre to report on the results of the Reactive Monitoring mission undertaken, and on any other relevant decision with view to establishing prioritization and a timetable.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.51**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the preparation of the management and conservation plan has begun with the involvement of a large number of stakeholders, and encourages the State Party to finalize this work as soon as possible;
4. Reiterates its concern that few satisfactory solutions have been found concerning alterations to buildings, drainage problems, and problems being faced by the archaeological sites;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in the framework of the World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme to initiate a pilot project for conservation in the Old Towns of Djenné;
6. Calls upon the international donor community and conservation specialists to provide technical assistance and/or funding for the implementation of a pilot project for the conservation of earthen architecture in Djenné;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved with regard to the improvement in the changes made on the built environment, drainage problems, and problems facing the archaeological sites, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

51. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,

2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress made in phase 1 of a project for the rehabilitation of the San Sebastian Fortress, and the completion of the restoration of Casa Girassol;
4. Expresses its concern that no progress has been made with the Conservation and management plan but acknowledges that an application for help in finalizing the Plan has been submitted to the Africa 2009 Programme for promoting a better understanding of World Heritage values;
5. Also expresses its serious concern that there has been little progress in addressing the serious degradation of historical monuments and urban structures, which is threatening the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to address the most severe degradation and put in place short-term remedial actions, including capacity building, in collaboration with all the stakeholders;
7. Calls upon the international community, in collaboration with UNESCO, to support the creation of partnerships to allow an integrated approach to the sustainable development of the property;
8. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to examine the state of conservation of the property and determine if it is under ascertained or potential threats, as defined by Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made in implementing the Emergency Action Plan and in undertaking short-term remedial actions, and on the preparation of the Conservation and management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

52. Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape (South Africa) (C 1265)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

2. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
3. Recalling Decision **31 COM 8B.20**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

4. Expresses its concern that despite being given assurances in the Nomination file, that a prospecting mineral licence was issued for a considerable part of the property and its buffer zone two months after the inscription;
5. Appreciates the efforts being undertaken by the State Party to resolve the issue;
6. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts in solving boundary, human use and management issues facing the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape World Heritage property and other World Heritage properties in South Africa;
7. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation; evaluate the extent to which the above recommendations are being met and meet with both the State Party and other stakeholders;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the State of Conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

53. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.37**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the actions taken by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property;
4. Takes note of the advancement achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / ICCROM mission as set out in Decision **30 COM 7B.37**;
5. Considers that the property continues to be seriously threatened and encourages the State Party to ensure that no rehabilitation or other interventions affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to implement the management plan (Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan) which has just been adopted as a Presidential decree;
7. Encourages the State Party to coordinate the support of international partners in order to address the key recommendations of the World Heritage Committee;
8. Requests the State Party to urgently appoint a site manager for the property;
9. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the

conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

10. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS / ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to examine the state of conservation of the property, to develop capacity building and determine if it is under ascertained or potential threats, as defined by Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made to improve the property's state of conservation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.49** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
3. Reiterates the importance of conforming with the deadline set by the World Heritage Committee and takes note of the results and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission undertaken to the property;
4. Regrets the decision of the State Party to proceed with the Malindi Port Development project without first undertaking the planned baseline survey and Environmental Impact Assessment requested in Decision **31 COM 7B.49**;
5. Expresses its concern about the negative impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property caused by work on the Malindi Port development project, including loss of two historic warehouses, and erection of new, inappropriately scaled and designed port facilities without prior approval;
6. Requests the State Party to urgently:
 - a) carry out an immediate and independent Environmental Impact Assessment on both the cultural and bio-physical resources, in full collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, before November 2008;
 - b) ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment includes a 3-5 year monitoring project in order to mitigate to the greatest extent negative impacts of work carried out and described in the mission report;
7. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the State Party to strengthen conditions for conservation, and acknowledges the ongoing challenges to maintain the state of conservation of the World Heritage property;

8. Also requests the State Party to finalize the currently prepared integrated management plan with full participation of all the relevant stakeholders, by organizing a stakeholders meeting aiming at setting up a platform for the integrated management of the World Heritage property;
9. Further requests the State Party to finalize the Review of the 1994 Heritage Act in order to gain greater autonomy and greater effectiveness in the long term conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Invites the Director General of UNESCO to approach the European Commission in order to explore possibilities of establishing a working mechanism whereby all projects to be implemented in World Heritage properties, meet all the requirements set by the World Heritage Committee;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, on the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment activities carried out, and progress made with regard to implementation of a 3-5 year monitoring project of Port rehabilitation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

ARAB STATES

55. M'Zab Valley (Algeria) (C 188)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's intention to prepare a safeguarding and management plan foreseen for 2010; and encourages it to submit a revised international assistance request for experts to assist local authorities in the preparation of this plan;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, three printed and electronic copies of the safeguarding and management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

56. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its satisfaction at receiving the well structured and comprehensive terms of reference for the preparation of the Protection and management plan;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made with the completion and implementation of the Protection and management plan;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2008**, a map clearly displaying the delimitation of all components of this serial property, and its buffer zone, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and prior to carrying out the work, the detailed design of the proposed port development showing its impact on the property;
7. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

57. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.46** and **31 COM 7B.55** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts in managing its World Heritage properties;
4. Reiterates its request to:
 - a) revise the design of the Avenue of the sphinxes and its surroundings;

- b) abandon the project of building a landing stage for tourism cruise boats on the Western Bank of the Nile close to the new bridge, and to limit all such developments to the Eastern Bank;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare and/or finalise the management plans for Karnak, Luxor and the West Bank and to integrate these plans into one comprehensive and coordinated Management plan, including a conservation plan and a tourism control strategy;
 6. Urges the State Party to establish a formal coordination mechanism under the responsibility of the Supreme Council of Antiquities between the latter, the Supreme Council of Luxor, the international scientific teams and other concerned stakeholders, and to hold regular consultations prior to the approval and launching of projects affecting the property and its buffer zone;
 7. Invites the State Party to strengthen efforts to restore Hassan Fathi's new Gurnah village and to forward all projects related to the village prior to their approval for review by the World Heritage Committee;
 8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, as a central part of the establishment of the management plan and related co-ordinated mechanism, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
 9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in early 2009 to examine the progress made by the State Party in addressing the situation and to report about it to the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
 10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, **by 1 February 2009**, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

58. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the State Party's commitment to revising the Cairo Financial Centre project so as to mitigate its impact on the urban landscape of the Citadel and requests that an alternative design be adopted and submitted, as soon as possible, to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for review ;

4. Considers that the following measures should be taken into account in the alternative design, as they constitute the minimum requirements in order to not jeopardize the Outstanding Universal Value of the property:
 - a) the height of the complex should be further reduced and shaped to allow the building to rise progressively from the level of the Salah Salem highway to approximately 31 metres in the Eastern part of the site (at a distance of 500 metres from the Citadel wall). This would reduce the visual impact of the new buildings on the Citadel;
 - b) the volume of the complex, now appearing as a huge mass of high rise buildings, should be broken up into several parts which would better balance the urban form and volumes of the Citadel;
 - c) the building elevations, now projected as continuous homogeneous horizontal glass strips, should be revised in order to harmonise with the surroundings and minimise visual disturbance.
5. Urges the State Party to implement the main recommendations of the 2002 Symposium report, subsequently endorsed by the World Heritage Committee, in particular to prepare a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a high level mission headed by the Director of the World Heritage Centre to discuss these issues with the State Party's officials;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

59. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.57**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the quality and extent of conservation measures undertaken since the mission of November 2006;
4. Notes that the steps being taken by the State Party have removed the threat of loss of Outstanding Universal Value, and sustained the site's authenticity and integrity, and that there is no need at present to consider World Heritage in Danger listing;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre a technical document including detailed documentation of all initiatives described in its state of conservation report, and supplementary information on the new management structure and staffing, the completion and initial operations of the visitor's centre, the definitive organization of

the pathway system, progress in development of the conservation plan and in the elaboration of a management plan;

6. Encourages the State Party to:
 - a) develop a financial system with a minimum annual operations budget;
 - b) prepare a possible revision of the boundaries of the property and buffer zone;
 - c) develop a timeframe for the implementation of short and long term corrective measures (conservation, maintenance and monitoring plans for ongoing consolidation and security works), as well as a needed archaeological research policy;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February, 2009**, on its progress in implementing the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

60. Tyr (Lebanon) (C 299)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.52**, and **31 COM 7B.62** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted the report requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), without which it is not possible to assess the progress of activities at the property;
4. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the progress and the impact of the projects in progress and envisaged;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide a detailed topographical map with geographic coordinates indicating the boundaries of the property, and if possible those of its buffer zone by **1 December 2008**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of its recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

61. Medina of Essaouira (Ancient Mogador) (Morocco) (C 753 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.47**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Takes note of the encouraging measures taken by the State Party and requests that the actions undertaken be continued with a view to cleaning, securing and restoring the Mellah quarter, and restoring the wall that faces the Atlantic;
4. Invites the State Party to remain vigilant and carry out continued monitoring of the property, especially the control of demolition and new construction, to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Also requests the State Party to complete a management plan adopting an integrated approach and to submit it in three printed and electronic copies to the World Heritage Centre before its implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

62. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.56** and **31 COM 7B.67** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted the report requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), without which it is not possible to assess the progress of activities at the property;
4. Strongly urges the State Party, if it has not already done so, to finalise and adopt the management plan taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and to establish the necessary legal and administrative framework for its implementation;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, the adopted management plan in three printed and electronic copies and a detailed progress report on its implementation, the legal framework and administrative structure, as well as the souk project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note with great satisfaction that the State Party has decided to cancel the urban development of King Faisal Street, and requests, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to be informed in advance of any proposals to re-design or re-shape the Faisal Street area, and of any other major project planned;
4. Also requests the State Party to ensure that:
 - a) all future infrastructure and sub-surface works on structures include an archaeological impact assessment, salvage excavation and mitigation as may be necessary to conserve archaeological resources;
 - b) traditional approaches to conservation, restoration, repair and maintenance of building fabric be employed in all work within the property and its neighbouring historic quarters within the buffer zone, in order to maintain the authenticity of the property;
 - c) conservation and planning procedures for adaptive re-use of the important stock of abandoned buildings within the property and the foreseen buffer zone be established, and implemented;
5. Regrets the construction of the new cultural centre on Medhat Pasha Street, and urges the State Party to transmit all available information on the project to the World Heritage Centre, and to study how to mitigate the negative impact on the values of the urban historic context;
6. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to consider extending the boundaries of the property in order to include its valuable historical neighbourhoods and further requests the State Party to complete its work on defining the proposed buffer zone to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for approval by the World Heritage Committee;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement a management plan intended to ensure co-ordination of all actions affecting the property and its surroundings, and which would bring together the many existing planning mechanisms, strategies, and international co-operation programmes in a framework which ensures respect for the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Invites the State Party to explore the means to grant the bodies responsible for the Ancient City of Damascus, the authority, resources and status to develop, and implement the management plan mentioned above;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the above recommendations and on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

ASIA-PACIFIC

64. The Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the lack of progress in the implementation of the activity concerning the drainage problems and the development of a management plan;
4. Expresses its serious concern about recent works carried out at the site concerning the installation of draining pipes along the main stupa of the Pararpur Vihara and light fittings in its immediate vicinity, which appear to have had a negative impact on the heritage values of the property;
5. Requests the State Party of Bangladesh to suspend the above-mentioned works and implement the appropriate mitigating measures to prevent possible deterioration of the property until the situation is reassessed, as well as to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, preferably before the end of 2008, in order to:
 - a) assess the state of conservation of the property and particularly the impact of water and humidity on the brick masonry;
 - b) review the effectiveness of the management system in place.
6. Urges the State Party to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Archaeology by providing it with adequate human and financial resources;
7. Also requests the State Party to continue its efforts towards the definition of the boundaries, the solution of the drainage problems and the overall strengthening of the management system at the property;
8. Encourages the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to undertake a project to define the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone;
9. Further requests the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, the proposed delimitation of the property and its buffer zone, as well as

the management plan for the property in three copies for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009** a progress report on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

65. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes with satisfaction that a new ad hoc group of experts for sustainable development has been established and has become operational during 2007;
4. Welcomes the progress achieved through the project entitled “Angkor management plan”, in clarifying the challenges facing APSARA for the management and conservation of the property, as well as in defining the actions required to address them satisfactorily;
5. Also welcomes the proposal for the development of a “Heritage Management Framework”, which would complement the “Angkor management plan” project by focusing specifically on the conservation of the heritage values of the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to take this project forward as soon as possible;
6. Reiterates its serious concern for the continuing and increasing threats posed to the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property by the ongoing uncontrolled urban expansion in the property and its buffer zones, despite the efforts made by the Cambodian authorities;
7. Requests the State Party to address these threats by ensuring swift and full implementation of the recommendations of the 2005 mission, and in particular to:
 - a) clarify, including by passing new legislation if necessary, the rules regarding property rights, ownership and building codes applicable to zones 1 and 2;
 - b) enforce existing laws regarding illegal occupation, unauthorised construction and development and park-land appropriation/alienation;
 - c) strengthen the capacities of APSARA to enable effective land use planning and management, including by providing it with the necessary resources;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the progress made on the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

66. Classical Gardens of Suzhou (China) (C 813 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the development of an updated Plan for the Protection of the Historic and Cultural City (site management plan), as requested at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Takes note of the State Party's intention to prepare a proposal for extension of the existing World Heritage property to include the entire historic town of Suzhou, and other historical canal towns within the same geo-cultural area in China;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, the approved revised Master Plan for the City of Suzhou (2007–2020) and the Site management plan, as well as an English summary of their contents, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

67. Old Town of Lijiang (China) (C 811)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the continued efforts made by the State Party to improve management of the property, and its complete response to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, as well as linkages between tangible and intangible heritage aspects, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Requests the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission of January 2008; and especially to:
 - a) complete the comprehensive conservation master plan, which should provide overarching principles for regional development and tourism control as well as conservation guidelines, together with the Site management plan;

- b) strengthen the capacity of the World Cultural Heritage Management Bureau to implement and coordinate more effectively these planning initiatives;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on the progress made in implementing the actions mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

68. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Noting with concern that development projects are being implemented or proposed in areas surrounding the buffer zones of the property, which might have a negative impact on its visual integrity,
3. Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party of China to mitigate possible negative impacts of development projects on the visual integrity of the World Heritage property by reducing height limits for construction in sensitive areas surrounding the Guia Hill and the Monte Fortress ;
4. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Also requests however the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to determine whether the above mentioned measures are adequate to ensure the long term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to provide advice on defining the setting of the property and any possible revision of the boundary of the buffer zone which might be required;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on the progress made in implementing the measures mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

69. Red Fort Complex (India) (C 231 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 8B.32**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, three printed and electronic copies of the revised comprehensive conservation management plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

70. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.81**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the continuing efforts made by the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA) to improve the management of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the requests by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) to implement the recommendations of the January 2007 mission have not yet been fully addressed;
5. Urges the State Party to:
 - a) modify the design and dimensions of the Anegundi Bridge and put in place traffic regulations for heavy vehicles;
 - b) approve and implement the integrated management plan (IMP) based on a revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity;
 - c) clarify the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones;
 - d) ensure adequate human and financial resources to allow the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, the modified design of the bridge; the new traffic regulations for heavy vehicles; the final approved version of the IMP in three copies; the location of the interpretation centre; clarifications on the boundaries and buffer zones and the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, by 1

February 2009, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd Session;

7. Also urges the State Party to ensure that the implementation of the IMP by the HWHAMA is fully integrated into the State and National Planning framework, particularly for tourism and urban development;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** a progress report on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

71. Sangiran Early Man Site (Indonesia) (C 593)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Expresses its satisfaction regarding the progress made by the State Party in implementing its 2007 recommendations;
4. Urges the State Party to give full consideration to implementing the recommendations of the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

72. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 115)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to address the overall preservation and conservation of the property and particularly the successful diversion of the subway;
4. Also notes the progress made in drafting the nomination dossier for the extension of the property to include the Cultural and Historic Axis of Esfahan;
5. Urges the State Party to complete the reduction of the height of the Jahan Nama Commercial Complex to ensure minimum negative impacts upon the visual integrity of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to establish mechanisms for undertaking systematic cultural, social and Environmental Impact Assessments prior to designing large scale development projects, which might impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the progress to complete the reduction of the height of the Jahan Nama Commercial Complex tower and in establishing assessment mechanisms for large scale projects, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

73. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Japan) (C 870)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the fact that the proposed construction of the Yamato-Kita Road will not impact negatively on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property;
4. Recommends to the State Party, however, to further develop and establish at the property the appropriate groundwater monitoring systems and risk mitigation plans, in order to be able to prevent any unwanted fluctuation of groundwater levels in case of unexpected contingencies;
5. Also takes note with satisfaction that the revised plan for the 1300th Anniversary of Nara has been reduced in scope and, at present, does not involve any new reconstruction project;
6. Also recommends that the State Party ensures, when preparing the detailed designs for the celebrations for the 1300th Anniversary of Nara, that the appropriate measures are taken to ensure that no damage is caused to the buried archaeological relics within the Nara palace site and its surroundings;

7. Requests the State Party to confirm whether or not any new reconstruction project is being planned at the property, in addition to that for the Former Imperial Audience Hall, and, if in the affirmative, to provide detailed information thereupon;
8. Also requests the State Party to clarify whether any change is being envisaged regarding the legal and institutional framework of the Nara Palace site, and to elaborate on the possible implications of this change for the management and conservation of the site as part of the World Heritage property;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report including information on the points above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

74. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling its Decision **31 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Reiterating its concern that the level of co-ordination and the priority given to protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value has been insufficient to halt the progressive loss of its fabric and traditions in the face of development pressures,
4. Recognizing the commitment of the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property, including through recent measures to launch the revision of the Urban Plan, reinforce the Maison du Patrimoine and strengthen coordination with local stakeholders at the site,
5. Urges the State Party to implement all the recommendations made by the November 2007 mission and especially:
 - a) to revise the Urban Plan for the province of Luang Prabang and define, in this context, a buffer zone for the property;
 - b) to impose a moratorium, pending the approval of the revised Urban Plan, on major development projects such as the proposed new town in the Chompeth Valley, the airport extension and realignment, the conversion of the primary school and Fine Arts College for tourism, and the pedestrian / motorcycle bridge across the Nam Khan;
 - c) to ensure the strict application of the Luang Prabang conservation plan (PSMV) and prepare an updated inventory and maps of the property, indicating the changes as regards listed buildings, existing and new constructions, wetlands, etc.;
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

7. Invites the State Party to provide information on press reports of an alleged planned Mekong mainstream dam at Luang Prabang, to be developed for opening in 2014, and its potential impact on the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the action taken by the State Party and its commitment to comply with the requests of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Requests the State Party to continue its work on the development of the integrated management plan, and particularly to:
 - a) draft, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, an updated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity;
 - b) avoid carrying out any development project pending completion of the integrated management plan;
 - c) develop a strategy to ensure the long-term protection of the significant archaeological remains of the property and continue with surveying and monitoring the ground water levels and movements, under and adjacent to the Maya Devi Temple;
 - d) develop a strategy for the rehabilitation of the Maya Devi temple incorporating the recommendations and the implementation of the corrective measures proposed by the 2005 mission;
 - e) submit a programme of activities with time frame for c) and d) to the World Heritage Centre;
5. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the State Party in these activities;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, the updated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and a report on the progress made on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

76. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to implement the integrated management plan (IMP) completed in June 2007; and encourages its to continue its efforts to increase support for effective and sustainable implementation of the IMP;
4. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the follow-up to the mitigation efforts for the proposed new road in the Pashupati Monument Zone.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the findings and recommendations made by the 2007 and 2008 UNESCO missions to Galle concerning the port development project in Galle Harbour and the international test cricket stadium in the buffer zone and the general state of conservation of the property;
4. Urges the State Party to:
 - a) remove the intrusive and illegal construction within the cricket stadium as recommended by the mission;
 - b) consider abandoning or downscaling the current port development project to an acceptable size respecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
 - c) submit to the World Heritage Centre revised boundaries of the property and buffer zone;
 - d) improve the capacity and processes of the relevant authorities to plan, monitor, manage and conserve the urban heritage of Galle;
 - e) develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the progress made concerning the above mentioned

recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

78. Parthian Fortresses of Nisa (Turkmenistan) (C 1242)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision 31 **COM 8B.30**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the actions taken by the State Party in response to six of the seven recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee, and the actions planned for the period 2008-2010; and requests that three printed and electronic copies of the conservation plan be provided for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Urges the State Party to complete the formulation of an interpretation and visitor management plan;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

79. Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision 31 **COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party and its commitment to set up a Coordinating Committee for the property;
4. Notes with concern further new and inappropriate development proposals between the Afrosiab and Timurid city for the re-creation of the Timurid city walls, and a new hotel with “historic façades” near the city walls;
5. Urges the State Party to continue the development of the management plan, including appropriate zoning and other matters identified at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);

6. Also urges the State Party to develop an overall strategic approach to the property's conservation to be agreed to by stakeholders through the adoption of the management plan, and to submit, to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, information about any major project proposals;
7. Decides to implement the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property and asks in particular that the Committee be informed on the results on any information relevant for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress made in:
 - a) finalizing the management plan,
 - b) developing the conservation plan,
 - c) documenting historic features (inventories and surveys),
 - d) strengthening the Coordinating Committee,
 - e) developing proposed zoning and road schemes including proposals to close the new road between Afrosiab and Timurid city to through-traffic,for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

80. Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (Andorra) (C 1160 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.80**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes that the Law to protect the property as a cultural landscape entered into force in July 2006;
4. Also notes delays in finalizing the management plan while awaiting the outcome of legal challenges;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a progress report on the implementation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

81. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.72** and **31 COM 7B.105**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party did not provide any report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Notes with concern the lack of information on major on-going development projects and reiterates the importance of completing a management plan to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report on the urban development projects considered as soon as possible, at the latest by **31 October 2008**;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre three copies of the management plan and a report on the state of conservation of the property by **1 February 2009** for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 33d session in 2009;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value that could result from the implementation of the urban development projects under discussion.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.83**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Urges the State Party to:
 - a) halt the construction of the 100 m building of the Vienna Central Train Station project, the height of which would protrude above the trees on one side of the Belvedere Palace Park;
 - b) carry out, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, a comprehensive visual impact assessment of the entire project, fully sensitive to impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and addressing the parameters included in the ICOMOS report of November 2007;

4. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report including the results of the visual impact assessment on its efforts to respond to the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

83. Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn (Austria) (C 786)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.81**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Expresses its deep concern that the project plans for the new Kometgründe-Meidling structure suggest that its height exceeds the 60 metres which the State Party had agreed to maintain in June 2006;
4. Requests the State Party to halt the project immediately and to submit as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS visual studies in order to review the potential impacts of the proposed structure (73 – 78 m) on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, on its efforts to respond to the issues above, including the results of the visual impact assessment, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

84. Belfries of Belgium and France (Belgium and France) (C 943 and 943 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.108**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note of the French State Party's commitment to improve existing legislation to guarantee satisfactory legal protection and appropriate authorization procedures with regard to World Heritage status;
4. Also takes note of the detailed visual impact study provided by the State Party of France regarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and that the present project covers, for the most part, the area of the old cloth market, coherent with the

secular use of the immediate surroundings of the Béthune Belfry for commercial activities ;

5. Considers that the parking project does not have any direct visual impact on the inscribed property;
6. Encourages the State Party of France to:
 - a) confirm the strengthening of the legal protection and reinforce procedures for the authorization of work permits for World Heritage properties and their buffer zones;
 - b) supervise the strict implementation of the project for the covered market of the Béthune Belfry and its reversibility;
 - c) provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report on the archaeological situation of the underground area of the Belfry, by **1 February 2009**.

85. Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (C 946 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B* and Decision **32 COM 7B.85.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.82** and **31 COM 7B.93** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling with satisfaction that the works for the construction of the hotel were suspended immediately upon receipt of Decision **30 COM 7B.82**, acknowledges that the State Party continues its efforts towards identifying appropriate solutions to protect the Outstanding Universal Value and the integrity of the property;
4. Urges the State Party to redesign the new Rose Hotel, taking into account the requirements of the 2001 Master Plan and the 2005 Management Plan for the World Heritage property, the recommendations of the 2006 and 2007 missions, and in line with the specific recommendations made in the 2008 mission, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes with concern cracks that appeared in the Old Bridge structure of Mostar after the earthquakes, and requests the State Party to continue monitoring, collecting data with precise indicators and take the appropriate measures to ensure the stability of the width and grade of the bridge, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an update report on the state of conservation of the property, the results of the monitoring of the cracks in the Old Bridge and the redesign of the Rose Hotel project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

86. Historic Centre of Prague (Czech Republic) (C 616)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the State Party for its exemplary report on the state of conservation of the property and acknowledges the ongoing improvements of the overall legislative, planning and management system for urban conservation;
4. Requests the State Party to improve the effectiveness of its existing planning, management and conservation measures for the property, as recommended by the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission, by:
 - a) strengthening the authority of the National Heritage Institute to enable it to orient the main decisions affecting the integrity of the Historic Centre;
 - b) clarifying and integrating the rules presently in force to manage processes such as infill, reconstruction, rehabilitation and conservation in a unitary code to improve the ability of the responsible authorities to maintain the integrity of the original fabric of the city;
 - c) urgently completing and approving the conservation plan for the Historic Centre in order to provide an effective zoning and planning tool for the conservation process in the Historic Centre;
 - d) completing the management plan of the property within the year 2008 as a comprehensive tool for the coordination of all the different regulatory and policy frameworks existing or foreseen for the Historic Centre, for eventual review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Encourages the State Party to adopt the following measures proposed by the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission to reduce further negative impacts of high rise construction in the property and its buffer zone:
 - a) complete and adopt the high-rise limitations plan, in order to avoid possible visual intrusion into the historic urban landscape of Prague;
 - b) conduct an evaluation of the present buffer zones of the Historic Centre in order to assess their effectiveness in protecting the visual integrity of the city and, if needed, extend these and adopt appropriate related zoning regulations;
 - c) limit, in the case of the Pankrác Plain, the height of the new high-rise constructions to a maximum of 60-70 m, in order to avoid visual impacts on the historic urban landscape of the property;
 - d) inform the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of any project that could affect the visual integrity of the World Heritage site;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress reports on efforts to address the measures proposed above, and in particular concerning the recommendation to curtail heights of planned high rise structures in the Pankrác Plain, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

87. Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn (Estonia) (C 822)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the State Party's efforts to address the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee during its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), including improved coordination of planning approvals between concerned municipal and federal departments;
4. Regrets that no progress has been made with a comprehensive management plan for the property and its buffer zone, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th and 31st sessions;
5. Also notes that a Development Plan for the property is in progress and requests the State Party to provide three copies of this plan to the World Heritage Centre as well as a progress report on the comprehensive management plan and also requests the State Party to ensure the conformity between the two plans;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the above requests and on the status of the proposed Framework for high-rise buildings, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

88. Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley (France) (C 85)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2*,
2. Expresses its concern at the fragility of the Lascaux cave paintings and that a new microbial outbreak could not be prevented;

3. Notes the work now being carried out by the authorities and International Scientific Committee for the Lascaux Cave, and urges the State Party to continue to:
 - a) strictly limit access to the cave;
 - b) implement the project of preservation and isolation of the hill of Lascaux and to monitor any potential impacts including waterflows;
 - c) strengthen the International Scientific Committee for Lascaux Cave, through the inclusion of appropriate specialists in the fields of conservation and prehistory;
 - d) carry out an impact study on any further intervention including chemical and mechanical treatments to the paintings;
 - e) continue its communication work to ensure full information on all conservation activities;
 - f) Encourages the State Party to make available to interested States Parties the report of the International Scientific Committee;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / Advisory Bodies mission to examine the overall state of conservation of the property, and in particular the specific threats to the Lascaux cave paintings;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in finding out the causes of and treatment for the damage to the art, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

89. Bordeaux, Port of the Moon (France) (C 1256)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 8B.38**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Reminds States Parties that, according to the *Convention*, they have an obligation, to protect and conserve world cultural and natural heritage, situated on their territory, and in particular to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection and conservation of this heritage;
4. Strongly regrets the destruction of the Pertuis Bridge by the State Party, without prior consultation or impact study, contravening Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and affecting the property, only a few months following its inscription on the World Heritage List;

5. Considers that the information concerning the project of the drawbridge over the Garonne provided to the World Heritage Centre is incomplete and that such a drawbridge would constitute, by its size and cost, an inadequate solution that would have a significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property and that would be very difficult to reverse;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for transmission to the Advisory Bodies, the environmental and cultural impact assessment studies on this bridge project, as well as on the other possible solutions to crossing the river, in order to be able to compare these different solutions, and that no construction work be undertaken until the afore mentioned studies have been provided for examination;
7. Strongly urges the State Party to consider requesting inscription of Bordeaux, Port of the Moon (France) on the List of the World Heritage in Danger;
8. Decides to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property and asks in particular that the Committee be informed of the results of the Reactive Monitoring mission and of any information relevant for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate to what degree the Outstanding Universal Value of the property was compromised due to the destruction of the Pertuis Swing Bridge, and the impact of the drawbridge project on the Outstanding Universal Value and visual integrity of the property, and to submit a report on this issue to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, for immediate transmission to the World Heritage Committee;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including the results of the different studies requested above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering the deletion of the property from the World Heritage List.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the substantive efforts of the State Party in defining and establishing the Cultural Heritage Programme, including legal assessments and relevant conservation, protection measures;
4. Expresses its serious concern about the privatization processes of land situated in the vicinity of the World Heritage property, and strongly urges the State Party to immediately halt these processes before the boundary clarification and the preparation

of a "Special Statement on protection of World Heritage properties in Georgia" defining the World Heritage property's status and its buffer zones are completed;

5. Recalls its request to the State Party to give highest priority to development of an integrated management plan for the property;
6. Invites the State Party to establish a Special State Commission on World Heritage in order to officially share the responsibilities between all relevant State institutions and national, local and religious authorities in ensuring an appropriate legal protection and management of this property;
7. Urges the State Party to immediately start the implementation of an integrated multistakeholder approach to the conservation of Jvari Church in coordination with ICCROM and relevant international experts on stone conservation;
8. Also expresses its serious concern about the state of conservation of the archaeological components of the World Heritage property, their progressive deterioration and the abandonment of conservation efforts by the State Party, noting that this loss has a major impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the property and further urges the State Party to develop a special programme on protection of all archaeological components;
9. Encourages the State Party to undertake global monitoring of the structural stability of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and implement special interventions for the conservation of the paintings;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report including all above mentioned documents, as well as the boundaries clarification document, and if relevant, the boundaries modification proposal, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Strongly urges the State Party to immediately start preventive conservation work on the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Complex, as well as to develop, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a long-term programme for the systematic conservation of the mural paintings and mosaics with the involvement and collaboration of international specialists in this domain;
4. Also recalling the earlier discussions among the Advisory Bodies, international experts and the World Heritage Committee, notes the State Party's intention to prepare a new

reconstruction project for Bagrati Cathedral in order to recreate its initial religious use and functions, and underlines that in accordance with Paragraph 86 of the *Operational Guidelines* the reconstruction of historic buildings is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances;

5. Requests the State Party to provide assurances that no reconstruction work shall commence until the State Party has provided complete and detailed documentation concerning this project for review by the World Heritage Committee;
6. Also requests the State Party to urgently prepare, approve and provide to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, the management plan of the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Complex, including the boundaries clarification document clearly indicating its buffer zones;
7. Encourages the State Party to organize an awareness-raising campaign for all World Heritage properties in Georgia;
8. Invites the State Party to prepare relevant documentation in order to initiate an international donors conference designed to address the major problems identified for all World Heritage properties in Georgia;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report, including the complete and detailed documentation concerning the new reconstruction project for Bagrati Cathedral, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

92. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7A.30** and **31 COM 7B.110**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the submission of a buffer zone including the east bank of the river and recalls the need to take into account the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its integrity for any further development in the buffer zone;
4. Takes note that an urban planning consultation process for the development of the Deutz area took place in 2007, and urges the State Party to provide further information prior to taking a decision concerning the future development of this area;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the progress concerning the proposals of urban development in the Deutz area.

93. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's action in involving the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in their reflection with regard to the Rhine crossing project and in the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
3. Requests the State Party to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment of the Rhine crossing options, as well as to prepare an additional transport plan to evaluate in a more detailed manner the feasibility of possible construction and traffic management, whilst respecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on progress in its reflections concerning the Rhine crossing for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

94. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400 and 400 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **26 COM 23.10/11/12** and **27 COM 8C.2**, adopted at its 26th (Budapest, 2002) and 27th (UNESCO, 2003) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the ongoing demolition of old buildings of great architectural and urban quality in the buffer zone of the inscribed property, particularly in the "Jewish quarter";
4. Also expresses its grave concern regarding the reconstruction, in their place, of contemporary buildings of questionable quality that profoundly transform the architectural and urban value of this quarter;
5. Requests the State Party to act, without delay, to:
 - a) re-examine, case by case, the demolition permits already granted with a view to equity with the holders of permits already granted, but giving priority to the conservation of the existing built heritage;
 - b) consider establishing an urban conservation and development plan for the buffer zone, fully respecting the principal architectural and urban values of each quarter, and for which enforcement would be stricter than it is at present in each quarter;

- c) seek additional funding (for example tax incentives, grants) and in a dynamic manner, direct private building investment to rehabilitation operations and restoration rather than demolition and reconstruction;
6. Also requests the State Party to undertake archaeological work to identify the physical traces of the ancient ghetto and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the urban situation in the “Jewish quarter” and on conservation measures in force.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **26 COM 23.28** and **26 COM 23.14**, adopted at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002),
3. Encourages the State Party, with the Slovakian authorities, to collaborate towards a transboundary extension of the property, as recommended at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002);
4. Notes the detailed report provided by the State Party on development proposals including an analysis of the situation and actions envisaged;
5. Urges the State Party to provide as soon as possible full details of the proposed power plant in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and of the proposed heritage impact assessment;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

96. Skellig Michael (Ireland) (C 757)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Notes the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the ICOMOS advisory mission to the property in November 2007;
3. Noting the need for improved visitor facilities;

4. Also notes the comments from the State Party on the mission report and its decision to incorporate the recommendations in the management plan for the property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, three printed and electronic copies of the final management plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2010** a progress report on the implementation of the advisory mission recommendations and the management plan for examination by the Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

97. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B Add.2*,
2. Expressing its appreciation to the State Party for the general success of its efforts to halt high-rise developments in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property with the exception of the development plan of the Southern Kipsala zone;
3. Acknowledging the details provided by the State Party of the many effective efforts undertaken over the decade since inscription to strengthen conservation of the World Heritage property,
4. Noting the State Party's contention that the development projects and plans at Kipsala should be accepted given their being in place at the time of inscription in 1997 and in subsequent discussions of the World Heritage Committee since its 27th session in 2003 (Decision **27 COM 7B.69** paragraph 5),
5. Also acknowledging the new Conception Project proposal for the left bank of the Daugava River presented to the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission of March 2008, regrets that this plan does not deviate greatly from previous submissions, and will result in significant negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property;
6. Also regrets the construction of a new 20 storey tower within Kipsala which is now under way;
7. Notes the results of the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to implement them;
8. Decides that the state of conservation of the property is not such as to merit consideration of inclusion of this property on the World Heritage List in Danger at this stage;
9. Also requests the State Party to strengthen its efforts to reduce the impact of projects planned for realisation in Kipsala mainly by reducing considerably the height of any

ongoing and new construction, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on such efforts for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

98. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation) (C 994)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.67, 30 COM 7B.87, 31 COM 7B.114**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively;
3. Welcomes the continued collaboration between both States Parties and progress made in the Joint Lithuanian-Russian Post-project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the D-6 oil platform, in the bilateral “Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Case of Pollution accidents, Pollution Prevention, Mitigation and Compensation Measures” and in the joint “Lithuanian and Russian Action Plan for Co-operation in Case of Pollution accidents in the Baltic Sea”, and encourages them to continue bilateral environmental monitoring;
4. Regrets the delay in signing the above agreements and urges both States Parties to sign the Agreement and Action Plan and to initiate their implementation as a matter of urgency;
5. Notes the additional information provided by the State Party of Lithuania on other current conservation issues identified in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and requests the State Party of Lithuania to take into account the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property when examining cases of possibly illegal construction in Court, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any progress on these issues;
6. Also requests both States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a detailed and updated report, on the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

99. Vilnius Historic Centre (Lithuania) (C 541)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,

2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.86**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the continued efforts made by the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Vilnius related to the legal and planning framework for the conservation of the property, and in particular the development of a Master/General Plan for the City of Vilnius;
4. Notes with concern that an integrated management plan for the property has not been produced as a means of ensuring adequate management and protection;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to initiate, as requested during its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) development of the fully integrated management plan, to govern and co-ordinate all decisions affecting the Old Town development and conservation, through participatory consultation processes.
6. Requests the State Party to ensure an adequate coordination mechanism for the implementation of the integrated management plan at both the local and national levels;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the new Regulation on the Protection of the Vilnius Old Town, as well as the Master/General Plan and updated documentation on the development of high-rise buildings in the buffer zone for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the development of an integrated management plan for Vilnius Old Town as described in the recommendations above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

100. Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) (C 132 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.100

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.80** and **31 COM 7B.115**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Noting that the State Party has completed the draft management plan,
4. Urges the State Party to work towards its timely finalization, approval and implementation;
5. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party in the design of the visitor centre for the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park and the protective shelters, taking into account advice by the 2006 expert mission for these components of the property and requests the State Party to take into consideration the need to minimize the impact of the construction mentioned above on the Outstanding Universal Value and visual integrity of the property;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide three printed and electronic copies of the final management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a report on its implementation, as well as a report on work at the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park and on the proposed works at the Tarxien and Ġgantija Temples.

101. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.84** and **31 COM 7B.100**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Noting the results of the February 2008 World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission to the property to examine the suitability of the proposed bridge at Verige and its impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Notes with appreciation the State Party's excellent conservation work and commends the State Party for cooperating with stakeholders in the conservation work;
5. Urges the State Party to consider protective mechanisms including a feasibility study for a buffer zone to better protect the property
6. Invites the State Party to consider re-nominating an enlarged area around the bay as a cultural landscape;
7. Requests the State Party to take into account the detailed recommendations of the joint mission and also urges the authorities to carry out a visual impact study of the Verige bridge project;
8. Also requests the State Party to carry out detailed environmental, cultural and visual impact studies in the event that other bridge or tunnel options are considered in the future;
9. Further requests the State Party to consider all other geographical and technical options which may replace the Verige Bridge project and would eliminate negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value;
10. Encourages the State Party to complete the management plan after having put in place adequate legal and protective measures, and appropriate resources; and further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a copy of the visual impact study and a progress report on the

approval and implementation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

102. Auschwitz Birkenau

German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C 31)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.88**, and **31 COM 7B.101**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the progress made following the submission of the draft management plan for the property in April 2007, the preparation of a strategy and consultations undertaken with international experts in May 2008 as well as work on entering relevant buildings in the surroundings of the property on the register of monuments;
4. Also notes the understandably slow progress with stakeholder consultations which delays the finalization of the management plan and the associated strategy and encourages the State Party to intensify efforts to ensure involvement of local communities;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the status of the management plan, the strategy and implementation frameworks, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

103. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.117**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the detailed report of the State Party, and the elaboration of the Framework Programme for the Protection and Management of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara;
4. Encourages the State Party to explore all avenues to closely monitor the state of conservation of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara;

5. Urges the State Party to approve and establish the Plan for the Protection and Management of the property including the Manual for Restoration, Rehabilitation and Construction;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated and detailed report including the Plan for the Protection and Management of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

104. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.104

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Urges the State Party to start immediately with the repair and restoration works of the Church of Transfiguration;
4. Notes the continuous efforts by the Directorate of the Kizhi Museum Reserve in the management of the World Heritage property, which represents a small part of the territory of the Reserve and encourages the site management to continue its work towards an integrated management plan for the property;
5. Also urges the State Party to urgently confirm the implementation of the necessary administrative arrangements concerning the delegation of authorities for the restoration works, as well as the funds made available for restoration works for the duration of the project;
6. Invites the State Party to establish a Special State Group in charge of effective coordination, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, of the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions and the recommendations by the Reactive Monitoring missions concerning this property;
7. Requests the State Party, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to prepare a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for the consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 33d session in 2009;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on all issues mentioned above, including the following documents:
 - a) detailed progress report of the restoration works;
 - b) three printed and electronic copies of the draft integrated management plan for Kizhi Pogost including a tourism strategy, risk preparedness measures and maps indicating the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;

- c) revised and approved documents concerning protected areas of the Kizhi Museum Reserve including the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;

for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

105. Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation) (C 540)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.105

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.102**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not provide the detailed state of conservation report, including the high rise development project in St. Petersburg requested by the World Heritage Committee, and also regrets that the maps submitted by the State Party dated 18 January 2007, 5 March 2007 and 5 February 2008, did not comply with the World Heritage Committee's request as they did not provide detailed boundaries and buffer zones of all components of the property, including the Leningrad Region;
4. Expresses its grave concern about the proposed Gazprom tower of the "Ohkta Centre", which could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of this property and recalls that it considered at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) the possibility of inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Urges the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the official position vis-à-vis the proposed project of the "Ohkta Centre" tower in St. Petersburg;
6. Invites the State Party to establish, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, an international expert group on the St. Petersburg Retrospective Inventory, and provide necessary financial support for this activity, and also urges the State Party to finalize the boundary of the property and its buffer zone, including all components in the region, and present a report by **1 February 2009**;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Also requests the State Party:
 - a) to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed Ohkta Tower on the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity of the property;
 - b) not to take action on any project until the results of the mission are available;

9. Requests the Chairperson and the Director of the World Heritage Centre to convene a high-level meeting with the State Party to underscore the importance of cooperating with the Committee in determining the potential impact of the proposed Ohkta Centre on the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a state of conservation report, including details on the Gazprom project of the “Ohkta Centre”, which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

106. Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow (Russian Federation) (C 545)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.106

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.103**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Requests the State Party, in line with the recommendation of the Reactive Monitoring mission, to halt any new construction within the property or in the surrounding area the property which could visually affect it prior to:
 - a) delineation and approval of a buffer zone;
 - b) approval of adequate and effective protective juridical regulations within the buffer zone;
 - c) establishment of an effective control mechanism and institutional framework between all stakeholders involved in the management and protection of the Kremlin and Red Square in Moscow, including the establishing a Special Coordination Board aiming at enhancing the protection of the property and its buffer zone;
 - d) preparation of the visual impact study for existing construction projects;
4. Also requests that the State Party implement the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission, and in particular:
 - a) submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details concerning all ongoing projects, including visual impact studies for the projects of the “Middle Trading Rows” complex and the “Zaryadye” complex (former Hotel “Russiya”), as well as other planned urban development projects within or nearby the World Heritage property,
 - b) conduct, prior to the construction works within the “Middle Trading Rows” complex, necessary soil investigations under the Red Square, St. Basil Cathedral, Kremlin Walls and the “Middle Trading Rows”, including the underground water levels, in

order to minimise any impact of future construction inside of “Middle Trading Rows” to components of the World Heritage property,

5. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with three copies of the Kremlin and Red Square in Moscow World Heritage property management plan ;
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of authenticity and integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress reports on the requested measures noted above and described in the Reactive Monitoring mission report, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

107. Historical Centre of the City of Yaroslavl (Russian Federation) (C 1170)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.43**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Expresses its concern about numerous construction and restoration projects within the boundaries of the property which could affect its Outstanding Universal Value;
4. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and to evaluate the potential impact of the development projects under consideration on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Further requests the State Party to delay all construction works until the aforementioned mission has taken place and the impact study is available;
7. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a detailed state of conservation report including, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the description of any intention to undertake or to authorize major restoration or new construction which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

108. Works of Antoni Gaudí (Spain) (C 320 bis)

Decision: 32COM 7B.108

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Requests the State Party to halt the construction of the tunnel section in the vicinity of the Church of the Sagrada Familia and to consider changing the route of the proposed high-speed train tunnel so as to avoid any potential adverse impact on the structural stability of the Church;
3. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the measures taken to ensure the protection of the World Heritage property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

109. Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.109

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.92** and **31 COM 7B.119**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the results of the seminar on management of Spanish World Heritage cities (27-28 September 2007, Aranjuez, Spain);
4. Expresses its concern about the lack of progress with the integrated management plan for the property;
5. Also noting the changes made to the " Huerto de las Adoratrices project", requests the State Party
 - a) to suspend the project until the results of an expert mission are available;
 - b) to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
 - c) to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the overall state of conservation of the property, the Huerto de las Adoratrices project and the management requirements and boundary clarification of the property, in discussion with the local authorities;

6. Recalling Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about any major restoration or construction projects or significant changes to the approved urban development plan (PGOU) and conservation documents, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the Convenio between Regional Government of Castilla y Leon and the City of Salamanca, and on the preparation of the integrated management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

110. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.110

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the results of the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and endorses its recommendations;
4. Commends the efforts, progress and commitments made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures to reduce threats to the property and improve management and conservation practices and for the preparation of the World Heritage management plan;
5. Welcomes the institutional changes that have been initiated to improve the safeguarding of the property;
6. Also welcomes the preparation of a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity and encourages the authorities to present it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Regrets that a number of benchmarks identified by the 2006 mission were not met within the agreed timeframe and that Decision **31 COM 7B.89** has not yet been fully implemented;
8. Recalling its decision to consider inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 32nd session in 2008, notes that this option could be reconsidered at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) continue to implement the Decision **31 COM 7B.89**, as well as the recommendations and corrective measures to achieve the desired state of conservation established by the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS missions of 2006 and 2008;

- b) finalize the integrated and comprehensive World Heritage management plan in compliance with the *Operational Guidelines*, including a buffer zone to protect the integrity of the property, by **1 February 2009** at the latest;
 - c) provide the World Heritage Centre with information on impact studies, including a visual impact assessment, according to international standards for all new large-scale projects which may threaten the important views to and from the property and its buffer zone, including the Haliç bridge across the Golden Horn, as well as impact studies for large-scale urban renewal projects proposed for implementation within the framework of Law 5366;
 - d) invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in early 2009 to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress made in the finalisation of the management plan for the World Heritage property and in the implementation of the corrective measures addressing the desired state of conservation, as requested by the World Heritage Committee and the joint missions recommendations in 2006 and 2008;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report including all issues indicated above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

111. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.111

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
- 2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15B.99** and **29 COM 8B.56**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
- 3. Notes the continued collaboration of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
- 4. Expresses its concern about numerous construction or restoration projects within the buffer zone of the property which could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
- 5. Invites the State Party to create a National Coordination Board in order to enhance collaboration between all stakeholders concerned;
- 6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;

7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and the issues identified in Decision **29 COM 8B.56**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a state of conservation report covering all components of this property including, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the description of any intention to undertake or to authorize major restoration or new construction projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

112. Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.112

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.74** and **31 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the actions taken by the State Party in response to the World Heritage Committee's requests in developing a management plan, preparing guidance on methodology for assessing development in World Heritage views, and giving protection to the view of the Tower from the South Bank;
4. Also notes progress with implementing proposals associated with the "Heritage Protection White Paper" and its subsequent "Heritage Protection Bill";
5. Regrets that no buffer zone with protection has been put in place and that no specific skyline study of the Tower, its setting and views, has been carried out, to allow rapid in-depth assessments of the impact of development proposals in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage property,
6. Also regrets that there appears to be lack of clarity on the management system set out in the management plan for addressing conflicts between conservation and development, particularly in the setting;
7. Further regrets that large development projects with tall buildings continue to be approved while the issue of the property and its setting has not yet been resolved;
8. Takes note that the State Party has begun to comply with the requests of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **31 COM 7B.90**) to protect the property, its setting and related vistas and defers consideration of the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

113. Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom) (C 426)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.113

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the actions of the State Party in response to the World Heritage Committee's requests in developing a management plan;
4. Thanks the State Party for aiming to develop general methodologies for assessing the impact of development on views from and to World Heritage properties which may become a basis for further discussion on criteria for visual impact assessments;
5. Also notes progress with implementing proposals associated with the "Heritage Protection White Paper" and its subsequent "Heritage Protection Bill";
6. Regrets that the following issues still need to be addressed:
 - a) buffer zone with adequate protection,
 - b) specific skyline study of the property, its setting and views, to allow rapid in-depth assessments of the impact of development proposals in the immediate vicinity of the property,
 - c) lack of clarity on the management system set out in the management plan for addressing conflicts between conservation and development, particularly in the setting of the property;
7. Takes note that the State Party has demonstrated its commitment to comply with the requests of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **31 COM 7B.91**) to protect the property, its setting and related vistas.
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

114. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom) (C 373)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.114

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.104**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Also recalling that at the time of the inscription of the property in 1986 the Committee noted with satisfaction the assurances provided by the authorities of the United Kingdom that the closure of the road which crosses the avenue at Stonehenge (A344 road) was receiving serious consideration as part of the overall plans for the future management of the property;
4. Regrets that further delays have taken place in the long overdue improvements to visitor access to the Stonehenge part of the property, to its presentation to visitors, and to the setting of the monuments;
5. Urges the State Party to address the issues above in priority;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the closure of the road, visitor management and access, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

115. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom) (C 1150)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.115

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.121**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes the progress that has been made in developing supplementary planning guidance which will:
 - a) clearly establish and respect prescribed heights;
 - b) define the townscape characteristics, wider values (building density, urban patterns and materials) and sense of place;
 - c) suggest how design briefs can incorporate characteristics and qualities of the property,
4. Also notes that work has been undertaken to raise the profile of the property and inform the general public about its Outstanding Universal Value and its management;
5. Urges the State Party to complete and approve the Supplementary Planning Document as soon as possible;
6. Encourages the State Party to supplement this Supplementary Planning Document with the development of strategic plans for the overall townscape and for the skyline and river front – as highlighted by the 2006 Reactive Monitoring mission and reinforced by the comments of the Urban Panel – in order to achieve the highest quality and to ensure sustainable development;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an update report on progress made on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

116. City of Bath (United Kingdom) (C 428)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.116

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Expresses its concern at the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property of the proposed Bath Western Riverside and the Dyson Academy developments;
3. Requests the State Party to withhold final approval of the developments until the World Heritage Committee has had the opportunity to fully review these proposals;
4. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to consider its overall state of conservation and particularly the possible impact of the Bath Western Riverside development and the Dyson Academy on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

117. Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (United Kingdom) (C 728)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.117

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Expresses its concern at the potential impact of the Caltongate development;
3. Deeply regrets that the State Party has approved this scheme in June 2008 not complying with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to consider the overall state of conservation of the Old and New Towns, and particularly the impact of the Caltongate development on the integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, as well as the outline proposals for Leith Docks, the St James Centre, and other current proposals;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

118. Heart of Neolithic Orkney (United Kingdom) (C 514)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.118

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Expresses its concern at the potential impact of the proposed wind turbines on the integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and requests the State Party to suspend the project,
3. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, further information on how the protection, including visual integrity, of the property might be strengthened to ensure that this project and other similar projects, which might impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property can be prevented;
4. Further requests the State Party to provide three printed and electronic copies of the draft revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

119. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia) (C 567 rev)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.119

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Notes with satisfaction the approval of a three year “Preservation and conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid” to be implemented at the property;
3. Requests the State Party to develop, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, as soon as possible, appropriate guidance and regulations for archaeological interventions in accordance with international standards;

4. Also requests the State Party to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Quito Office to implement the activities foreseen in the management and conservation plans;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, a report on the updated management and conservation plans and other aspects related to the preservation and conservation project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

120. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia) (C 285)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.120

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.112**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Deeply regrets that most of the recommendations of the 2006 Reactive Monitoring mission report are still in planning phase and no action has been taken ;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010, focusing on:
 - a) updated information on the boundaries of the property and buffer zones of the World Heritage property and related regulations;
 - b) procedures and responsibilities concerning the establishment of urban building regulations;
 - c) updated information on the instruments for land use control, notably in the property, and policies to promote diversification of activities;
 - d) advancement of the integral study of the condition of the Fortifications' walls.

121. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 120)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.121

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*;

2. Expresses its deep concern about the impact of the reconstruction of the Compañía de Jesús tower on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
3. Requests the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to cease the reconstruction of the tower of the Jesuit Church so as to maintain the authenticity of the property;
4. Urges the State Party to suspend work on the rehabilitation project for the Palacio Legislativo y Centro Cívico and revise it so as to remove any potential adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and authenticity of the property;
5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Quito to re-evaluate the above-mentioned interventions in the framework of the actualization of the 2003 Special Plan for the Centre of Quito;
7. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for consideration at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009.

122. Maya site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.122

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.126**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch 2007),
3. Also recalling the recommendations of the previous monitoring missions of 1999, 2003 and 2005,
4. Notes the interest of the State Party in continuing to build an alternate airport to access the archaeological site and invites the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* to submit detailed information on the definitive location and plans for construction and operations, accompanied by the official Environmental Impact Assessment and archaeological/cultural impact study from the National Institute of Anthropology and History (IAHAH);
5. Encourages the State Party to finalise the management plan and to provide three printed and electronic copies of the resulting document for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to its implementation;
6. Invites the State Party to also submit the management plan for the Rio Amarillo site to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to examine its potential articulation with the Copan management plan;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

123. Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C 414)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.123

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*;
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.127**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
3. Reiterates its request to submit to the World Heritage Centre three printed and electronic copies of the finalized management plan by **30 October 2008**, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Invites the State Party to integrate the outcomes from other planning initiatives, such as the Regional Programme for Tourist Development and Municipal plans, into the management plan for the archaeological site, and to ensure the GIS system is available so that all appropriate actors can share the same information and tools for comprehensive decision-making;
5. Also reiterates its request to set up an intersectoral working group specifically for the World Heritage property, with representatives from local, federal and national levels to analyze the archaeological, environmental and social impacts related to uncontrolled urban development to collaborate in the management of the archaeological site and its surroundings;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the agreements achieved as well as on the advance of preparation of the management plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

124. Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco (Mexico) (C 412)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.124

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*;
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.128**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Notes the intention of the State Party to propose the Comisión Interdependencial as the responsible institution for the implementation of the management plan for Xochimilco;
4. Invites the State Party to organize, as soon as possible, a coordination meeting with the Comisión Interdependencial and the UNESCO Mexico Office to reflect on the feasibility of this commission to become the Management Unit of the property;
5. Deeply regrets the demolition of historical buildings in the property of the Historical Centre of Mexico;
6. Takes note of the declaration of the State Party concerning the absence of risk from further demolition;
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Expresses its satisfaction regarding the invitation by the State Party for a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the impacts of these actions on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property and to work with the different levels of authority to clarify the administrative and technical procedures for further interventions at the Historical Centre of Mexico ;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated state of conservation report and the results of the coordination meeting mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

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

Decision: 32 COM 7B.125

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.122**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the report sent by the State Party did not include actualized information, despite the worrying state of conservation of the property,
4. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to support in particular the development of a management plan for the property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a comprehensive progress report, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

126. Archaeological site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790 bis)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.126

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **27 COM 8C.40**, adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
4. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, a comprehensive report on the current management system;
5. Additionally requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the current state of conservation, the authenticity and the integrity of the property, and to give recommendations to enhance management and conservation practices, as well as guidance on an Emergency Plan;
6. Requests moreover the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, with an updated report on the issues above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

127. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.127

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.123**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Regrets that the details of the proposed projects affecting historic buildings were not received by 1 October 2007 as had been requested by the World Heritage Committee by Decision **31 COM 7B.123**;
4. Requests the State Party to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission of November 2006 and their phased implementation, especially in relation to tackling the demolition issue and strengthening the work teams;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a completed Disaster Preparedness Plan, together with a progress report on the advances made in the implementation of the Plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee on a regular basis details of any new proposed projects potentially affecting historic buildings in the inscribed site, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
7. Further requests the State Party to expand and complete the work of documentation in developing an inventory of the surviving historic buildings, and to submit a progress report on the work to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Requests moreover the State Party to draw up and present to the World Heritage Committee a new Statement of Outstanding Universal Value justifying the inscription of the site, strengthening the connection between the city and the surrounding countryside, redefining the limits of the buffer zone and forming the basis of a revised master plan of Arequipa and other planning documents;
9. Encourages the State Party to make a request for technical assistance under the World Heritage Fund in order to develop a programme of community participation leading to a civil society action plan for conservation;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made on the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

128. Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) (C747)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.128

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B.Add.2*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.99**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Acknowledges the request made by State Party for a technical mission to review the foreseen interventions and to examine the state of conservation of the property and notes the results of this mission;
4. Also notes that strong efforts are needed to improve management planning, and urges the State Party to complete the management plan and to officially establish a management authority for the coordination of the activities of the many national and local actors, organisations and stakeholders involved;
5. Also urges the State Party to suspend the development of the project "Marinas de Sacramento" until alternatives without negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal

Value of the property have been identified, and to submit the alternative proposals to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for evaluation, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

6. Invites the State Party to propose the extension of the property to include the “Bay and Islands of the City of Colonia del Sacramento”;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made in addressing the above issues and the recommendations expressed by the mission report, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

129. Trends in the State of Conservation of World Heritage Sites

Decision: 32 COM 7B.129

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined documents *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*, *WHC-08/32.COM7B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM7B.Add2*,
2. Recognizing that the state of conservation reports are an important tool for sustaining the World Heritage properties; and
3. Noting the discussion that took place at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to:
 - a) prepare, after consultation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, an analytical summary of the state of conservation of the World Heritage discussed at the 32nd session (Québec City, 2008) identifying trends, by 1st November 2008, for distribution to the Committee members and discussion at the 33rd session in 2009;
 - b) identify issues emanating from the analytical summary, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to be discussed on relevant agenda items of the Committee, including the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism;
 - c) prepare a lexicon of terms and recommendations for their consistent application in state of conservation reports;
 - d) provide, where available, a printed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and those discussed for in-Danger listing;
 - e) add a link to illustrative material and relevant statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and attribute information to source and date;
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to identify a mechanism for consultation with States Parties during the development of the State of Conservation reports to ensure their accuracy.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8A. TENTATIVE LISTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES AS OF 15 APRIL 2008, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE *OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES*

Decision: 32 COM 8A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8A*,
2. Recognizes the value of the discussions held on issues raised in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8A*;
3. Notes that these discussions have not reached an agreed conclusion at the 32nd session;
4. Requests that this item be included on the agenda for its 33rd session;
5. Further requests the Chairperson of the 33rd session to establish a working group to continue the analysis of these issues in order to suggest a solution.

8B. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

CHANGES TO NAMES OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 32 COM 8B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B*,
2. Decides not to approve the proposed name change to the Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco as proposed by the Mexican authorities.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B*,
2. Approves the proposed name change to Greater St Lucia Wetland Park as proposed by the South African authorities. The name of the property becomes **iSimangaliso Wetland Park** in English and **Parc de la zone humide d'iSimangaliso** in French;

3. Notes that decisions regarding changes in the names of properties must be approved by the World Heritage Committee before being published and promoted widely;
4. Reminds States Parties wishing to change the names of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List to comply with the procedure and calendar of Paragraph 167 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B*,
2. Takes note of the correction to the name of the Kvarken Archipelago / High Coast as proposed by the Swedish and Finnish authorities. The name of the property becomes **High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago** in English and **Haute Côte / Archipel de Kvarken** in French.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B*,
2. Approves the proposed name change to Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn as proposed by the Swiss authorities. The name of the property becomes **Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch** in English and **Alpes suisses Jungfrau-Aletsch** in French.

EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

Decision: 32 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes the **Socotra Archipelago, Yemen**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

Socotra is globally important for biodiversity conservation because of its exceptionally rich and distinct flora and fauna. 37% of Socotra's plant species, 90% of its reptile species and 95% of its land snail species do not occur anywhere else in the world. Socotra is of particular importance to the Horn of Africa's biodiversity hotspot and, as one of the most biodiversity rich and distinct islands in the world, has been termed the "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean".

Criterion (x): Biological diversity and threatened species: Socotra is globally important for biodiversity conservation because of its exceptional level of biodiversity and endemism in many terrestrial and marine groups of organisms. Socotra is particularly important for its diversity of plants and has 825 plant species of which 307 (37%) are endemic. Socotra has high importance for bird species as underlined by the identification by Birdlife International of 22 Important Bird Areas on Socotra. Socotra also supports globally significant populations of other land and sea birds, including a number of threatened species. Extremely high levels of endemism occur in Socotra's reptiles (34 species, 90% endemism) and land snails (96 species, 95% endemism). The marine life of Socotra is also very diverse, with 253 species of reef-building corals, 730 species of coastal fish and 300 species of crab, lobster and shrimp, and well represented in the property's marine areas.

Integrity

The property is of sufficient size to adequately represent all the terrestrial and marine features and processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the archipelago's rich and distinct biodiversity. The terrestrial nature sanctuaries, national parks and areas of special botanical interest included in the property encompass about 75% of the total land area. They protect all the major vegetation types, areas of high floral and faunal values, and important bird areas. The marine nature sanctuaries included in the property encompass the most important elements of marine biodiversity. The property's integrity is further enhanced by terrestrial and marine buffer zones that are not part of the inscribed property.

Requirements for Protection and Management

All component areas of the property have legal protection; however there is a need to strengthen the legislative framework, and management and enforcement capacity. Whilst the property's terrestrial and marine habitats are generally still in good condition, management planning needs to deal more effectively with current threats including roading, overgrazing and overharvesting of terrestrial and marine natural resources. Potential future threats include unsustainable tourism and invasive species. Impacts of these threats on Socotra's biodiversity need to be closely monitored and minimized. A sustainable financing strategy is required to ensure the necessary human and financial resources for the long term management of the property. Appropriate linkages need to be developed between the management of the property, its buffer zones and the Socotra Biosphere Reserve.

4. Commends the State Party for its major efforts for the long term conservation of the property; and recognises in particular the positive commitments from the State Party as set out in the Government of Yemen's Cabinet Decrees No. 45-49 of 12 February 2008 which relate to the conservation and sustainable development of the Socotra Archipelago;
5. Requests the State Party to implement these Decrees as quickly as possible and, in particular, that:

- a) management planning for the World Heritage property be enhanced to deal more effectively with key threats, in particular ensuring that:
 - i) future roading works minimise environmental impacts on biodiversity and where possible are located outside the property;
 - ii) grazing impacts on biodiversity are monitored and effective measures taken to reduce environmental impacts from grazing; and
 - iii) invasive species are effectively controlled, including through limiting the entry of invasive species at ports and the airport;
 - b) a separate management authority be established for the World Heritage property which would give priority attention to the conservation of the unique biodiversity of the property. This Authority should have adequate sustained human and financial resources, and enforcement capacity;
 - c) the buffer zones (which are not part of the inscribed property) be managed in a complementary manner to the property, with appropriate linkages developed with the management of the Socotra Biosphere Reserve; and
 - d) a sustainable financing strategy be developed for the World Heritage property, which includes ongoing and adequate support from the Government of Yemen and international support from donors and partners;
6. Acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the State Party in formulating a bio safety framework and ratifying the Cartagena Protocol and encourages the State Party to strengthen such regulations particularly those related to endemic species in Socotra Archipelago to prevent loss of the unique biodiversity;
 7. Further requests the State Party to invite a mission to the property in 2012 to assess progress with the above recommendations and report back to the World Heritage Committee.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Decision: 32 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes **Mount Sanqingshan National Park, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

Mount Sanqingshan National Park displays a unique array of forested, fantastically shaped granite pillars and peaks concentrated in a relatively small area. The looming,

intricate rock formations intermixed with delicate forest cover and combined with ever-shifting weather patterns create a landscape of arresting beauty.

Criterion (vii): Superlative natural phenomena or natural beauty: Mount Sanqingshan's remarkable granite rock formations combine with diverse forest, near and distant vistas, and striking meteorological effects to create a landscape of exceptional scenic quality. The most notable aspect is the concentration of fantastically shaped pillars and peaks. The natural beauty of Mount Sanqingshan also derives from the juxtaposition of its granite features with the mountain's vegetation enhanced by meteorological conditions which create an ever-changing and arresting landscape. The access afforded by suspended walking trails in the park permits visitors to appreciate the park's stunning scenery and enjoy its serene atmosphere.

Integrity

The park boundaries are appropriately drawn to protect the naturalness of the landscape and the areas required to maintain the scenic qualities of the property. The property, although relatively small, includes all of the granite peaks and pillars which provide the framework for its aesthetic values. Boundaries are accurately surveyed and demarcated. The property's integrity is enhanced by the designation of a buffer zone that is not part of the inscribed property.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The property has effective legal protection, a sound planning framework and is currently well managed. The park benefits from strong government support and funding. The park's natural resources are in good condition and threats are considered manageable. There is an effective management regime in place for the park. The key requirement is to manage the property to retain its aesthetic values, and a delicate balance will need to be maintained with the provision of visitor access. The most significant threat relates to the future increase in tourism, and careful and sensitive planning of the related infrastructure and access development is required.

4. Recommends the State Party, in order to strengthen the integrity and management of the property, to:
 - a) develop and implement, in recognition of increasing numbers of park visitors, a visitor management plan as a sub-plan of the Management and Conservation Plan for Mount Sanqingshan National Park. Such a plan should anticipate and address the need to manage the environmental impact of additional visitors, the need to maintain and develop a zoned use plan, and the need to provide appropriate additional visitor facilities in suitable and sensitively selected locations;
 - b) ensure that any development of new visitor facility infrastructure in relation to increasing use be limited and subject to rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment. Construction of additional cable car systems or the development of additional roads in the park should not be supported; and
 - c) establish research and monitoring programmes to monitor visitor numbers and their impacts, and assess and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the park including the potentially adverse impact of fire and invasive alien species on the park's aesthetic and natural values;
5. Recalls the decision of the Committee at its 16th session (Santa Fé, 1992) regarding the separate listing of similar sites; and notes that further values of Mount Sanqingshan could warrant recognition on the World Heritage List only if re-nominated as a serial

property in combination with similar and nearby sites, in particular Mount Huangshan, which is currently inscribed as a mixed site;

6. Notes that there are a number of other potential sites with similar values currently on the Tentative List of the State Party of China which might be put forward for separate consideration by the World Heritage Committee; and therefore invites the Chinese authorities to consider carefully, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, the future strategy for nominations and the potential to develop a wider range of serial approaches in order to reduce the potential for separate nominations of properties that share similar and complementary values. The serial nomination of the South China Karst, inscribed in 2007, provides a model that could be of value in other inter-provincial nominations within China;
7. Further notes that the nomination of Mount Sanqingshan illustrates the importance of considering the full range of natural and cultural values that may be relevant for World Heritage inscription during the planning phases of nominations, and potential synergies with similar nearby sites; and encourages States Parties to give fuller consideration to rigorous, global comparative analysis and to consider the use of the mechanism of extensions (including serial and transnational extensions) where significant sites with similar and/or complementary values are identified through such analyses.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Decides not to inscribe **Hovsgol Lake and its Watershed, Mongolia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria;
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts for the conservation of Hovsgol Lake and its Watershed and the partnerships with international agencies to improve the management capacity and protection of the property; and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;
4. Considers that the property represents an important site at the national and regional levels and, in recognition of the need to balance protection of its natural values with surrounding human uses, recommends the State Party consider the potential for its designation as a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes **Saryarka - Steppe and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

Saryarka - Steppe and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan protects substantial, largely undisturbed areas of Central Asian steppe and lakes in the Korgalzhyn and Naurzum State Nature Reserves. The property's wetland areas are of outstanding importance for migratory waterbirds, including substantial populations of globally threatened species, as they are key stopover points and crossroads on the Central Asian flyways. The property's steppe areas provide a valuable refuge for over half the species of the region's steppe flora, a number of threatened bird species and the critically endangered Saiga antelope.

Criterion (ix): Ongoing biological and ecological processes: The property contains substantial areas of steppe and lakes with largely undisturbed associated biological and ecological processes. The seasonal dynamics of the hydrology, chemistry and biology of the lakes, with the diverse flora and fauna of the wetlands have evolved through complex wetting and drying cycles, and are of global significance and scientific interest. The wetlands of Korgalzhyn and Naurzum State Nature Reserves are key stopover points and crossroads on the Central Asian migratory bird flyways and are of outstanding importance for migratory waterbirds on their way from Africa, Europe and South Asia to their breeding places in Western and Eastern Siberia. The property also contains over 200,000 ha of Central Asian steppe, more than half of which is pristine, and which is part of the temperate grassland biome.

Criterion (x): Biological diversity and threatened species: Korgalzhyn and Naurzum State Nature Reserves protect large areas of natural steppe and lake habitats that sustain a diverse range of Central Asian flora and fauna and support vast numbers of migratory birds, including substantial populations of many globally threatened species. The Korgalzhyn-Tengiz lakes provide feeding grounds for up to 15-16 million birds, including flocks of up to 2.5 million geese. They also support up to 350,000 nesting waterfowl, while the Naurzum lakes support up to 500,000 nesting waterfowl. The property's steppe areas provide a valuable refuge for over half the species of the region's steppe flora, a number of threatened bird species and the critically endangered Saiga antelope, a once abundant species much reduced across its range by poaching pressure.

Integrity

The property contains high quality steppe and lake habitats that are essential for the long term conservation of the region's biological diversity and each of its two component areas is of sufficient size to maintain associated biological and ecological processes. Korgalzhyn and Naurzum State Nature Reserves have benefited from long-term legal protection as strict nature reserves. Korgalzhyn is completely surrounded by a buffer zone, while Naurzum consists of three strictly protected areas, each surrounded by a buffer zone and linked together by an ecological corridor. The reserves are complementary in their values despite the 350 km distance between them. The property and the buffer zones, which are not part of the inscribed property, are adequately demarcated in the field.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The property has effective legal protection, is currently well managed and benefits from strong support and funding from the government and international partners. An integrated management plan has been developed for the property and the government has committed human and financial resources for its effective implementation. All land in the reserves is state owned and no permanent settlements are allowed. No uses of wild animals and plants are allowed and there is limited visitor access to the property. At present there are only few visitors to the property but tourism is likely to increase in

the future and needs to be well planned and managed. Another key management priority is the maintenance of the hydrological regimes on which the viability of the property's wetland ecosystems depend, in the case of Lake Tengiz primarily the inflows from the Nura River.

4. Commends the State Party and its national and international partners for their work in extending the Naurzum State Nature Reserve and also addressing the other issues raised in IUCN's evaluation of the original nomination submitted in 2002;
5. Further commends the State Party and its international partners for their initiatives to secure habitat for the critically endangered Saiga antelope, in particular through the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative; and encourages the State Party to consider further extensions of the World Heritage property to contribute toward enhanced protection of this flagship steppe species and related steppe values;
6. Further encourages the State Party, given the extent and dynamics of the Central Asian Steppe ecosystem, to expedite planned extensions of the property including the additional area of Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve and an upgraded Sarykopa Wildlife Reserve as they would add considerable value and increase the functional linkages of the serial property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes **The Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Canada**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

The Joggins Fossil Cliffs have been termed the "coal age Galápagos" and are the world reference site for the "Coal Age". Their complete and accessible fossil-bearing rock exposures provide the best evidence known of the iconic features of the Pennsylvanian (or Carboniferous) period of Earth History.

Criterion (viii): Earth's history, geological and geomorphic features and processes: The "grand exposure" of rocks at Joggins Fossil Cliffs contains the best and most complete known fossil record of terrestrial life in the iconic "Coal Age": the Pennsylvanian (or Carboniferous) period in Earth's history. The site bears witness to the first reptiles in Earth history, which are the earliest representatives of the amniotes, a group of animals that includes reptiles, dinosaurs, birds, and mammals. Upright fossil trees are preserved at a series of levels in the cliffs together with animal, plant and trace fossils that provide environmental context and enable a complete reconstruction to be made of the extensive fossil forests that dominated land at this time, and are now the source of most of the world's coal deposits. The property has played a vital role in the development of seminal geological and evolutionary principles, including through the work of Sir Charles Lyell and Charles Darwin, for which the site has been referred to as the "coal age Galápagos".

Integrity

The boundaries of the property are clearly defined in relation to logical stratigraphic criteria and include all of the areas necessary to fully display the fossil record of Joggins including the cliff face and foreshore rock exposures, and include both the most fossiliferous strata and younger and older rocks that provide geological context. The inland extent of the property is defined based on the eroding top of the cliffs and this is a fully justifiable and logical basis to cope with the dynamic nature of this coastal property. A relatively narrow buffer zone is defined, which is not part of the inscribed property, but is sufficient to control coastal development which could otherwise threaten the values of the property.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The property has effective legal protection and has the strong support of all levels of government, including in relation to the provision of funding. Some aspects of the legislation, such as for the licensing of fossil collection are cumbersome and would benefit from review, although can be better implemented if site managers are empowered to do so. The site is well resourced, including through the provision of a new visitor centre, and is managed in a way that can be considered to set international standards. The effective process of community involvement and partnerships between scientists, museums and economic interests are also noted, and the biggest challenge of the property will be to maintain the level of performance and resources required in the future.

4. Notes the very high quality of documentation of the nomination and the process of community engagement in its preparation, over a period of almost ten years, as models in the preparation of nominations and in effective management of World Heritage properties;
5. Recommends that the State Party widely publicise the results of its monitoring of fossil resources produced by natural erosion and the development of educational and research collecting policies, which could serve as a model for such management elsewhere.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes the **Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems, France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

The tropical lagoons and coral reefs of New Caledonia are an outstanding example of high diversity coral reef ecosystems and form one of the three most extensive reef systems in the world. They are the location for the world's most diverse concentration of reef structures, with an exceptional diversity of coral and fish species and a continuum of habitats from mangroves to seagrasses and a wide range of reef forms, extending over important oceanic gradients. They still display intact ecosystems, with healthy populations of top predators, and a large number and diversity of large fish. They are of exceptional natural beauty, and contain diverse reefs of varying age from

living reefs through to ancient fossil reefs, providing an important source of information on the natural history of Oceania.

Criterion (vii): Superlative natural phenomena or natural beauty: The tropical lagoons and coral reefs of New Caledonia are considered to be some of the most beautiful reef systems in the world due to their wide variety of shapes and forms within a comparatively small area. This ranges from extensive double barrier systems, offshore reefs and coral islands, to the near-shore reticulate reef formations in the west coast zone. The richness and diversity of landscapes and coastal backdrops gives a distinctive aesthetic appeal of exceptional quality. This beauty continues below the surface with dramatic displays of coral diversity, massive coral structures, together with arches, caves and major fissures in the reefs.

Criterion (ix): Ongoing biological and ecological processes: The reef complex within this serial property is globally unique in that it is "free-standing" in the ocean and encircles the island of New Caledonia, providing a variety of different kinds of oceanographic exposure, including both warm and cold currents. The coral reef complex has a great diversity of forms including all the major reef types from fringing reefs to atolls, as well as associated ecosystems in both coastal and oceanic situations. Extending over important oceanic gradients, it is one of the planet's best examples of the ecological and biological processes underlying tropical lagoon and coral reef ecosystems, themselves one of the most ancient and complex ecosystem types.

Criterion (x): Biological diversity and threatened species: The property is a marine site of exceptional diversity with a continuum of habitats from mangroves to seagrasses and a wide range of reef forms. The barrier reefs and atolls in New Caledonia form one of the three most extensive reef systems in the world, and together with the reefs of Fiji, are the most significant coral reefs in Oceania. They are the location for the world's most diverse concentration of reef structures, 146 types based on a global classification system, and they equal or even surpass the much larger Great Barrier Reef in coral and fish diversity. They provide habitat to a number of threatened fish, turtles, and marine mammals, including the third largest population of dugongs in the world.

Integrity

The serial property comprises six marine clusters which are also protected by marine and terrestrial buffer zones that are not part of the inscribed property. It includes all the key areas that are essential for maintaining its natural beauty and the long term conservation of its remarkable reef diversity, and it is of sufficient size to maintain associated biological and ecological processes. The property still displays intact ecosystems with top predators, and a large number and diversity of large fish.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The property is currently protected by fisheries legislation, which is being further improved, and co-management arrangements with the Kanak communities are currently being established for all clusters. Management plans are currently being prepared for all clusters with full involvement of stakeholders. Continued efforts to protect and manage the property and its surroundings are required to maintain the present intactness of the coral reef ecosystems. Protecting and managing large areas in the form of no-take zones and proactive management of water quality and fisheries regulations will help maintain reef resilience in the face of climate change. Enhanced surveillance and monitoring are required to address potential impacts from fishing and mining and, to a lesser extent, from agriculture and aquaculture. Tourism is likely to increase in the future and needs to be well planned and managed. Sustainable

financing strategies are required to ensure the necessary equipment, human and financial resources for the long term management of the property.

4. Commends the State Party, and especially the Government of New Caledonia, the North, the South and Loyalty Islands Provinces and the Kanak community of New Caledonia, for their outstanding work towards establishing community-based management plans using traditional knowledge and good practices in land and sea management, backed by regulatory controls as well as for their strong commitment in establishing a regulatory framework for mining activities outside the property aiming to avoid negative environmental impacts on the property;
5. Requests the State Party to address the following points for effective protection and management of the property:
 - a) develop and implement, as part of proposed co-management arrangements, an action plan for enhancing surveillance and monitoring which should involve actions and support from the State, Government, Provinces and local communities, and to allocate adequate equipment, human and financial resources for its effective implementation;
 - b) ensure that the management planning process consider the effective implementation of actions to maintain reef resilience, including strong proactive management of water quality and fisheries regulations. Full protection should be given, in particular, to all herbivorous fish species as these species are critical in the face of climate change to maintain reef health and ensure the most rapid recovery from bleaching events; and
 - c) develop and implement a zoning scheme for the property to ensure that regulations are made easy to understand for sea users and that large areas are managed for reef resilience in the form of no-take zones, appropriately linked to existing marine protected areas and traditional Kanak taboo areas;
6. Further requests the State Party, in light of the rapidly evolving nature of the governance and legislative framework for New Caledonia, to invite a mission to the property in 2010 to assess progress with the implementation of community-based management plans, the enforcement of newly adopted fisheries regulations and the environmental performance and impact of mining activities in the buffer zones of the serial property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes **Surtsey, Iceland**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ix)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

Surtsey is a new island formed by volcanic eruptions in 1963-67. It has been legally protected from its birth and provides the world with a pristine natural laboratory. Free from human interference, Surtsey has produced long-term information on the colonisation process of new land by plant and animal life.

Criterion (ix): Ongoing biological and ecological processes: Surtsey was born as a new volcanic island in 1963-67 and since that time has played a major role in studies of succession and colonisation. It has been the site of one of the few long term studies worldwide on primary succession, providing a unique scientific record of the process of colonisation of land by plants, animals and marine organisms. Not only is it geographically isolated, but it has been legally protected from its birth, providing the world with a pristine natural laboratory, free from human interference. Above all, because of its continuing protection, Surtsey will continue to provide invaluable data on biological colonisation long into the future.

Integrity

The property includes the whole island and an adequate surrounding marine area, and thus all the areas that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecological processes on Surtsey. There is also a relatively small but functional marine buffer zone that is not part of the inscribed property. It is noted that part of the evolution of Surtsey is the process of coastal erosion which has already halved the area of the island and over time is predicted to remove another two thirds leaving only the most resistant core.

Requirements for Protection and Management

Surtsey is a highly controlled, isolated environment and so threats are very limited. The purpose of strictly prohibiting visits to Surtsey is to ensure that colonisation by plants and animals, biotic succession and the shaping of geological formations will be as natural as possible and that human disruption will be minimised. It is prohibited to go ashore or dive by the island, to disturb the natural features, introduce organisms, minerals and soils or leave waste on the island. Nearby construction is also strictly controlled. The most significant management issue will be to retain the level of control and protection from human influence that has characterised the protective history of Surtsey. It is noted that, as an island ecosystem, there is the potential for human disturbance and pollution from a very wide area. Contingency planning, for example for oil spills, is required for the property and its wider surroundings. Given the lack of access a creative and positive approach to presenting the property will be required to ensure that visitors are able to appreciate, but not disturb, its values.

4. Recommends the State Party to give consideration to a serial re-nomination and extension of Surtsey in relation to its geological values (criterion viii) to include a suite of sites that represents the great variety of unique geological features that are characteristic of tectonic plate margin separation. This could potentially be developed in the context of a serial nomination related to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, or as a serial nomination within Iceland which might include volcanic properties on Iceland's Tentative List, and the potential recognition of the significant geological values of Þingvellir National Park, a World Heritage property currently recognised only for its cultural values.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.12

The nomination of the **Bradyseism in Phlegraean Area, Italy**, has been withdrawn by the State Party.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the “**The Putorana Plateau**” **Nature Complex, Russian Federation**, to the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (vii) and (ix) to allow the State Party to refocus the nomination and address issues related to the management of the nominated property;
3. Recommends the State Party to:
 - a) refocus the nomination on the values and features within the Putorana State Nature Reserve in relation to criteria (vii) and (ix), supported by an enhanced global comparative analyses in relation to other World Heritage properties and protected areas within the Arctic;
 - b) provide a clear statement of support from the government that demonstrates its commitment to ensuring effective long term management, including the necessary human and financial resources, of the nominated property; and
 - c) develop and implement a management plan that specifies how the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property will be protected in the long term;
4. Requests the Advisory Bodies to prepare thematic studies on natural and cultural heritage in the Arctic, as suggested at the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and the Arctic held in Narvik, Norway from 30 November to 1 December 2007, as these studies would enable better evaluation of properties of potential Outstanding Universal Value within the Arctic.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes the **Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona, Switzerland**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (viii)**, noting the revision of the name originally proposed by the State Party;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Values

The Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona presents an exceptional and dramatic display of mountain building through continental collision. The property is distinguished by the clear three-dimensional exposure of the structures and processes that characterise this phenomenon in a mountain setting, its history of study, and its ongoing contribution to geological sciences.

Criterion (viii): Earth’s history, geological and geomorphic features and processes:
The Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona provides an exceptional display of mountain

building tectonics and has been recognised as a key site for geological sciences since the 18th century. The clear exposure of the Glarus Overthrust is a key, but not the only significant, feature. The exposures of the rocks below and above this feature are visible in three dimensions and, taken together, have made substantial contributions to the understanding of mountain building tectonics. Its geological features can be readily appreciated by all visitors. The property can be differentiated from other similar sites by the combination of the clear exposure of the phenomenon in a mountain setting, its history of study, and its ongoing contribution to geological sciences.

Integrity

The property contains the full range of tectonic features necessary to display the phenomenon of mountain building. Key attributes of the site include the Glarus Overthrust and the associated folded and faulted geological exposures above and below it. Other key attributes of the property are the accessibility of the features in three dimensions, and access to the thrust surface of the Glarus Overthrust. Associated intangible values relate to the importance of the property as a formative site for the geological sciences; and the features that were part of these studies remain visible and in good condition in the present day.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The major exposures of the geological features are within protected areas and are substantially unthreatened. The primary management issue is to allow the natural processes of slope erosion to continue. Other key management issues relate to the continued provision of safe visitor and research access and protection of key features such as the exposures of the thrust surface. The communication of the key values of the property is also an important priority and continued investment and enhancement of visitor interpretation and education strategies are required.

4. Commends the State Party for its significant efforts in developing the nomination and enhancing the recognition of the values of the property following IUCN's evaluation of the original nomination submitted in 2004; and notes the quality of the comparative analysis carried out in relation to the geological values of the property;
5. Further notes that the inscription of the property makes a significant contribution to the recognition of tectonic sites on the World Heritage List and that the nomination sets a high standard for the quality of argument required to support inscription of any further tectonic sites as well as for geological nominations in general; and emphasises that the numbers of tectonic sites suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List is likely to be very small.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.15

The extension of the **Pirin National Park, Bulgaria**, has been withdrawn by the State Party.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.16

The nomination of the **Quarry of the Fabrica Nacional de Cementos S.A. (FANCESA), Cal Orck'O, Sucre, Departamento Chuquisaca, Bolivia**, has been withdrawn by the State Party.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Inscribes the **Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, Mexico**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (vii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;

Values

The Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve World Heritage property protects key overwintering sites for the monarch butterfly. The overwintering concentration of butterflies in the property is a superlative natural phenomenon. The millions of monarch butterflies that return to the property every year bend tree branches by their weight, fill the sky when they take flight, and make a sound like light rain with the beating of their wings. Witnessing this unique phenomenon is an exceptional experience of nature.

Criterion (vii): The overwintering concentration of the monarch butterfly in the property is the most dramatic manifestation of the phenomenon of insect migration. Up to a billion monarch butterflies return annually, from breeding areas as far away as Canada, to land in close-packed clusters within 14 overwintering colonies in the oyamel fir forests of central Mexico. The property protects 8 of these colonies and an estimated 70% of the total overwintering population of the monarch butterfly's eastern population.

Integrity

The property includes more than half of the overwintering colonies of the monarch butterfly's eastern population. They provide a good sample of the areas that are essential for maintaining this superlative natural phenomenon. The maintenance of the standing forest and the microclimates that they create is the key management requirement, thus any threat to the forests is of utmost concern. Illegal logging is a known threat to the property with potential direct impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value. Public use has been increasing and the levels of visitation and infrastructure provided require careful control both in relation to impacts on the ecosystem and the quality of experience provided by the property to visitors. Due to its migratory nature, the maintenance of the overwintering phenomenon also requires attention to the conservation of the monarch butterfly by those countries through which it travels during its life cycle.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The principal focus of protection and management should be to prevent illegal logging in the property. Priorities to achieve this include concerted planning and action between all relevant federal, state and local agencies, and work with local communities on environmental protection and the provision of alternative livelihoods to logging. As the overwintering phenomenon is a significant attractor to visitors, management also needs to be directed to achieving sustainable public use of the property. This should respect

the quality of the visitor experience and promote benefit-sharing mechanisms for local communities as an incentive to enhance their support to the conservation of the property. Continued investment in coordinated continent-wide management of the migratory phenomenon is a further important dimension of site management. Achieving all of these priorities requires the provision of adequate and sustained institutional and financial support.

4. Recommends the State Party to inform about existing programs being implemented in the property, reflecting the resources invested in management and conservation activities with emphasis on actions aiming to halt illegal logging and submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2009. Particular attention should be given to:
 - a) continuing and strengthening the work with local communities on environmental protection and alternatives livelihoods to logging
 - b) exploring options for a major new investment in development and implementation of a coordinated plan to halt illegal logging involving all federal, state and local agencies;
 - c) developing and implementing, in the context of the 2007 Agreement of Collaboration between the Tourism Secretariat (SECTUR) and the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) on the Development of Nature-based Tourism, a detailed plan for sustainable public use of the nominated property and an effective benefit-sharing mechanism for local communities as an incentive to enhance their support on the conservation of the property.
5. Commends the State Party and its partners for their demonstrated commitment to, and active collaboration in, the conservation and management of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO / IUCN mission in 2010 to consider the State of conservation of the property and report to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010 on the implementation of the above recommendations.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Le Morne Cultural Landscape, Mauritius**, on the World Heritage List as a relict and associative cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Le Morne Cultural Landscape is an exceptional testimony to maroonage or resistance to slavery in terms of the mountain being used as a fortress to shelter escaped slaves,

with physical and oral evidence to support that use. Le Morne represents maroonage and its impact, which existed in many places around the world, was demonstrated so effectively on Le Morne mountain. It is a symbol of slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering, and their sacrifice, all of which have relevance beyond its geographical location, to the countries from which the slaves came – in particular the African mainland, Madagascar, India, and South-east Asia- and represented by the Creole people of Mauritius and their shared memories and oral traditions.

Criterion (iii): The mountain is an exceptional testimony to maroonage or resistance to slavery in terms of it being used as a fortress for the shelter of escaped slaves, with evidence to support that use.

Criterion (vi): The dramatic form of the mountain, the heroic nature of the resistance it sheltered, and the longevity of the oral traditions associated with the maroons, has made Le Morne a symbol of slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering, and their sacrifice, all of which have relevance beyond its geographical location, to the countries from which the slaves came – in particular the African mainland, Madagascar and India and South-east Asia.

The values of the property, in relation to the shelter of the maroons and their attempts to escape to freedom, extend beyond the main bulk of the mountain to the foothills and coast. Only the mountain is in the property and its spiritual qualities extend well into its surroundings. To preserve the integrity of the mountain means considering the property and buffer zone as a management unit. There is no doubt over the authenticity of the remains of maroon settlements on the mountains nor of the strong associations between the maroons and the mountain which are now known and valued far beyond the area.

The legal protection in place is adequate for the property; the Planning Policy Guidance for the buffer zone needs to be rigorously enforced. The current Management Plan is a good framework document, but needs to be augmented with detailed sub-plans and extended to address the marine environment of the buffer zone. The management system for the property should include professional staff with conservation and other appropriate disciplines and capacity building programmes.

4. Recommends that the State Party:

- a) increase the management system for the property to include professional staff with conservation and other appropriate disciplines and through capacity building programmes;
- b) improve the Management Plan through the development of sub-plans which identify actions and resources, particularly relating to protection of the buffer zone;
- c) include the monitoring of views, appropriate awareness of and respect for oral traditions, and the marine environment in the monitoring programme.

5. Requests the State Party to:

- a) enforce the Planning Policy Guidance for developments in the buffer zone and refrain from approving any developments in the property;
- b) develop a comprehensive analysis on the implication of building heights in the buffer zone and the villages of Coteau Raffin and La Gaulette on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

- c) establish a regular monitoring mechanism on the key views and sight axis of the property.

ARAB STATES

Decision: 32 COM 8B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madâin Sâlih), Saudi Arabia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The archaeological site of Al-Hijr is a major site of the Nabataean civilisation, in the south of its zone of influence. Its integrity is remarkable and it is well conserved. It includes a major ensemble of tombs and monuments, whose architecture and decorations are directly cut into the sandstone.

It bears witness to the encounter between a variety of decorative and architectural influences (Assyrian, Egyptian, Phoenician, Hellenistic), and the epigraphic presence of several ancient languages (Lihyanite, Talmudic, Nabataean, Greek, Latin).

It bears witness to the development of Nabataean agricultural techniques using a large number of artificial wells in rocky ground. The wells are still in use.

The ancient city of Hegra/Al-Hijr bears witness to the international caravan trade during late Antiquity.

Criterion (ii): The site of Al-Hijr is located at a meeting point between various civilisations of late Antiquity, on a trade route between the Arabian Peninsula, the Mediterranean world and Asia. It bears outstanding witness to important cultural exchanges in architecture, decoration, language use and the caravan trade. Although the Nabataean city was abandoned during the pre-Islamic period, the route continued to play its international role for caravans and then for the pilgrimage to Mecca, up to its modernisation by the construction of the railway at the start of the 20th century.

Criterion (iii): The site of Al-Hijr bears unique testimony to the Nabataean civilisation, between the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC and the pre-Islamic period, and particularly in the 1st century AD. It is an outstanding illustration of the architectural style specific to the Nabataeans, consisting of monuments directly cut into the rock, and with facades bearing a large number of decorative motifs. The site includes a set of wells, most of which were sunk into the rock, demonstrating the Nabataeans' mastery of hydraulic techniques for agricultural purposes.

The testimony borne by Al-Hijr to the Nabataean civilisation is of outstanding integrity and authenticity, because of its early abandonment and the benefit over a very long period of highly favourable climatic conditions.

The State Party has begun to set up an extremely comprehensive Local Management Unit, and this process is now under way. The announced management plan should enable satisfactory protection of the property. With this in mind, the plan should organise systematic monitoring of the conservation of the site, and prepare a project for the presentation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property for the benefit both of visitors and of the population of the region.

4. Requests the State Party to:

- a) implement the established management plan;
- b) in the framework of the management plan and the Local Management Unit, conduct regular monitoring;

5. Recommends that:

- a) the new framework law on the Kingdom's Antiquities and Museums be promulgated;
- b) care be taken to ensure that the development of reception facilities at the property and future developments in the wider surroundings of the property do not impact on the expression of the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Decision: 32 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes Fujian Tulou, China, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Fujian *Tulou* are the most representative and best preserved examples of the tulou of the mountainous regions of south-eastern China. The large, technically sophisticated and dramatic earthen defensive buildings, built between the 13th and 20th centuries, in their highly sensitive setting in fertile mountain valleys, are an extraordinary reflection of a communal response to settlement which has persisted over time. The tulou, and their extensive associated documentary archives, reflect the emergence, innovation, and development of an outstanding art of earthen building over seven centuries. The elaborate compartmentalised interiors, some with highly decorated surfaces, met both their communities' physical and spiritual needs and reflect in an extraordinary way the development of a sophisticated society in a remote and potentially hostile environment. The relationship of the massive buildings to their landscape embodies both Feng Shui principles and ideas of landscape beauty and harmony.

Criterion (iii): The tulou bear an exceptional testimony to a long-standing cultural tradition of defensive buildings for communal living that reflect sophisticated building traditions and ideas of harmony and collaboration, well documented over time.

Criterion (iv): The tulou are exceptional in terms of size, building traditions and function, and reflect society's response to various stages in economic and social history within the wider region.

Criterion (v): The tulou as a whole and the nominated Fujian tulou in particular, in terms of their form are a unique reflection of communal living and defensive needs, and in terms of their harmonious relationship with their environment, an outstanding example of human settlement.

The authenticity of the tulou is related to sustaining the tulou themselves and their building traditions as well as the structures and processes associated with their farmed and forested landscape setting. The integrity of the tulou is related to their intactness as buildings but also to the intactness of the surrounding farmed and forested landscape – into which they were so carefully sited in accordance with Feng Shui principles.

The legal protection of the nominated areas and their buffer zones are adequate. The overall management system for the property is adequate, involving both government administrative bodies and local communities, although plans for the sustainability of the landscape that respect local farming and forestry traditions need to be better developed.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) as one of the main potential risks to the property is increased visitor numbers, there is a need to ensure that tourism protection plans are adhered to;
 - b) care needs to be exercised to avoid maintenance and conservation activities that may have an adverse impact on the authenticity and integrity of tulou by means of policy and “best practice” guidelines;
 - c) improved plan for the sustainability of the farming landscape which respect local farming traditions should be developed;
 - d) given the importance of the landscape setting of the tulou, consideration should be given to the protection of the wider setting of the property as well as the property and buffer zones;
 - e) there should be a one-year re-evaluation of the monitoring system in detail;
 - f) a coordinated overall interpretation and presentation plan at the provincial level is needed to ensure consistency in site interpretation and presentation. This should ensure consistency in quality and style from county to county, so as to create a recognizable visual identity in the eyes of visitors and local inhabitants.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong, Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:

- a) reconsider and sufficiently justify the selection of the nominated properties as significant and representative examples of the Koryo Dynasty and its capital Kaesong;
 - b) redefine the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones in order to include all the significant heritage components and the cultural and natural settings of the nominated properties. This consideration could take into account the possibility of linking some monuments and sites in Kaesong by extending the buffer zones in order to encompass significant examples of traditional architecture;
 - c) ensure that potential threats to the values of the property caused by future development can be managed by the definition of appropriate buffer zones;
3. Recommends that, in case of a revised nomination, as the property and buffer zones must be revised by the State Party, an on-site mission should be arranged to test the appropriateness of the new proposed boundaries;
4. Further recommends that:
- a) the Management Plan should take into account the impact of the current economic transformation of the region and its potential effects on social and cultural aspects that could impact the nominated monuments and sites. This should be especially considered for properties located in Kaesong;
 - b) in order to improve the monitoring system, it is necessary to review some indicators so as to define exactly what to measure, and to improve and update the documentation techniques.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Cultural Landscape of Bali Province, Indonesia**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:
 - a) reconsider the choice of sites to allow a nomination on the cultural landscape of Bali that reflects the extent and scope of the subak system of water management and the profound effect it has had on the cultural landscape and political, social and agricultural systems of land management over at least a millennia;
 - b) consider re-nominating a site or sites that display the close link between rice terraces, water temples, villages and forest catchment areas and where the traditional subak system is still functioning in its entirety and managed by local communities;
 - c) put in place a management system that aims to sustain traditional practices and deflect inappropriate development or the impacts of development;
3. Considers that any revised nomination with revised boundaries, would need to be considered by a mission to the site.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, Islamic Republic of Iran**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Armenian monasteries of Iran have borne continuous testimony, since the origins of Christianity and certainly since the 7th century, to Armenian culture in its relations and contact with the Persian and later the Iranian civilisations. They bear testimony to a very large and refined panorama of architectural and decorative content associated with Armenian culture, in interaction with other regional cultures: Byzantine, Orthodox, Assyrian, Persian and Muslim. The monasteries have survived some 2,000 years of destruction, both of human origin and as a result of natural disasters. They have been rebuilt several times in a spirit in keeping with Armenian cultural traditions. Today they are the only important vestiges of Armenian culture in this region. Saint-Thaddeus, the presumed location of the tomb of the apostle of Jesus Christ, St. Thaddeus, has always been a place of high spiritual value for Christians and other inhabitants in the region. It is still today a living place of pilgrimage for the Armenian Church.

Criterion (ii): The Armenian monasteries of Iran illustrate the Outstanding Universal Value of Armenian architectural and decorative traditions. They bear testimony to very important cultural interchanges with the other regional cultures, in particular Byzantine, Orthodox and Persian.

Criterion (iii): Situated at the south-eastern limits of the main zone of Armenian culture, the monasteries were a major centre for its diffusion in the region. Today they are the last regional testimony of this culture in a satisfactory state of integrity and authenticity.

Criterion (vi): The monastic ensembles are the place of pilgrimage of the apostle St. Thaddeus, which bears an outstanding living testimony to Armenian religious traditions down the centuries.

The State Party has made a remarkable long-term effort regarding the restoration and conservation of the Armenian monastic ensembles in Iran. Their integrity and authenticity are satisfactory, and this includes the Chapel of Dzordzor, which (because of a dam construction project) was moved and then rebuilt with an evident concern to retain authenticity.

The legal protection in place is adequate. The monastic ensemble is currently in a good state of conservation. The management plan provides the necessary guarantees for the long-term conservation of the property and the expression of its Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Recommends that the State Party should give consideration to the following:
 - a) improving the quality of the areas around the properties, as there are some disparate elements which are not conducive to the expression of Outstanding Universal Value (transformer, pylon, etc.);

- b) ensuring the harmonious development of tourism, while respecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties. Ensuring in particular the harmonious nature of the visitor facilities located in the monastic ensembles and their buffer zones.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Hiraizumi – Cultural Landscape Associated with Pure Land Buddhist Cosmology, Japan**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:
 - a) provide further comparative analysis, particularly for the gardens, including comparators in China and Korea;
 - b) consider revising the boundary of the nominated property to include the elements of the landscape value;
3. Recommends that any further nomination would need to be accompanied by a fully functioning management plan and an adequate suite of indicators, including those to monitor visual connections and knowledge of associations with the property;
4. Considers that any revised nomination with revised boundaries, would need to be considered by a mission to the site.
5. Recommends that the World Heritage Centre assist by all means possible the State Party in the revision of the nominated property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes **Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia**, on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv);
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Melaka and George Town, Malaysia, are remarkable examples of historic colonial towns on the Straits of Malacca that demonstrate a succession of historical and cultural influences arising from their former function as trading ports linking East and West. These are the most complete surviving historic city centres on the Straits of Malacca with a multi-cultural living heritage originating from the trade routes from Great Britain and Europe through the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and the Malay Archipelago to China. Both towns bear testimony to a living multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, where the many religions and cultures met and coexisted. They reflect

the coming together of cultural elements from the Malay Archipelago, India and China with those of Europe, to create a unique architecture, culture and townscape.

Criterion (ii): Melaka and George Town represent exceptional examples of multi-cultural trading towns in East and Southeast Asia, forged from the mercantile and exchanges of Malay, Chinese, and Indian cultures and three successive European colonial powers for almost 500 years, each with its imprints on the architecture and urban form, technology and monumental art. Both towns show different stages of development and the successive changes over a long span of time and are thus complementary.

Criterion (iii): Melaka and George Town are living testimony to the multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, and European colonial influences. This multi-cultural tangible and intangible heritage is expressed in the great variety of religious buildings of different faiths, ethnic quarters, the many languages, worship and religious festivals, dances, costumes, art and music, food, and daily life.

Criterion (iv): Melaka and George Town reflect a mixture of influences which have created a unique architecture, culture and townscape without parallel anywhere in East and South Asia. In particular, they demonstrate an exceptional range of shophouses and townhouses. These buildings show many different types and stages of development of the building type, some originating in the Dutch or Portuguese periods.

The integrity of the nominated areas in both towns is related to the presence of all the elements necessary to express their Outstanding Universal Value. The properties have retained their authenticity; listed monuments and sites have been restored with appropriate treatments regarding design, materials, methodologies, techniques and workmanship, in accordance with conservation guidelines and principles.

The protective measures for the properties are adequate. Both towns exhibit a generally acceptable state of conservation, although efforts are required to ensure the conservation of shophouses. The management plans and structures are adequate, and can be enhanced through the continuing conservation programs of the State Party.

4. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) submit a comprehensive conservation plan dealing with all the buildings and its schedule for implementation in both cities;
 - b) develop measures for decreasing motor traffic;
 - c) improve the definition of key indicators for monitoring the architectural heritage components.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Kuk Early Agricultural Site, Papua New Guinea**, on the World Heritage List as a relict cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Kuk Early Agricultural Site, a well-preserved buried archaeological testimony, demonstrates an independent technological leap which transformed plant exploitation to agriculture around 7,000-6,400 years ago, based on vegetative propagation of bananas, taro and yam. It is an excellent example of transformation of agricultural practices over time from mounds on wetland margins around 7,000-6,400 years ago to drainage of the wetlands through digging of ditches with wooden tools from 4,000 BP to the present. The archaeological evidence reveals remarkably persistent but episodic traditional land-use and practices where the genesis of that land-use can be established and changes in practice over time demonstrated from possibly as early as 10,000 BP to the present day.

Criterion (iii): The extent of the evidence of early agriculture on the Kuk site can be seen as an exceptional testimony to a type of exploitation of the land which reflects the culture of early man in the region.

Criterion (iv): Kuk is one of the few places in the world where archaeological evidence suggests independent agricultural development and changes in agricultural practice over a 7,000 and possibly a 10,000 year time span.

Archaeological investigations have been intensive rather than extensive and excavations have affected only a minor proportion of the core area of the site. Modern farming activities at Kuk remain relatively low-key and do not intrude upon the archaeological features of the site. The integrity of the site is thus maintained. The excavations and scientific work that have been done at the site are of the highest international professional standard and thus the excavated remains retain their authenticity. Contemporary land-use has been restricted to modern versions of traditional activities and is supportive to the authenticity of the core evidence on the site.

The legal protection in place is adequate, but customary protection needs confirmation as soon as possible through the designation of the property as a Conservation Area and through the associated formal land management agreement with the local community for aspects of site management. The Management Plan should be completed as soon as possible and formally resourced and implemented, and a formal memoranda of understanding established among relevant national, provincial and local government authorities and other stakeholders concerning management responsibilities on the ground and reporting lines.

4. Recommends that the State Party submits by **1 February 2009**:

- a) the completed Management Plan and confirmation of its approval by the Kawelka landowners, and of its implementation;
- b) progress with the establishment of Organic Law;
- c) progress with designation of the property as a Conservation Area, and of the associated formal land management agreement with the local community for aspects of site management;
- d) progress with the establishment of a formal memorandum of understanding between relevant national, provincial and local government authorities and other stakeholders concerning management responsibilities on the ground and reporting lines;

5. Requests the State Party to provide a commitment to:
 - a) resource heritage management training for local people and appropriate local, provincial and national government officers;
 - b) putting in place planning policies to protect the wider setting and to extending the buffer zone as land tenure issues are resolved.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes **Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu**, on the World Heritage List as a continuing cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii), (v) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The continuing cultural landscape of Chief Roi Mata's domain, Vanuatu, has Outstanding Universal Value as an outstanding example of a landscape representative of Pacific chiefly systems. This is reflected in the interaction of people with their environment over time in respecting the tangible remains associated with Roi Mata and being guided by the spiritual and moral legacy of his social reforms. The landscape reflects continuing Pacific chiefly systems and respect for this authority through tabu prohibitions on use of Roi Mata's residence and burial that have been observed for over 400 years and structured the local landscape and social practices. The landscape memorialises the deeds of Roi Mata who still lives for many people in contemporary Vanuatu as a source of power and inspiration.

Criterion (iii): Chief Roi Mata's Domain is a continuing cultural landscape reflecting the way chiefs derive their authority from previous title holders, and in particular how the tabu prohibitions on the use of Roi Mata's residence and burial site have been observed for 400 years and continue to structure the local landscape and social practices.

Criterion (v): Chief Roi Mata's Domain is an outstanding example of a landscape representative of Pacific chiefly systems and the connection between Pacific people and their environment over time reflected in respect for the tangible remains of the three key sites associated with Roi Mata, guided by the spiritual and moral legacy of his social reforms.

Criterion (vi): Chief Roi Mata's Domain still lives for many people in contemporary Vanuatu, as a source of power evident through the landscape and as an inspiration for people negotiating their lives.

The authenticity of Chief Roi Mata's Domain lies in the continuing association of the landscape with the oral traditions of Roi Mata, continuity of chiefly systems of authority and customary respect for the tangible remains of his life evident in the continuing tabu prohibitions on these places.

The legal protection of the nominated areas and their buffer zones are adequate. The overall management system for the property is adequate, involving both traditional management through the chiefly system and tabu prohibitions and government legislation for protection of the site. The management system involves the local community and government administrative bodies. The integrity of the site is thus maintained.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to enlarging the buffer zone to include the full view shed from Artok Island including the ridge and peninsula near Tukutuku;
5. Requests the State Party to identify adequate resources for implementation of the Management and Tourism Plans.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Approves the extension of the **Mountain Railways of India, India**, to include the Kalka Shimla Railway on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Kalka Shimla Railway represents an exceptional technical achievement in the development of the Himalayan mountains because of its length, its altitude and the difficulty of the terrain through which it runs in difficult tropical climatic conditions. The Kalka Shimla Railway was designed under British colonial rule, as Shimla was the government's summer capital. Furthermore, the Indian population quickly made use of the railway to settle in the mountains and set up enduring human communities. The effectiveness of rail transport, which considerably reduced the duration and difficulty of travel, was an essential factor in this social and cultural development. The Kalka Shimla Railway has seen its traction regularly upgraded, in a spirit of use in keeping with its origins, while its infrastructures have been maintained in very good condition, by ongoing maintenance and repair work, which has been both exemplary and in line with the railway's authenticity.

Criterion (ii): The Kalka Shimla Railway exhibits an important cultural and technology transfer in the colonial setting of the period of its construction, particularly with regard to the eminently political function of the terminus station, Shimla. The railway then enabled significant and enduring human settlement, of which it has remained the main vector up to the present day.

Criterion (iv): The Kalka Shimla Railway is an outstanding example, like the other two Indian railways already inscribed on the World Heritage List, of how access has been provided to the plains and plateaux of the Indian mountains. It is emblematic of the technical and material efforts of human societies of this period to disenclave mountain populations through the railway. It is a well-maintained living line. It is used in a spirit and for purposes that are the same as those at its inception.

The property has been very satisfactorily maintained since its inception, both with regard to the general state of infrastructure conservation and operation. The long

continuity of maintenance and of uses for local passengers, goods and tourism, for more than one hundred years, is an important factor in the line's authenticity.

The legal protection in place is adequate. The public management of the line and its many employees are a guarantee of the conservation of its integrity and authenticity over the coming years, enabling a lasting expression of its heritage values. The management plan presented however lacks a programme for the conservation of the stations and annexes.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) in the framework of the management plan, drawing up a detailed technical and architectural inventory of the stations and annex buildings included in the property, indicating their state of conservation and the planned programme of works, to ensure respect for the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
 - b) stepping up control of encroachment on land in the nominated property zone and in the buffer zone;
 - c) considering, as part of the management plan, more extensive local cooperation, in order to more fully present the property's Outstanding Universal Value and to organise visitor arrangements with this in mind.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Stari Grad Plain, Croatia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Stari Grad Plain represents a comprehensive system of land use and agricultural colonisation by the Greeks, in the 4th century BC. Its land organisation system, based on geometrical parcels with dry stone wall boundaries (chora), is exemplary. This system was completed from the very first by a rainwater recovery system involving the use of tanks and gutters. This testimony is of Outstanding Universal Value.

The land parcel system set up by the Greek colonisers has been respected over later periods. Agricultural activity in the chora has been uninterrupted for 24 centuries up to the present day, and is mainly based on grapes and olives.

The ensemble today constitutes the cultural landscape of a fertile cultivated plain whose territorial organisation is that of the Greek colonisation.

Criterion (ii): The land parcel system, dating from the 4th century BC, of Stari Grad Plain bears witness to the dissemination of the Greek geometrical model for the dividing up of agricultural land in the Mediterranean world.

Criterion (iii): The agricultural plain of Stari Grad has remained in continuous use, with the same initial crops being produced, for 2400 years. This bears witness to its permanency and sustainability down the centuries.

Criterion (v): The agricultural plain of Stari Grad and its environment are an example of very ancient traditional human settlement, which is today under threat from modern economic development, particularly from rural depopulation and the abandonment of traditional farming practices.

The Greek cadastral system has been fully respected during the continuous agricultural use of the plain, based on the same crops. This system is today perfectly identifiable, and has changed very little. Stari Grad Plain forms an agricultural and land use ensemble of great integrity. The authenticity of the Greek land division system known as chora is clearly in evidence throughout the plain. The built structures of the stone walls are authentic, with the same basic dry stone wall materials being used and reused since the foundation by the Greeks.

The setting up of the management plan and of the authority in charge of its application should enable the carrying out of a thorough programme of archaeological excavations, the fostering of sustainable agricultural development in the chora and the control of urban and tourism development in the vicinity of the property, with all due care being taken to ensure that its Outstanding Universal Value is respected.

4. Requests the State Party to:

- a) implement a thorough programme of archaeological excavations for the nominated property, with a view to the expression of its values. The resumption and the expansion of the excavations at the Church of St. John at Stari Grad should thus be seen as a priority, in the hope of better understanding the link between the ancient city and the agricultural system of the chora;
- b) carry out a project for the sustainable revitalisation of the agricultural exploitation of the plain, while respecting its ancient land division system, its dry stone wall system and its agricultural traditions;
- c) establish a programme to remove recent built elements that detract from the site's cultural heritage value, wherever this is possible;
- d) set up a programme aimed at reducing the impact of tree roots on boundary walls and on buried archaeological vestiges, by the careful removal of the trees and planned management of the non-cultivated areas.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Spa of Luhačovice – area with a collection of historic spa buildings and spa-related facilities, Czech Republic**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to conduct a more thorough study of the nominated property, particularly in the framework of a global thematic study of thermalism.
3. Recommends, in the interest of better management of the property, independently of inscription on the List, the following:
 - a) specify which organisation is in charge of coordinating and applying the management plan, its practical and financial authority, and the schedule for its setting up and operation;
 - b) carry out an impact study concerning facilities for future visitors;
 - c) complete the individual technical inventory of the buildings, providing considerably more detail about the works to be carried out, with precise recommendations and complying with international standards for historic building restoration.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Fortifications of Vauban, France**, with the exception of Le Palais and Bazoches, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii), and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The work of Vauban constitutes a major contribution to universal military architecture. It crystallises earlier strategic theories into a rational system of fortifications based on a concrete relationship to territory. It bears witness to the evolution of European fortification in the 17th century and produced models used all over the world up to the mid-19th century, thereby illustrating a significant period of history.

Criterion (i): Vauban's work bears witness to the peak of classic bastioned fortification, typical of western military architecture of modern times.

Criterion (ii): Vauban played a major role in the history of fortification. The imitation of his standard-models of military buildings in Europe and on the American continent, the dissemination in Russian and Turkish of his theoretical thinking along with the use of the forms of his fortification as a model for fortresses in the Far East, bear witness to the universality of his work.

Criterion (iv): Vauban's work illustrates a significant period of human history. It is a work of the mind applied to military strategy, architecture and construction, civil engineering, and economic and social organisation.

The property guarantees integrity and authenticity, and reflect the various facets of Vauban's work. Their legal protection is satisfactory; the administration by the State and the local authorities provides satisfactory guarantees and responses regarding the natural and tourism risks involved. Pooling experience in the areas of restoration and

enhancement of the properties within the Network of Major Vauban Sites has already begun.

4. Recommends that the State Party develop collaboration between the properties notably through the Network of Major Vauban Sites, by exchanging best practices in the areas of maintenance, restoration, use and conservation;
5. Further recommends that the State Party consider the possibility of extending the property to include sites such as:
 - a) the Lille citadel, considered as the most representative of this type;
 - b) a stronghold fully reflecting the reorganisation of an existing fortification and the use of water for defence, such as Le Quesnoy;
 - c) other sites to include examples of the fortifications under the influence of Vauban, as a transnational serial nomination.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Berlin Modernism Housing Estates, Germany**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

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 typologies, technical solutions and aesthetic achievements.

Criterion (ii): The six 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 six 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 modern architects who participated in their design and construction.

The six properties were selected out of the ensemble of housing estates of the period existing in the city, on the basis of their historical, architectural, artistic and social significance and the fact that, due to their location, they suffered little damage during World War II. Even though minor reconstruction and interior changes were carried out in the post war period, restoration works within the framework of the protection law of 1975 and their current state of conservation achieve a high standard of integrity and authenticity.

Adequate protection is ensured by the legislation in place, especially by the Berlin Law on the Preservation of Historic Places and Monuments (1995). The properties, buildings and open spaces, are in a good state of conservation. The management system, including policies, structures and plans, proves to be adequate and includes all concerned stakeholders.

4. Recommends that the State Party:
 - a) approve and implement the Management Plan included in the nomination dossier, in order to ensure the optimisation of the management system and the common management of the six properties;
 - b) consider the possibility of including provisions related to possible changes of use and privatisation in the management plan, in order to ensure the proper protection of the nominated properties;
 - c) consider the possibility of nominating the housing estates constructed in Frankfurt during the Weimar Republic period, in order to complete the German contribution to the development of housing ensembles during the first half of the 20th century.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.33

The **System of Fortifications at the Confluence of the rivers Danube and Váh in Komárno - Komárom, Hungary and Slovakia**, has been withdrawn by the States Parties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B.1*,
2. Recognizes that the nomination entitled "Triple Arch Gate at Dan", brings to the attention of the Committee one of the elements of a technological innovation that has Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criterion (ii);
3. Refers the nomination entitled "**Triple Arch Gate at Dan**", back to the State Party to present further information and legal and technical data to enable its formal inscription by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes Mantua and Sabbioneta, Italy, on the World Heritage List, on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Mantua and Sabbioneta offer exceptional testimonies to the urban, architectural and artistic realizations of the Renaissance, linked through the visions and actions of the ruling Gonzaga family. Mantua, a town whose traces stem from the Roman period, was renovated in the 15th and 16th centuries - including hydrological engineering, urban and architectural works. The participation of renowned architects like Leon Battista Alberti and Giulio Romano, and painters like Andrea Mantegna, makes Mantua a prominent capital of the Renaissance. Sabbioneta represents the construction of an entirely new town according to the modern, functional vision of the Renaissance. The defensive walls, grid pattern of streets, role of public spaces and monuments all make Sabbioneta one of the best examples of ideal cities built in Europe, with an influence over urbanism and architecture in and outside the continent. The properties represent two significant stages of territorial planning and urban interventions undertaken by the Gonzagas in their domains.

Criterion (ii): Mantua and Sabbioneta are exceptional witnesses to the interchange of human values of the Renaissance culture. They illustrate the two main forms of Renaissance town planning: the newly founded town, based on the concept of ideal city planning, and the transformed existing town. Their importance relates also to architecture, technology and monumental art. The properties have played a prominent role in the diffusion of the Renaissance culture in and outside Europe.

Criterion (iii): Mantua and Sabbioneta are exceptional testimonies to a particular civilization during a specific period of history, with reflections on urbanism, architecture and fine arts. The ideals of the Renaissance, fostered by the Gonzaga family, are present in their urban morphology and architecture, their functional systems and traditional productive activities, which have mostly been preserved over time.

Both properties meet the required conditions of integrity and authenticity, since their most significant urban and architectural components have been preserved over time, as has their relationship with their settings.

The legal protective structure and management system are adequate, as both properties exhibit a good state of conservation.

4. Recommends that:
 - a) in order to ensure the optimisation of the current management system and the common management of the two properties, the State Party should implement the Management Plan included in the nomination dossier;
 - b) a more complete set of key indicators, taking into account the various components of the urban properties, be defined and implemented to complete the proposed monitoring system.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes **San Marino Historic Centre and Mount Titano, San Marino**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

San Marino is one of the world's oldest republics and the only surviving Italian city-state, representing an important stage in the development of democratic models in Europe and worldwide. The tangible expressions of this long continuity as the capital of the Republic, its unchanged geo-political context and juridical and institutional functions, is found in the strategic position on the top of Mount Titano, the historic urban layout, urban spaces and many public monuments. San Marino has a widely recognised iconic status as a symbol of a free city-state, illustrated in political debate, literature and arts through the centuries. The defensive walls and the historic centre have undergone changes over time that include intensive restoration and reconstruction between the end of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century, a process that can be considered to be part of the history of the property and reflects changing approaches to conservation and presentation of heritage over time.

Criterion (iii): San Marino and Mount Titano are an exceptional testimony of the establishment of a representative democracy based on civic autonomy and self-governance, with a unique, uninterrupted continuity as the capital of an independent republic since the 13th century. San Marino is an exceptional testimony to a living cultural tradition that has persisted over the last seven hundred years.

The Historic Centre of San Marino on Mount Titano includes all the elements which constituted the foundations of this identity and during the medieval period of the Italian city-states. Many elements of the historic centre have been preserved or, if renewed, form part of a long tradition. The interventions carried out during the 20th century could be seen as affecting the integrity, but are also a part of the history of the property. There is a high degree of authenticity of the location and setting of the city of San Marino. With regard to functions and uses, there is a continuity related to the role of the historic city as capital of the small state. Restoration and reconstruction works carried out under the direction of Gino Zani may be considered as a part of the history of the property and an application of the theoretical principles stemming from the Romantic restoration movement. In this case, the idea of the "medievalisation" of the historic centre can be considered as an expression of national identity through the search for an idealised image of the historic centre.

The protection of the property is adequate, although there are a considerable number of legal protective instruments and more specific legal instruments regarding protection of the built heritage and of the surrounding landscape are required. The historic centre has not been subject to major interventions after the 1930s and the public monuments and open spaces are in a good state of conservation.

4. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) implement the legal protection as prescribed;

- b) control the potential negative effects of tourism pressures on the material heritage components, including uses of existing buildings and excess of commercialisation;
- c) improve and complete the monitoring system by defining a more comprehensive set of key indicators related to the property's values, integrity and authenticity.
- d) continue the implementation of the management plan in particular with respect to the coordination mechanism between the different governmental agencies involved in the protection and management system.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area, Slovakia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The wooden churches of the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountain Area, illustrate the coexistence of different religious faiths within a small territory of central Europe. The series of eight properties includes Roman Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox churches that were built between the 16th and 18th centuries, most of them in quite isolated villages, using wood as the main material and traditional construction techniques. Within the framework of their common features, the churches exhibit some typological variations, in accordance with the correspondent faith, expressed in their plans, interior spaces and external appearance. The churches also bear testimony to the development of major architectural and artistic trends during the period of construction and its interpretation and adaptation to a specific geographical and cultural context. Interiors are decorated with wall and ceiling paintings and works of art that enrich the cultural significance of the properties.

Criterion (iii): The wooden churches offer an outstanding testimony to the traditional religious architecture of the north-western Carpathians region and to the inter-ethnic and inter-cultural character of a relatively small territory where Latin and Byzantine cultures have met and overlapped. The Lutheran churches serve as an exceptional example of religious tolerance in Upper Hungary during the period of bloody anti-Habsburgs rebellions and uprisings over the 17th century.

Criterion (iv): The wooden churches represent one of the best examples of European wooden religious architecture from the late Middle Ages to the end of 18th century. Their characteristic appearance, construction and at times rather naïve decoration derive from earlier local traditions, partially influenced by professional architectural concepts of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Western (Latin) and eastern (Orthodox) building concepts are reflected in these wooden structures, creating specific religious architecture with diversified design, technical solutions and unique decorative expressions.

The buildings themselves, in their current settings, present a state of completeness that ensures the condition of integrity. In the framework of the particular characteristics of their

construction materials and techniques, the buildings are well preserved and the authenticity of design and form, materials and techniques, uses and functions is ensured.

Legal protection is satisfactory since the properties enjoy maximum national and local levels of protection. The management structure and instruments are adequate, and the creation of a Management Group ensures the participation of all stakeholders.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) in order to ensure the optimisation of the current management system and the common management of the properties, the Management Group should define and implement a common integrated management plan that includes risk preparedness measures and provisions regarding a potential increase of tourism. The Plan should in particular consider risk preparedness measures against fire, taking into account the increased risk of forest fires due to global climate change;
 - b) approve and implement the proposed monitoring system;
 - c) repaint the visitors' centre in Hervartov using lime or cement paint and natural earth pigments;
 - d) remove or relocate the wooden sculptures located in front of the churchyard in Trvdosin to a discreet corner away from the main view;
 - e) improve the connection between the church and the bell tower in Hronsek.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes, Switzerland and Italy**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes represents an exemplary railway development for the disenclavement of the Central Alps at the beginning of the 20th century. The railway's socio-economic consequences were substantial and lasting for mountain life, the interchange of human and cultural values, and changes in the relationship between man and nature in the West. The Rhaetian Railway offers a wide diversity of technical solutions for the establishment of the railway in often severe mountain conditions. It is a well designed construction that has been realised with a high degree of quality and it has remarkable stylistic and architectural homogeneity. The railway infrastructure moreover blends in particularly harmoniously with the Alpine landscapes through which it passes.

Criterion (ii): The Rhaetian Railway of Albula/Bernina constitutes an outstanding technical, architectural and environmental ensemble. The two lines, today unified in a single transalpine line, embody a very comprehensive and diversified set of innovative

solutions that bear witness to substantial interchanges of human and cultural values in the development of mountain railway technologies, in terms of its architectural and civil engineering achievements, and its aesthetic harmony with the landscapes through which they pass.

Criterion (iv): The Rhaetian Railway of Albula/Bernina is a very significant illustration of the development of mountain railways at high altitudes in the first decade of the 20th century. It represents a consummate example of great quality, which was instrumental in the long-term development of human activities in the mountains. It offers diversified landscapes in conjunction with the railway that are significant of this period of the flourishing of a relationship between man and nature.

The railway infrastructures of the Albula and Bernina lines form an authentic ensemble of great integrity. Their technical operation and their maintenance ensure long-term conservation of high quality. The Rhaetian railway company that has unified them and carries out their technical management has introduced technical changes and innovations that are compatible with the concept of authenticity of technological properties that are still in use.

The legal protection in place is adequate. The management system of the property is satisfactory, though a reinforcement of the presentation to the public of the founding heritage aspects of the property is desirable.

4. Recommends that the States Parties consider a significant reinforcement in the presentation to the public of the heritage, historical, social and environmental values of the Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes. To this end, it would for example be appropriate to consider the creation of an Interpretation and Documentation Centre of a quality commensurate with the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Approves the extension of the **Altamira Cave** to include the **Palaeolithic cave art of Northern Spain** and become **Cave of Altamira and Palaeolithic cave art of Northern Spain, Spain**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i) and (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The ensemble of seventeen decorated caves on the Cantabrian Corniche as an extension to the cave of Altamira, illustrates the appearance and flourishing of the human art over the long historical period of the Upper Palaeolithic (35,000 – 11,000 BP). It is entirely linked to the appearance of *Homo sapiens* and the emergence of a new human culture involving profound material changes, the invention of new techniques, and the development of artistic expression through painting, engraving and sculpture. By their number and quality, the caves of the Cantabrian Corniche offer a veritable monograph of Upper Palaeolithic cave art, which is exceptionally rich and diversified. The ensemble is moreover remarkably well conserved. It bears an outstanding testimony to human history.

Criterion (i): The Palaeolithic cave art of the Cantabrian Corniche fully and significantly illustrates some of the earliest human art, over a very long period of the history of Homo sapiens. It bears testimony to the creative genius of man during the different periods of the Upper Palaeolithic.

Criterion (iii): The nominated ensemble bears outstanding and unique testimony to an ancient stage, which vanished more than 10,000 years ago, of the origins of human civilisation. This was the period when the hunter-gatherers of the Upper Palaeolithic achieved an accomplished artistic, symbolic and spiritual expression of their human society.

However, in the context of the contemporary discovery and opening of the caves, complex risks have arisen related to the alteration of the physical, geological and biological conditions of conservation. Extremely rigorous management is required to ensure that the risks are effectively dealt with. The State Party has given all the necessary guarantees concerning transdisciplinary scientific management of high quality, combined with rational management of visits and site interpretation.

4. Invites the State Party to consider submitting a new nomination of the newly extended Cave of Altamira and Palaeolithic cave art of Northern Spain for inscription under criterion (iv);
5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to actively continue the setting up of the Autonomous Coordination Commission for the management of Palaeolithic cave art in Northern Spain, and its Technical Committee.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Approves the extension of the **Frontiers of the Roman Empire, United Kingdom and Germany**, to include the Antonine Wall on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Antonine Wall fully illustrates the effort of building the Limes on the frontiers of the Roman Empire, at the time of its apogee and greatest extension in the British Isles and worldwide (middle of the 2nd century AD). It embodies a high degree of expertise in the technical mastery of earthen defensive constructions, in the construction of a strategic system of forts and camps, and in the general military organisation of the Limes. The Antonine Wall also demonstrates the diffusion of the military and civil engineering of the Roman civilisation to the whole of Europe and the Mediterranean world.

Criterion (ii): The Antonine Wall is one of the significant elements of the Roman Limes present in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It exhibits important interchanges of human and cultural values at the apogee of the Roman Empire.

Criterion (iii): The Antonine Wall bears testimony to the maximum extension of the power of the Roman Empire, by the consolidation of its frontiers in the north of the

British Isles, in the middle of the 2nd century AD. The property illustrates the Roman Empire's ambition to dominate the world in order to establish its law and way of life there in a long-term perspective.

Criterion (iv): The Antonine Wall is an outstanding example of the technological development of Roman military architecture and frontier defence.

The Antonine Wall has preserved its authenticity and integrity both in its physical remains and in its setting.

The legal protection is sufficient, the protection and management measures carried out and planned by the government, by Historic Scotland and by the local authorities appropriately address the potential risks caused by climate, agriculture, industrial and social development, and increasing tourism. Strong control of development plans and all types of activities can preserve the values of the nominated area and that of its buffer zone. Regular monitoring helps preserve the setting of the site.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) pay particular attention to urban and agricultural development plans that could affect the nominated property, particularly as regards non-visible parts in the buffer zone. In the latter case, the planning authorities should work in conjunction with the Historic Scotland department in charge of heritage conservation;
 - b) to restore turf areas at certain points of the nominated property if they are absent or have been damaged. The role of turf in the protection of the structure is of course important;
 - c) to make sure that the Croy Hill quarry, just next to the buffer zone, does not threaten the site with a landslide in the immediate or more distant future.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Decision: 32 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling that the nomination by Argentina had not initially been contemplated for examination at the Committee's present session because of the annual limit set out in paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
2. Noting that withdrawals of nominations had opened an opportunity for the nomination of Argentina to come within the aforesaid annual limit planned for examination,
3. Having been informed by Argentina that because of this unforeseen and possible prejudicial development it did not wish to have its nomination examined at the 32nd session;
4. Considers that paragraph 61 of its *Operational Guidelines* offers this possibility in the case of nominations initially excluded by the annual limit set out in that paragraph;

5. Decides therefore to examine the nomination “**Cultural Landscape of Buenos Aires (Argentina)**” at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-08/32.COM/8B and WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of **São Francisco Square in São Cristóvão, Brazil**, back to the State Party in order to allow it:
 - a) to reorient the comparative analysis in order to more convincingly demonstrate similarities and differences with other properties in Brazil and in the wider region;
 - b) reconsider the proposed boundaries of the nominated property in order to include other sectors of the São Cristóvão historic centre that might contribute to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property. In determining the boundaries of the nominated area and the buffer zone, it is recommended that the State Party take into account the geographical, historical, urban, architectural and cultural factors that have shaped the structure and the urban landscape of São Cristóvão over the centuries. This could enable a more accurate identification of cultural values and define boundaries of areas that can clearly express them.
3. Recommends, in order to enhance the conservation and management of the property, that:
 - a) a complete statement on the Integrity and Authenticity should be drafted for this property, based on the values of the property and the various requirements set out in the *Operational Guidelines* and the Nara Document on Authenticity;
 - b) more specific protection measures should be approved and implemented at the local level, including the approval of the Urban Planning Code;
 - c) the State Party should continue to implement and improve conservation programmes to ensure the long term conservation of the property;
 - d) the management structure and procedures should be improved by the development and implementation of a management plan for the nominated property;
 - e) the management system of the property should be extended to include a better articulation between the different levels of government, greater participation of community associations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of plans, visitor management, and the increase, diversification and improved skills of the staff involved in the management of the property;
 - f) the State Party should define and implement a monitoring system for the long term state of conservation for the property, including key indicators and designation of a monitoring organization.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Historic Centre of Camagüey, Cuba**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iv) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

One of the first seven villages founded by the Spaniards in Cuba, Camagüey played a prominent role as the urban centre of an inland territory dedicated to cattle breeding and the sugar industry. Once settled in its current location in 1528, the town developed on the basis on an irregular urban pattern that contains a system of squares, minor squares, serpentine streets, alleys and irregular urban blocks, highly exceptional for Latin American colonial towns located in plain territories. Religious buildings, associated with the main squares, constitute a system of landmarks in the urban fabric, characterized by its homogeneity. Architectural values are associated with typical domestic architectural typologies and the use of consistent construction materials and techniques, especially the extended use of earthen components, which reveal influences from Andalusia. The use of truncated pilasters at the entrance gates and of clay vessels for water storage are features that identify Camagüey's domestic architecture. The historic centre continues to act as the city core and the place for social and cultural activities, which reflect a rich intangible heritage.

Criterion (iv): The Historic Centre of Camagüey constitutes an outstanding urban architectural type in Latin America, featured by its irregular urban layout that produced an unusual system of squares, minor squares, serpentine streets, alleys, urban blocks and plots system. Monumental and domestic architecture form a homogeneous urban fabric where it is possible to find architectural expressions corresponding to different periods of the evolution of the town.

Criterion (v): The Historic Centre of Camagüey constitutes an exceptional example of a traditional urban settlement relatively isolated from main trade routes, where the Spanish colonizers were subject to European medieval urban influences in the urban layout and to traditional construction techniques brought to the Americas by the first masons and construction masters.

The nominated property is of adequate size and contains all the necessary material components to guarantee the integrity of the historic centre. The persistence of the original urban layout, of the architectural types and materials, of the traditional craftsmanship and of uses and spirit allows the historic centre to meet the required conditions of authenticity.

The legal protection and the management system and instruments have proved to be adequate for ensuring the proper conservation of the nominated area and its buffer zone.

4. Recommends that the State Party:
 - a) proceed to a new translation of the revised nomination dossier written in Spanish to be kept in the archives as a reference for new nominations or comparative studies;

- b) provide information on the existing risk preparedness plan, especially on issues concerning natural disasters. Environmental pressures, such as water contamination or atmospheric pollution, should also be considered in the plan;
- c) consider the integral conservation of heritage buildings, especially those corresponding to domestic architecture instead of intervening only in main façades;
- d) design and implement the policy and instruments for the adequate presentation of the property;
- e) consider the addition of complementary indicators to the monitoring system. ICOMOS recommends taking into account indicators related to accessibility, visual pollution, noise and preservation of natural resources.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Inscribes the **Protective Town of San Miguel and the Sanctuary of Jesús-Nazareno de Atotonilco, Mexico**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

San Miguel de Allende is an early example of a rational territorial and urban development in the Americas, related to the protection of one of the main Spanish inland roads. The town flourished in the 18th century with the construction of significant religious and civil architecture, which exhibits the evolution of different trends and styles, from Baroque to late 19th century Neo-Gothic. Urban mansions are exceptionally large and rich for a medium-size Latin American town and constitute an example of the transition from Baroque to Neo-Classic. The Sanctuary of Atotonilco is a remarkable architectural complex that illustrates a specific response, inspired by the doctrine of Saint Ignacio de Loyola. Its interior decoration, especially mural painting, makes the Sanctuary a masterpiece of Mexican Baroque. Both the town and the Sanctuary, intimately linked, played a significant role in the process of Mexican independence, with impacts throughout Latin America.

Criterion (ii): San Miguel de Allende constitutes an exceptional example of the interchange of human values; due to its location and functions, the town acted as a melting pot where Spaniards, Creoles and Amerindians exchanged cultural influences, something reflected in the tangible and intangible heritage. The Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco constitutes an exceptional example of the cultural exchange between European and Latin American cultures; the architectural disposition and interior decoration testify to the interpretation and adaptation of the doctrine of Saint Ignacio de Loyola to this specific regional context.

Criterion (iv): San Miguel de Allende is an exceptional example of the integration of different architectural trends and styles on the basis of a 16th century urban layout. Religious and civil architecture exhibit the evolution of different styles, well integrated into a homogeneous urban landscape. Urban mansions are exceptionally large and rich for a medium-size Latin American town. The Sanctuary of Atotonilco is an outstanding

example of a specific religious settlement, containing exceptional decoration that makes it a masterpiece of Mexican Baroque.

The required conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met; both the town and Sanctuary have been subject to few significant alterations over time, urban changes have been adapted to the town's features and scale, and restoration works have been carried out according to appropriate theoretical and technical principles.

The legal system in place ensures the adequate protection of the property and the town and the Sanctuary exhibit an acceptable state of conservation. Management policies, structures and plans in place are adequate to ensure the preservation of the property's values, integrity and authenticity.

4. Recommends that, in order to ensure the optimisation of the current protection, conservation and management system for the property, the State Party should consider the following:
 - a) local authorities should be encouraged to continue the analysis and policy development for tourism management. This should include studies of carrying capacity of the most remarkable historic areas, urban spaces and buildings. The State Party is invited to report on the progress of the study and the results of its implementation;
 - b) local authorities should be encouraged to continue to work on and implement the proposed study on traffic control and planning in the historic centre of San Miguel and adjacent areas. The State Party is invited to report on the progress of the plan and on its results and impact;
 - c) the State Party should consider the possibility that the whole buffer zone of San Miguel be given federal protection;
 - d) the local government is encouraged to create a management agency or group that, with the participation of different stakeholders, can oversee the common implementation of the partial plans for San Miguel and the Sanctuary of Atotonilco;
 - e) the local government should define and implement a systematic monitoring programme that allows better measurement of the state of conservation of the properties over time, and identify priorities for conservation actions;
 - f) the State Party should continue with the plan to rehabilitate the village of Atotonilco, in order to improve the setting of the Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno. The local government is encouraged to continue studies and the implementation of the project to re-establish the historic road linking San Miguel with Atotonilco.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1*,
2. Refers the nomination of the **León Cathedral, Nicaragua**, back to the State Party to allow it to:

- a) complete the planning and implementation schedule for the restoration and conservation of the monument;
 - b) complete, approve and implement the Special Plan for the historic centre of León;
3. Recommends that:
- a) special attention should be given to the improvement and enhancement of the historic centre of León, especially in relation to the area surrounding the Cathedral. In order to improve life quality and urban landscape, the local government should consider actions aiming at authorizing the opening of the metropolitan commercial centre, removing disruptive commercial advertising signs in the historic centre, and burying the wires and cables of the public services;
 - b) risk preparedness, especially for natural disasters, should be addressed as one of the main issues of the management plan;
 - c) improve the coordination among national, local and Diocese stakeholders in order to improve the protection and management;
 - d) the State Party should ensure that the special Parliament fund for León Cathedral continues;
 - e) the State Party should undertake, if not already done, a systematic inventory of the works of art and movable heritage contained in the nominated property.

CHANGES TO CRITERIA OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 32 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add*,
2. Recalling its decision to unify into one set of criteria the six cultural and four natural criteria in paragraph 77 of the *Operational Guidelines (2005)*,
3. Noting the changes already made to the numbering of geological criteria by its decision **30 COM 8D.1**,
4. Approves the criteria numbering as presented in Tables 1 of Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add*.

EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS AND MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Approves the proposed creation of a 673 ha buffer zone for the 638 ha **Srebarna Nature Reserve, Bulgaria**, in order to strengthen the integrity of the World Heritage property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Approves the proposed extension of the Esztramos Hill component from 107.2 ha to 195 ha and the proposed creation of a 28,000 ha buffer zone on the Hungarian side of the **Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst, Hungary / Slovakia**, in order to strengthen the integrity of the World Heritage property.
3. Refers the proposed reductions in the surface area of the property and buffer zones on the Slovakian side of the **Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst, Hungary / Slovakia**, back to the State Party of Slovakia to provide further justification and information;
4. Requests the State Party of Slovakia to provide more detailed information on the proposed reductions, including large scale topographic, geological, and in the case of Dobšinská and Ochtinská caves also hydrogeological maps, and their implications for the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property. Based on review of this information, IUCN will recommend whether the proposed modifications can be accepted as minor modifications or will require a full re-nomination including a field evaluation.

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add*, *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B2*,
2. Refers the proposed modification to the boundary of the **Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, back to the State Party for reconsideration;
3. Requests the State Party (following the IUCN evaluation) to consider realigning the boundary of the property, preferably along topographic or other features recognisable in the field, to include all of Galičica National Park and other critical areas, and creating an appropriate buffer zone to protect the catchment of Lake Ohrid;
4. Notes the ICOMOS evaluation recommending approval of the minor modification of boundary under cultural criteria for the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
5. Encourages the States Parties of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania to cooperate towards a transboundary extension of the property to include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid and its watershed to strengthen the values and integrity of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed scaled map and figures for the area of the property by **1 February 2009**.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Inscribes the **Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Kenya**, with the exception of Kaya Kinondo, on the basis of **criteria (iii), (v) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Spread out along around 200km of the coast province of Kenya are ten separate forested sites, mostly on low hills, ranging in size from 30 to around 300 ha, in which are the remains of fortified villages, Kayas, of the Mijikenda people. They represent more than thirty surviving Kayas.

The Kayas began to fall out of use in the early 20th century and are now revered as the repositories of spiritual beliefs of the Mijikenda people and are seen as the sacred abode of their ancestors.

The forest around the Kayas have been nurtured by the Mijikenda community to protect the sacred graves and groves and are now almost the only remains of the once extensive coastal lowland forest.

Criterion (iii): The Kayas provide focal points for Mijikenda religious beliefs and practices, are regarded as the ancestral homes of the different Mijikenda peoples, and are held to be sacred places. As such they have metonymic significance to Mijikenda and are a fundamental source of Mijikenda's sense of 'being-in-the-world' and of place within the cultural landscape of contemporary Kenya. They are seen as a defining characteristic of Mijikenda identity.

Criterion (v): Since their abandonment as preferred places of settlement, Kayas have been transferred from the domestic aspect of the Mijikenda landscape to its spiritual sphere. As part of this process, certain restrictions were placed on access and the utilisation of natural forest resources. As a direct consequence of this, the biodiversity of the Kayas and forests surrounding them has been sustained. The Kayas are under threat both externally and from within Mijikenda society through the decline of traditional knowledge and respect for practices.

Criterion (vi): The Kayas are now the repositories of spiritual beliefs of the Mijikenda and are seen as the sacred abode of their ancestors. As a collection of sites spread over a large area, they are associated with beliefs of local and national significance, and possibly regional significance as the sites extend beyond the boundaries of Kenya.

The Kayas demonstrate authenticity but aspects associated with traditional practices are highly vulnerable. The integrity of the Kayas relates to the intactness of their forest surroundings which has been compromised for Kaya Kinondo.

Management needs to respect the needs of individual Kayas and to integrate the conservation of natural and cultural resources and traditional and non-traditional management practices; the authority of the Kaya elders should be established.

4. Recommends that the State Party continue with, and complete, the process of developing individual site plans for the nominated Kayas, to supplement the strategy and management plan document, integrating the conservation of cultural and natural resources and traditional and non-traditional conservation and management practices;
5. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) undertake thorough analysis of all the Kayas, in order to identify those which might be added to the serial nomination in due course;
 - b) designate Kayas Kambe and Kaya Ribe as National Monuments;
 - c) enter into agreements with Kaya Elders to establish them as the guardians of the Kayas;
 - d) modify the Management Plan to reflect the needs of the nominated Kayas, in particular integrating the conservation of cultural and natural resources and traditional and non-traditional conservation and management practices;
 - e) secure resources for the implementation of the management strategy and plan;

- f) identify the settings of the Kayas and put in place Buffer Zones with protection from major developmental threats, particularly mining extraction and building construction, and other appropriate measures to protect the wider settings;
 - g) produce more detailed mapping of the Kayas.
6. Further requests the State Party to submit a report by **1 February 2009** on the issues highlighted above;
 7. Further recommends the State Party that it supplement the traditional zoning practices which provide for an area of limited utilization on the periphery of the Kaya forest, by putting in place formal buffer zones and other appropriate measures, as additional protection from major development threats, including mining, quarrying, and building construction, to protect the settings of the Kayas.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Decision: 32 COM 8B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **River island of Majuli in midstream Brahmaputra River in Assam, India**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:
 - a) assemble a complete inventory of the 31 surviving Sattras on the island as a preliminary to considering which Sattras might have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and be nominated as the property;
 - b) allow an ICOMOS evaluation mission to visit the property to consider the extent and scope of the Sattras;
 - c) undertake an appraisal of the overall river basin in which Majuli lies, and the potential impact of upstream development, deforestation and the building of dams, in order to ascertain whether managed retreat is the only realistic approach to the flooding and erosion processes.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Refers the nomination of **Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, Kyrgyzstan**, back to the State Party to allow it to:

- a) stop the construction of an aerial ropeway, suspend and then revise the project for a new mosque to reduce its height and impact, and find alternative solutions to the need for more houses in the buffer zone to avoid high-rise buildings;
- b) create a Site Management Council to implement the Management Plan, and augment the Plan with an Action Plan;
- c) put in place the formal protection of the nominated site through incorporating it and the Buffer Zone into the city plan to give both of them effect as part of the overall zoning plan for the city, through finalising the Protection Zoning Project document as part of the Urban Master Plan.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Defers the consideration of the boundaries and buffer zones for Shuhe and Baisha villages, **China**, to allow the State Party to consider enlarging the buffer zones and to provide full details of their protective arrangements as part of the overall Master and Management Plans for the property;
3. Recommends that the State Party should consider ways to provide protection to the area between the three main elements of the property, perhaps through planning procedures, to ensure that key elements of the rural landscape that supported the settlements are sustained as well as key views of mountains.

ARAB STATES

Decision: 32 COM 8B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the property, and the enlarged buffer zone, of **Qal'at al-Bahrain: Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun, Bahrain**;
3. Recommends that if subsequently surveys by underwater archaeological teams reveal evidence to link the two parts of the property, the State Party should consider a further enlargement of the property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the proposed buffer zone of the **Archaeological site of Volubilis, Morocco**.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Inscribes the **Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra, Albania**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

These two fortified historic centres are remarkably well preserved, and this is particularly true of their vernacular buildings. They have been continuously inhabited from ancient times down to the present day. Situated in the Balkans, in Southern Albania, and close to each other, they bear witness to the wealth and diversity of the urban and architectural heritage of this region.

Berat and Gjirokastra bear witness to a way of life which has been influenced over a long period by the traditions of Islam during the Ottoman period, while at the same time incorporating more ancient influences. This way of life has respected Orthodox Christian traditions which have thus been able to continue their spiritual and cultural development, particularly at Berat.

Gjirokastra was built by major landowners. Around the ancient 13th century citadel, the town has houses with turrets (the Turkish *kule*) which are characteristic of the Balkans region. Gjirokastra contains several remarkable examples of houses of this type, which date from the 17th century, but also more elaborate examples dating from the early 19th century.

Berat bears witness to a town which was fortified but open, and was over a long period inhabited by craftsmen and merchants. Its urban centre reflects a vernacular housing tradition of the Balkans, examples of which date mainly from the late 18th and the 19th centuries. This tradition has been adapted to suit the town's life styles, with tiered houses on the slopes, which are predominantly horizontal in layout, and make abundant use of the entering daylight.

Criterion (iii): Berat and Gjirokastra bear outstanding testimony to the diversity of urban societies in the Balkans, and to longstanding ways of life which have today almost vanished. The town planning and housing of Gjirokastra are those of a citadel town built by notable landowners whose interests were directly linked to those of the central power. Berat bears the imprint of a more independent life style, linked to its handicraft and merchant functions.

Criterion (iv): Together, the two towns of Gjirokastra and Berat bear outstanding testimony to various types of monument and vernacular urban housing during the Classical Ottoman period, in continuity with the various Medieval cultures which preceded it, and in a state of peaceful coexistence with a large Christian minority, particularly at Berat.

The overall integrity of the two towns is satisfactory, although this was adversely affected by illegal constructions in the late 1990s. Authenticity is also satisfactory, but preservation management must be stepped up and carefully enforced, in accordance with the highest international standards.

The management plan measures and the recently established coordination authority responsible for implementing the plan should encourage an active policy of preservation and conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, particularly as regards urban construction management and visitor facilities.

4. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** on the implementation of the following measures:
 - a) an inventory should be provided of the illegal construction dating from the late 1990s, together with a plan for the removal of such illegal construction in a medium-term perspective;
 - b) specific monitoring indicators should be defined, together with the intervals of their updating;
 - c) a programme of archaeological excavations should be proposed, in accordance with the international standards in force;
 - d) the firefighting arrangements in the historic urban zone should be improved;
 - e) the medium-term plan for the development of tourist facility capacities should be set out in detail.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Inscribes the **Bahá'í Holy Places in Haifa and Western Galilee, Israel**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Bahá'í Holy Places demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value for the Holy shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and the Holy shrine of the Báb, as the most holy places of the Bahá'í faith provide an exceptional testimony to the strong traditions of Bahá'í pilgrimage which have grown up over the last century and draw large numbers of followers from around the world. They also have a profound meaning and value for followers of the Bahá'í faith as sacred sites linked to the faith's two founders.

Criterion (iii): The Holy shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and the Holy shrine of the Báb, as the most holy places of the Bahá'í faith, and visited by thousands of pilgrims each year from around the world, provide an exceptional testimony to, and are powerful communicators of, the strong cultural tradition of Bahá'í pilgrimage.

Criterion (vi): The two holy Bahá'í shrines are tangible places of great meaning for one of the world's religions.

The property demonstrates integrity linked to the history and spiritual home of the Bahá'í faith and it demonstrates authenticity as tangible expression of the body of doctrine and system of values and beliefs that form the Bahá'í faith.

The legal protection of the nominated areas and their buffer zones will be improved once the TAMA 35 provisions come into force for Haifa. Conservation approaches are appropriate and the management system for the property provides high quality management.

4. Recommends that, in order to reinforce the protection of the properties, measures should be put in place to mitigate adequately the effects of urban development.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of the property and buffer zone of the **Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn, Estonia**;
3. Urges the State Party to develop a comprehensive Management Plan for the enlarged area and its buffer zone as a framework for other strategic plans for the city;
4. Recommends that development in the wider setting beyond the buffer zone be examined for its impact on the values of the property.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of **St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Michael's Church in Hildesheim, Germany**;
3. Requests the State Party to specify all the administrative and legal measures which will apply to the buffer zone, as a complementary item to the management plan, and that as soon as they have been completed, they should be sent to the World Heritage Centre.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of **Cologne Cathedral, Germany**;
3. Requests that the protection measures which apply to the new buffer zone should be specified in more detail, thereby supplementing the management plan;
4. Recommends that reflection should continue concerning the limits of an extended buffer zone based on historic criteria.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of **Rammelsberg mines and the historic town of Goslar, Germany**.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Notes the progress made towards defining and providing protection for a buffer zone for the **Vilnius Historic Centre, Lithuania**;
3. Requests the State Party to submit the buffer zone as a minor modification to the boundaries, once the Special Protection Plan has been approved which gives it legal protection.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the buffer zone of **Wieliczka Salt Mine, Poland**, which extends to cover the area of the projection of the mine workings;
3. Recommends the State Party to clarify the extent of the underground working – whether 7 or 9 levels and that all of the levels and their connecting shafts should be part of the property. There was no indication to the contrary at the time of inscription.

4. Requests an adequate map showing the extent and area of the underground levels.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Refers the proposed buffer zone for the **Historic Centre of Évora, Portugal**, back to the State Party to allow it to provide a defined buffer zone that responds to the setting of the city.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the enlarged buffer zone for the Tower of Belém and thus the enlarged buffer zone for the **Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém in Lisbon, Portugal**;
3. Notes that the proposed enlarged buffer zone greatly increases protection of the settings of the two components of the World Heritage site, but not the entire setting – particularly when the two monuments are viewed from the sea – thus requests the relevant authorities to protect this wider setting.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Refers the decision on the proposed buffer zone for the **Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches, Spain**, back to the State Party to allow it to provide more details on the justification for the boundaries for the close surroundings of the property and visual identity as well as for the protective policies in place in its buffer zone.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the buffer zone of the **Palau de la Música Catalana and Hospital de Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain**.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Considers that the current proposals are not a minor modification;
3. Recommends that the State Party be invited to submit a full nomination for the proposed extensions of St Cyril's church and St Andrew's church to **Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra, Ukraine.**

Decision: 32 COM 8B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of **L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre, Ukraine;**
3. Requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, details of the overall area of the adjusted buffer zone.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of **Durham Cathedral and Castle, United Kingdom.**

Decision: 32 COM 8B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of **Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites, United Kingdom.**

Decision: 32 COM 8B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the minor modification to the boundaries of the **Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's Church, United Kingdom**;
3. Recommends that a buffer zone with a view to protecting the visual integrity of the inscribed property in its environment be created, on completion of the impact studies and the coordination projects for building developments south of the Thames in London, in keeping with the expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Westminster site.

REVISION OF STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND OF STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

ASIA-PACIFIC

Decision: 32 COM 8B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, Philippines**:

The Ifugao Rice Terraces epitomize the absolute blending of the physical, socio-cultural, economic, religious, and political environment. Indeed, it is a living cultural landscape of unparalleled beauty.

The Ifugao Rice Terraces are the priceless contribution of Philippine ancestors to humanity. Built 2000 years ago and passed on from generation to generation, the Ifugao Rice Terraces represent an enduring illustration of an ancient civilization that surpassed various challenges and setbacks posed by modernization.

Reaching a higher altitude and being built on steeper slopes than many other terraces, the Ifugao complex of stone or mud walls and the careful carving of the natural contours of hills and mountains to make terraced pond fields, coupled with the development of intricate irrigation systems, harvesting water from the forests of the mountain tops, and an elaborate farming system, reflect a mastery of engineering that is appreciated to the present.

The terraces illustrate a persistence of cultural traditions and remarkable continuity and endurance, since archaeological evidence reveals that this technique has been in use in the region for 2000 years virtually unchanged. They offer many lessons for application in similar environments elsewhere.

Maintenance of the living rice terraces reflects a primarily cooperative approach of the whole community which is based on detailed knowledge of the rich diversity of biological resources existing in the Ifugao agro-ecosystem, a finely tuned annual system respecting

lunar cycles, zoning and planning, extensive soil conservation, mastery of a most complex pest control regime based on the processing of a variety of herbs, accompanied by religious rituals.

Criterion (iii): The rice terraces are a dramatic testimony to a community's sustainable and primarily communal system of rice production, based on harvesting water from the forest clad mountain tops and creating stone terraces and ponds, a system that has survived for two millennia.

Criterion (iv): The rice terraces are a memorial to the history and labour of more than a thousand generations of small-scale farmers who, working together as a community, have created a landscape based on a delicate and sustainable use of natural resources.

Criterion (v): The rice terraces are an outstanding example of land-use resulting from a harmonious interaction between people and their environment which has produced a steep terraced landscape of great aesthetic beauty, now vulnerable to social and economic changes.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting the adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 32 COM 8B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.74** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.75** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.76** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.77** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.78** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.79** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.80** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.81** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.82** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.83** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **Historic Centre of Prague, Czech Republic**:

Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe in terms of its setting on both banks of the Vltava River, its townscape of burger houses and palaces punctuated by towers, and its individual buildings.

The Historic Centre represents a supreme manifestation of Medieval urbanism (the New Town of Emperor Charles IV built as the New Jerusalem). The Prague architectural works of the Gothic Period (14th and 15th centuries), of the High Baroque of the 1st half of the 18th century and of the rising modernism after the year 1900, influenced the development of Central Europe, perhaps even all European architecture. Prague represents one of the most prominent world centres of creative life in the field of urbanism and architecture across generations, human mentality and beliefs.

Prague belongs to the group of historic cities which have preserved the structure of their development until the present times. Within the core of Prague, successive stages of growth and changes have respected the original grand-scale urban structure of the Early Middle Ages. This structure was essentially and greatly enlarged with urban activities in the High Gothic period with more additions during the High Baroque period and in the 19th century. It has been saved from any large-scale urban renewal or massive demolitions and thus preserves its overall configuration, pattern and spatial composition.

In the course of the 1100 years of its existence, Prague's development can be documented in the architectural expression of many historical periods and their styles. The city is rich in outstanding monuments from all periods of its history. Of particular importance are Prague Castle, the Cathedral of St Vitus, Hradčany Square in front of the Castle, the Valdštejn Palace on the left bank of the river, the Gothic Charles Bridge, the Romanesque Rotunda of the Holy Rood, the Gothic arcaded houses round the Old Town Square, the High Gothic Minorite Church of St James in the Staré Město, the late 19th century buildings and town plan of the Nave Město.

As early as the Middle Ages, Prague became one of the leading cultural centres of Christian Europe. The Prague University, founded in 1348, is one of the earliest in Europe. The milieu of the University in the last quarter of the 14th century and the first years of the 15th century contributed among other things to the formation of ideas of the Hussite Movement which represented in fact the first steps of the European Reformation. As a metropolis of culture, Prague is connected with prominent names in art, science and politics, such as Charles IV, Petr Parléř, Jan Hus, Johannes Kepler, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Kafka, Antonín Dvořák, Albert Einstein, Edvard Beneš (co-founder of the League of Nations) and Václav Havel.

Criterion (ii): The historic centre of Prague admirably illustrates the process of continuous urban growth from the Middle Ages to the present day. Its important role in the political, economic, social, and cultural evolution of central Europe from the 14th century onwards and the richness of its architectural and artistic traditions meant that it served as a major model for urban development for much of central and eastern Europe.

Criterion (iv): Prague is an urban architectural ensemble of outstanding quality, in terms of both its individual monuments and its townscape, and one that is deservedly world-famous.

Criterion (vi): The role of Prague in the medieval development of Christianity in central Europe was an outstanding one, as was its formative influence in the evolution of towns. By virtue of its political significance in the later Middle Ages and after, it attracted architects and artists from all over Europe, who contributed to its wealth of architectural and artistic treasures. The 15th century foundation of Charles University made Prague a renowned seat of learning, a reputation that it has preserved up to the present day. Since

the reign of Charles IV, Prague has also been the intellectual and cultural centre of central Europe, and is indelibly associated with such world-famous names as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Kafka.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.85** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.86** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.87** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.88** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

Decides that Decision **32 COM 8B.89** will be discussed at its 33rd session in 2009.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the following Statement of Significance for **Durham Cathedral and Castle, United Kingdom**:

The property has exceptional architecture demonstrating architectural innovation;

The visual drama of the Cathedral and Castle on the peninsula and the associations of the site with notions of romantic beauty;

The physical expression of the spiritual and secular powers of the medieval Bishops Palatine that the defended complex provides;

The relics and material culture of the three saints buried at the site.

The continuity of use and ownership of the site over the past 1000 years as a place of religious worship, learning and residence;

The site's role as a political statement of Norman power imposed upon a subjugate nation, as one of the country's most powerful symbols of the Norman Conquest of Britain;

The importance of the site's archaeological remains, which are directly related to the site's history and continuity of use over the past 1000 years;

The cultural and religious traditions and historical memories associated with the relics of St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, and with the continuity of use and ownership of the site over the past millennium.

Criterion (ii): Durham Cathedral is the largest and most perfect monument of 'Norman' style architecture in England. The small castral chapel for its part marks a turning point in the evolution of 11th century Romanesque sculpture.

Criterion (iv): Though some wrongly considered Durham Cathedral to be the first 'Gothic' monument (the relationship between it and the churches built in the Île-de-France region in the 12th century is not obvious), this building, owing to the innovative audacity of its vaulting, constitutes, as do Spire [Speyer] and Cluny, a type of experimental model which was far ahead of its time.

Criterion (vi): Around the relics of Cuthbert and Bede, Durham crystallized the memory of the evangelising of Northumbria and of primitive Benedictine monastic life.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for **Ironbridge Gorge, United Kingdom**:

The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage property covers an area of 5.5 km² (550ha) and is located in Telford, Shropshire, approximately 50km north-west of Birmingham. The Industrial Revolution had its 18th century roots in the Ironbridge Gorge before spreading across the world, bringing with it some of the most far-reaching changes in human history.

The site incorporates a 5km length of the steep-sided, mineral-rich Severn Valley from a point immediately west of Ironbridge downstream to Coalport, together with two smaller river valleys extending northwards to Coalbrookdale and Madeley.

The Ironbridge Gorge offers a powerful insight into the origins of the Industrial Revolution and also contains extensive evidence and remains of that period when the area was the focus of international attention from artists, engineers, and writers. The site contains substantial remains of mines, foundries, factories, workshops, warehouses, ironmasters' and workers' housing, public buildings, infrastructure, and transport systems, together with traditional landscape and forests of the Severn Gorge. In addition, there also remain extensive collections of artefacts and archives relating to the individuals, processes and products that made the area so important.

Today, the site is a living, working community with a population of approximately 4000 people. It is also a historic landscape that is interpreted and made accessible through the work of a number of organisations, in particular, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (established in 1967 to preserve and interpret the remains of the Industrial Revolution within the Ironbridge Gorge) and the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (established in 1991 to manage the woodland and grassland in the Gorge).

Within the site, five features are highlighted as of particular interest:

1. Coalbrookdale: It was here in 1709 that the Quaker Abraham Darby I developed the coke iron production technique which began the great 18th century iron revolution. There still remains a high concentration of 18th and 19th century dwellings, warehouses and public buildings in Coalbrookdale.
2. Ironbridge: The community draws its name from the famous Iron Bridge erected in 1779 by Abraham Darby III. At the eastern end of Ironbridge stand the remains of two 18th century blast furnaces, the Bedlam Furnaces, built in 1757.
3. Hay Brook Valley: South of Madeley lies a large open-air museum which incorporates the remains of the former Blists Hill blast furnaces and Blists Hill brick and tile works. Also of importance is the spectacular Hay Inclined Plane which connected the Shropshire Canal to the Coalport Canal, which in turn linked with the River Severn.
4. Jackfield: This small community on the south bank of the River Severn was important for navigation, coal mining, clay production, and the manufacture of decorative tiles.
5. Coalport: Located at the eastern end of the site and on the north bank of the River Severn, industrialisation came to Coalport in the late 18th century and the area is remembered principally for the Coalport China Works.

Criterion (i): The Coalbrookdale blast furnace perpetuates in situ the creative effort of Abraham Darby I who discovered coke iron in 1709. It is a masterpiece of man's creative genius in the same way as the Iron Bridge, which is the first known metal bridge. It was built in 1779 by Abraham Darby III from the drawings of the architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard.

Criterion (ii): The Coalbrookdale blast furnace and the Iron Bridge exerted great influence on the development of techniques and architecture.

Criterion (iv): Ironbridge Gorge provides a fascinating summary of the development of an industrial region in modern times. Mining centres, transformation industries,

manufacturing plants, workers' quarters, and transport networks are sufficiently well preserved to make up a coherent ensemble whose educational potential is considerable.

Criterion (vi): Ironbridge Gorge, which opens its doors to in excess of 600,000 visitors yearly, is a world renowned symbol of the 18th century Industrial Revolution.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Approves the following Statement of Significance for **Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey, United Kingdom:**

Studley Royal Park, including the ruins of Fountains Abbey, combines into one harmonious whole buildings, gardens and landscapes constructed over a period of 800 years. All, important in their own right, have been integrated into a continuous landscape of exceptional merit and beauty. Its principal components are:

Studley Royal: one of the few great 18th Century 'green gardens' to survive substantially in its original form: arguably the most spectacular water garden in England. The landscape garden is an outstanding example of the development of the 'English' garden style throughout the 18th century, which influenced the rest of Europe. The garden contains canals and ponds, cascades, lawns and hedges, with elegant temples and statues used as eye-catchers. The layout of the gardens is determined by the form of the natural landscape, rather than a design that is imposed upon it. The Aislabies' design survives substantially in its original form.

Fountains Abbey ruins: a key element in the garden scheme, providing the spectacular culmination to the principal vista, but also of outstanding importance in its own right. It is one of the few Cistercian houses surviving from the 12th Century and provides an unrivalled picture of a great religious house in all its parts. Fountains Abbey, founded in 1132, soon became one of the largest and richest Cistercian abbeys in Britain, before being closed by Henry VIII in 1539 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It was partially demolished soon after.

Jacobean Fountains Hall: an outstanding example of a building of its period and partially built with stone from the Abbey. It has a distinctive Elizabethan facade and is enhanced by a formal garden with shaped hedges. The interior of the Hall has been adapted for successive uses, including a courthouse.

St. Mary's Church: an outstanding example of High Victorian Gothic architecture by one of its leading exponents, William Burges, in 1871, and considered to be one of his finest works. A building of importance in its own right, it has also been successfully integrated into the landscape of the Park. The church is one of a pair: its twin is Christ the Consoler at Skelton-on-Ure. They were both designed by Burges and built using the same

craftsmen.

Criterion (i): Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey owes its originality and striking beauty to the fact that a humanised landscape was created around the largest medieval ruins in the United Kingdom. The use of these features, combined with the planning of the water garden itself, is a true masterpiece of human creative genius.

Criterion (iv): Combining the remains of the richest abbey in England, the Jacobean Fountains Hall, and Burgess's miniature neo-Gothic masterpiece of St Mary's, with the water gardens and deer park into one harmonious whole, Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey illustrates the power of medieval monasticism, and the taste and wealth of the European upper classes in the 18th century.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for **Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites, United Kingdom:**

The Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage property is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments.

It comprises two areas of chalkland in Southern Britain within which complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites were built. Each area contains a focal stone circle and henge and many other major monuments. At Stonehenge these include the Avenue, the Cursuses, Durrington Walls, Woodhenge, and the densest concentration of burial mounds in Britain. At Avebury, they include Windmill Hill, the West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Silbury Hill, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues, the West Kennet Palisaded Enclosures, and important barrows.

The World Heritage property is of Outstanding Universal Value for the following qualities:

Stonehenge is one of the most impressive prehistoric megalithic monuments in the world on account of the sheer size of its megaliths, the sophistication of its concentric plan and architectural design, the shaping of the stones, uniquely using both Wiltshire Sarsen sandstone and Pembroke Bluestone, and the precision with which it was built.

At Avebury, the massive Henge, containing the largest prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric mound in Europe, demonstrate the outstanding engineering skills which were used to create masterpieces of earthen and megalithic architecture.

There is an exceptional survival of prehistoric monuments and sites within the World Heritage site including settlements, burial grounds, and large constructions of earth and stone. Today, together with their settings, they form landscapes without parallel. These complexes would have been of major significance to those who created them, as is apparent by the huge investment of time and effort they represent. They provide an insight into the mortuary and ceremonial practices of the period, and are evidence of prehistoric technology, architecture, and astronomy. The careful siting of monuments in relation to the landscape helps us to further understand the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Criterion (i): The monuments of the Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage Site demonstrate outstanding creative and technological achievements in prehistoric times.

Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world. It is unrivalled in its design and unique engineering, featuring huge horizontal stone lintels capping the outer circle and the trilithons, locked together by carefully shaped joints. It is distinguished by the unique use of two different kinds of stones (Bluestones and Sarsens), their size (the largest weighing over 40t), and the distance they were transported (up to 240km). The sheer scale of some of the surrounding monuments is also remarkable: the Stonehenge Cursus and the Avenue are both about 3km long, while Durrington Walls is the largest known henge in Britain, around 500m in diameter, demonstrating the ability of prehistoric peoples to conceive, design and construct features of great size and complexity.

Avebury prehistoric stone circle is the largest in the world. The encircling henge consists of a huge bank and ditch 1.3km in circumference, within which 180 local, unshaped standing stones formed the large outer and two smaller inner circles. Leading from two of its four entrances, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues of parallel standing stones still connect it with other monuments in the landscape. Another outstanding monument, Silbury Hill, is the largest prehistoric mound in Europe. Built around 2400 BC, it stands 39.5m high and comprises half a million tonnes of chalk. The purpose of this imposing, skilfully engineered monument remains obscure.

Criterion (ii): The World Heritage Site provides an outstanding illustration of the evolution of monument construction and of the continual use and shaping of the landscape over more than 2000 years, from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The monuments and landscape have had an unwavering influence on architects, artists, historians, and archaeologists, and still retain a huge potential for future research.

The megalithic and earthen monuments of the World Heritage Site demonstrate the shaping of the landscape through monument building for around 2000 years from c 3700 BC, reflecting the importance and wide influence of both areas.

Since the 12th century when Stonehenge was considered one of the wonders of the world by the chroniclers Henry de Huntington and Geoffrey de Monmouth, the Stonehenge and Avebury sites have excited curiosity and been the subject of study and speculation. Since early investigations by John Aubrey, Inigo Jones, and William Stukeley, they have had an unwavering influence on architects, archaeologists, artists, and historians. The two parts of the World Heritage Site provide an excellent opportunity for further research.

Today, the Site has spiritual associations for some.

Criterion (iii): The complexes of monuments at Stonehenge and Avebury provide an exceptional insight into the funerary and ceremonial practices in Britain in the Neolithic

and Bronze Age. Together with their settings and associated sites, they form landscapes without parallel.

The design, position, and inter-relationship of the monuments and sites are evidence of a wealthy and highly organised prehistoric society able to impose its concepts on the environment. An outstanding example is the alignment of the Stonehenge Avenue (probably a processional route) and Stonehenge stone circle on the axis of the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset, indicating their ceremonial and astronomical character. At Avebury the length and size of some of the features such as the West Kennet Avenue, which connects the Henge to the Sanctuary over 2km away, are further evidence of this.

A profound insight into the changing mortuary culture of the periods is provided by the use of Stonehenge as a cremation cemetery, by the West Kennet Long Barrow, the largest known Neolithic stone-chambered collective tomb in southern England, and by the hundreds of other burial sites illustrating evolving funerary rites.

The State Party also proposes the revision of the brief description as follows:

The Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage Site is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments. Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, while Avebury is the largest in the world. Together with inter-related monuments and their associated landscapes, they help us to understand Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and mortuary practices. They demonstrate around 2000 years of continuous use and monument building between c. 3700 and 1600 BC. As such they represent a unique embodiment of our collective heritage.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, United Kingdom:**

The four castles of Beaumaris, Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech and the attendant fortified towns at Conwy and Caernarfon are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, as demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form.

The castles as a stylistically coherent groups are a supreme example of medieval military architecture designed and directed by James of St George, King Edward I of England's chief architect, and the greatest military architect of the age.

The extensive and detailed contemporary technical, social, and economic documentation of the castles, and the survival of adjacent fortified towns at Caernarfon and Conwy, makes them one of the major references of medieval history

The castles of Beaumaris and Harlech are unique artistic achievements for the way they combine characteristic 13th century double-wall structures with a central plan, and for the beauty of their proportions and masonry.

Criterion (i): Beaumaris and Harlech represent a unique achievement in that they combine the double-wall structure which is characteristic of late 13th century military architecture with a highly concerted central plan and in terms of the beauty of their proportions and masonry. These are the masterpieces of James de St George who, in addition to being the king's chief architect, was constable of Harlech from 1290 to 1293.

Criterion (iii): The royal castles of the ancient principality of Gwynedd bear a unique testimony to construction in the Middle Ages in so far as this royal commission is fully documented. The accounts by Taylor in Colvin (ed.), *The History of the King's Works*, London (1963), specify the origin of the workmen, who were brought in from all regions of England, and describe the use of quarried stone on the site. They outline financing of the construction works and provide an understanding of the daily life of the workmen and population and thus constitute one of the major references of medieval history.

Criterion (iv): The castles and fortifications of Gwynedd are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe. Their construction, begun in 1283 and at times hindered by the Welsh uprisings of Madog ap Llywelyn in 1294, continued until 1330 in Caernarfon and 1331 in Beaumaris. They have only undergone minimal restoration and provide, in their pristine state, a veritable repertory of medieval architectural form: barbicans, drawbridges, fortified gates, chicanes, redoubts, dungeons, towers, and curtain walls.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for **Blenheim Palace, United Kingdom**:

Blenheim Palace near Oxford was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1987 for its architectural importance, as the design and building of the Palace between 1705 and 1722 represented the beginning of a new style of architecture and for its landscaped Park designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown which is considered as "a naturalistic Versailles".

In tangible form Blenheim is an outstanding example of the work of John Vanburgh and Nicholas Hawksmoor, two of England's most notable architects. Blenheim represents a unique architectural achievement celebrating the triumph of the English armies over the French. Blenheim and its associated Park has exerted great influence on the English Romantic movement which was characterised by the eclecticism of its inspiration, its

return to national sources and its love of nature. The original landscape set out by John Vanburgh who regulated the course of the River Glyme was later modified by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown who created two lakes seen as one of the greatest examples of naturalistic landscape design. Blenheim Palace was built by the nation to honour one of its heroes the first Duke of Marlborough and is also closely associated with Sir Winston Churchill.

Criterion (ii): By their refusal of the French models of classicism, the Palace and Park illustrate the beginnings of the English Romantic movement which was characterised by the eclecticism of its inspiration, its return to national sources and its love of nature. The influence of Blenheim on the architecture and organisation of space in the 18th and 19th centuries was greatly felt in both England and abroad.

Criterion (iv): Built by the nation to honour one of its heroes, Blenheim is, above all, the home of an English aristocrat, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, who was also Prince of the Germanic Holy Roman Empire, as we are reminded in the decoration of the Great Drawing Room by Louis Laguerre (1719–20).

In virtue of this criterion, just like the Residence of Wurzburg (included in 1981) and the Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust in Brühl (included in 1984), Blenheim is typical of 18th century European princely residences, a category which is still under-represented on the World Heritage List.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, and St Margaret's Church, United Kingdom:**

Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey, and St Margaret's Church together encapsulate the history of one of the most ancient of parliamentary monarchies of present times and the growth of parliamentary and constitutional institutions.

In tangible form Westminster Abbey is a striking succession of the successive phases of English Gothic art and the inspiration of the work of Barry and Pugin on the Palace of Westminster.

The Palace of Westminster illustrates in colossal form the grandeur of constitutional monarchy and the principle of the bicameral parliamentary system, as envisaged in the 19th century, constructed by English architectural reference to show the national character of the monument.

The Palace is one of the most significant monuments of neo-Gothic architecture, as an outstanding, coherent and complete example of neo-Gothic style.

Westminster Hall is a key monument of the Perpendicular style and its admirable oak roof is one of the greatest achievements of medieval construction in wood.

Westminster is a place in which great historical events have taken place which have shaped the English and British nation.

The church of St Margaret, a charming perpendicular style construction, continues to be the parish church of the House of Commons and is an integral part of the complex.

Criterion (i): Westminster Abbey is a unique artistic construction representing a striking sequence of the successive phases of English Gothic art.

Criterion (ii): Other than its influence on English architecture during the Middle Ages, the Abbey has played another leading role by influencing the work of Charles Barry and Augustus Welby Pugin in Westminster Palace, in the "Gothic Revival" of the 19th century.

Criterion (iv): The Abbey, the Palace, and St Margaret's illustrate in a concrete way the specificities of parliamentary monarchy over a period of time as long as nine centuries. Whether one looks at the royal tombs of the Chapterhouse, the remarkable vastness of Westminster Hall, of the House of Lords, or of the House of Commons, art is everywhere present and harmonious, making a veritable museum of the history of the United Kingdom.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **City of Bath, United Kingdom**:

The Roman remains, especially the Temple of Sulis Minerva and the baths complex (based around the hot springs at the heart of the Roman city of Aquae Sulis, which have remained at the heart of the City's development ever since) are amongst the most famous and important Roman remains north of the Alps, and marked the beginning of Bath's history as a spa town.

The Georgian city reflects the ambitions of John Wood Senior, Ralph Allen and Richard 'Beau' Nash to make Bath into one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, with architecture and landscape combined harmoniously for the enjoyment of the spa town's cure takers.

The Neo-classical style of the public buildings (such as the Assembly Rooms and the Pump Room) harmonises with the grandiose proportions of the monumental ensembles (such as Queen Square, Circus, and Royal Crescent) and collectively reflects the ambitions, particularly social, of the spa city in the 18th century.

The individual Georgian buildings reflect the profound influence of Palladio, and their collective scale, style, and the organisation of the spaces between buildings epitomises the success of architects such as the John Woods, Robert Adam, Thomas Baldwin, and John Palmer in transposing Palladio's ideas to the scale of a complete city, situated in a hollow in the hills and built to a Picturesque landscape aestheticism creating a strong garden city feel, more akin to the 19th century garden cities than the 17th century Renaissance cities.

Criterion (i): Bath's grandiose Neo-classical Palladian crescents, terraces, and squares spread out over the surrounding hills and set in its green valley are a demonstration par excellence of the integration of architecture, urban design, and landscape setting, and the deliberate creation of a beautiful city. Not only are individual buildings such as the Assembly Rooms and Pump Room of great distinction, they are part of the larger overall city landscape that evolved over a century in a harmonious and logical way, drawing together public and private buildings and spaces in a way that reflects the precepts of Palladio tempered with picturesque aestheticism.

Bath's quality of architecture and urban design, its visual homogeneity and its beauty is largely testament to the skill and creativity of the architects and visionaries of the 18th and 19th centuries who applied and developed Palladianism in response to the specific opportunities offered by the spa town and its physical environment and natural resources (in particular the hot springs and the local Bath Oolitic limestone). Three men – architect John Wood Senior, entrepreneur and quarry owner Ralph Allen, and celebrated social shaper and Master of Ceremonies Richard "Beau" Nash – together provided the impetus to start this social, economic, and physical rebirth, resulting in a city that played host to the social, political, and cultural leaders of the day. That the architects who followed were working over the course of a century, with no master plan or single patron, did not prevent them from contriving to relate each individual development to those around it and to the wider landscape, creating a city that is harmonious and logical, in concord with its natural environment and extremely beautiful.

Criterion (ii): Bath exemplifies the 18th century move away from the inward-looking uniform street layouts of Renaissance cities that dominated through the 15th–17th centuries, towards the idea of planting buildings and cities in the landscape to achieve picturesque views and forms, which could be seen echoed around Europe, particularly in the 19th century. This unifying of nature and city, seen throughout Bath, is perhaps best demonstrated in the Royal Crescent (John Wood Younger) and Lansdown Crescent (John Palmer). Bath's urban and landscape spaces are created by the buildings that enclose them, providing a series of interlinked spaces that flow organically, and that visually (and at times physically) draw in the green surrounding countryside to create a distinctive garden city feel, looking forward to the principles of garden cities developed by the 19th century town planners.

Criterion (iv): Bath reflects two great eras in human history: Roman and Georgian. The Roman Baths and temple complex, together with the remains of the city of Aquae Sulis that grew up around them, make a significant contribution to the understanding and appreciation of Roman social and religious society. The 18th century redevelopment is a unique combination of outstanding urban architecture, spatial arrangement, and social history. Bath exemplifies the main themes of the 18th century neoclassical city; the monumentalisation of ordinary houses, the integration of landscape and town, and the creation and interlinking of urban spaces, designed and developed as a response to the growing popularity of Bath as a society and spa destination and to provide an appropriate picturesque setting and facilities for the cure takers and social visitors. Although Bath gained greatest importance in Roman and Georgian times, the city nevertheless reflects

continuous development over two millennia with the spectacular medieval Abbey Church sat beside the Roman temple and baths, in the heart of the 18th century and modern city.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **Tower of London, United Kingdom**:

The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror in 1066 has Outstanding Universal Value for the following cultural qualities:

Its landmark siting, for both protection and control of the City of London: As the gateway to the capital, the Tower was in effect the gateway to the new Norman kingdom. Sited strategically at a bend in the River Thames, it has been a crucial demarcation point between the power of the developing City of London, and the power of the monarchy. It had the dual role of providing protection for the City through its defensive structure and the provision of a garrison, and of also controlling the citizens by the same means. The Tower literally 'towered' over its surroundings until the 19th century.

As a symbol of Norman power: The Tower of London was built as a demonstration of Norman power. The Tower represents more than any other structure the far-reaching significance of the mid 11th-century Norman Conquest of England, for the impact it had on fostering closer ties with Europe, on English language and culture and in creating one of the most powerful monarchies in Europe. The Tower has an iconic role as reflecting the last military conquest of England.

As an outstanding example of late 11th-century innovative Norman military architecture: As the most complete survival of an 11th-century fortress palace remaining in Europe, the White Tower, and its later 13th and 14th century additions, belong to a series of edifices which were at the cutting edge of military building technology internationally. They represent the apogee of a type of sophisticated castle design, which originated in Normandy and spread through Norman lands to England and Wales.

As a model example of a Medieval fortress palace which evolved from the 11th to 16th centuries: The additions of Henry III and Edward I, and particularly the highly innovative development of the palace within the fortress, made the Tower into one of the most innovative and influential castle sites in Europe in the 13th and early 14th centuries, and much of their work survives. Palace buildings were added to the royal complex right up until the 16th century, although few now stand above ground. The survival of palace buildings at the Tower allows a rare glimpse into the life of a medieval monarch within their fortress walls. The Tower of London is a rare survival of a continuously developing ensemble of royal buildings, evolving from the 11th to the 16th centuries, and as such has great significance nationally and internationally.

For its association with State institutions: The continuous use of the Tower by successive monarchs fostered the development of several major State Institutions. These incorporated such fundamental roles as the nation's defence, its records, and its coinage. From the late 13th century, the Tower was a major repository for official documents, and precious goods owned by the Crown. The presence of the Crown Jewels, kept at the Tower since the 17th century, are a reminder of the fortress's role as a repository for the Royal Wardrobe.

As the setting for key historical events in European history: The Tower has been the setting for some of the most momentous events in European and British History. Its role as a stage upon which history is enacted is one of the key elements which have contributed towards the Tower's status as an iconic structure. Arguably the most important building of the Norman Conquest, the White Tower symbolised the might and longevity of the new order. The imprisonments in the Tower, of Edward V and his younger brother in the 15th century, and then in the 16th century of four English queens, three of them executed on Tower Green – Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Jane Grey – with only Elizabeth I escaping, shaped English history. The Tower also helped shape the Reformation in England, as both Catholic and Protestant prisoners (those that survived) recorded their experiences and helped define the Tower as a place of torture and execution.

Criterion (ii): A monument symbolic of royal power since the time of William the Conqueror, the Tower of London served as an outstanding model throughout the kingdom from the end of the 11th century. Like it, many keeps were built in stone: e.g. Colchester, Rochester, Hedingham, Norwich, or Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight.

Criterion (iv): The White Tower is the example par excellence of the royal Norman castle in the late 11th century. The ensemble of the Tower of London is a major reference for the history of medieval military architecture.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for **Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church, United Kingdom:**

St Martin's Church, the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey, and Christ Church Cathedral together reflect milestones in the history of Christianity in Britain. They reflect in tangible form:

The reintroduction of Christianity to southern Britain by St Augustine, commencing at St Martin's Church where Queen Bertha already worshipped, and leading to the conversion of King Ethelbert.

The successive architectural responses to Canterbury's developing role as focus of the Church in England – adaptation of Roman buildings, the development of Anglo-Saxon building in mortared brick and stone, and the flowering of Romanesque and Gothic.

The development, under St Augustine and the monks from Rome, of early Benedictine monasticism, which spread from its cradle in Canterbury throughout Britain and had a profound impact on English society.

The Abbey scriptorium, which was one of the great centres of insular book production, and whose influence extended far beyond the boundaries of Kent and Northumbria. The development of literacy, education, and scholarship at the Abbey meant that Canterbury became the most important medieval centre of learning in the country.

Canterbury's importance as a pilgrimage centre based on Augustine and its other early saints was transformed by the murder and canonization of Archbishop Thomas Becket, whose Cathedral shrine attracted pilgrims from all over Europe.

The wealth and power of the Cathedral in the 12th century, when the offerings of large numbers of pilgrims helped the building of the magnificent enlargement of the east end, with its exceptional stained glass windows and the rebuilding of the choir and transepts following the fire of 1174. These features form one of the finest examples of Early Gothic art.

The Cathedral's rich panorama of Romanesque, early Gothic, and late Gothic art and architecture.

The establishment of Canterbury as the seat of the spiritual leader of the Church of England.

Criterion (i): Christ Church Cathedral, especially the east sections, is a unique artistic creation. The beauty of its architecture is enhanced by a set of exceptional early stained glass windows which constitute the richest collection in the United Kingdom.

Criterion (ii): The influence of the Benedictine abbey of St Augustine was decisive throughout the High Middle Ages in England. The influence of this monastic centre and its scriptorium extended far beyond the boundaries of Kent and Northumbria.

Criterion (vi): St Martin's Church, St Augustine's Abbey, and the Cathedral are directly and tangibly associated with the history of the introduction of Christianity to the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.100

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,

2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for the **Old and New Towns of Edinburgh, United Kingdom**:

The remarkable juxtaposition of two clearly articulated urban planning phenomena. The contrast between the organic medieval Old Town and the planned Georgian New Town provides a clarity of urban structure unrivalled in Europe. The juxtaposition of these two distinctive townscapes, each of exceptional historic and architectural interest, which are linked across the landscape divide, the “great area” of Sir Walter Scott’s Waverley Valley, by the urban viaduct, North Bridge, and by the Mound, creates the outstanding urban landscape.

The Old Town stretches along a high ridge from the Castle on its dramatically situated rock down to the Palace of Holyrood. Its form reflects the burgh plots of the Canongate, founded as an “abbatial burgh” dependent on the Abbey of Holyrood, and the national tradition of building tall on the narrow “tofts” or plots separated by lanes or “closes” which created some of the world’s tallest buildings of their age, the dramatic, robust, and distinctive tenement buildings. It contains many 16th and 17th century merchants’ and nobles’ houses such as the early 17th century restored mansion house of Gladstone’s Land which rises to six storeys, and important early public buildings such as the Canongate Tolbooth and St Giles Cathedral.

The Old Town is characterized by the survival of the little-altered medieval “fishbone” street pattern of narrow closes, wynds, and courts leading off the spine formed by the High Street, the broadest, longest street in the Old Town, with a sense of enclosed space derived from its width, the height of the buildings lining it, and the small scale of any breaks between them.

The New Town, constructed between 1767 and 1890 as a collection of seven new towns on the glacial plain to the north of the Old Town, is framed and articulated by an uncommonly high concentration of planned ensembles of ashlar-faced, world-class, neo-classical buildings, associated with renowned architects, including John and Robert Adam, Sir William Chambers, and William Playfair. Contained and integrated with the townscape are gardens, designed to take full advantage of the topography, while forming an extensive system of private and public open spaces. The New Town is integrated with large green spaces. It covers a very large area, is consistent to an unrivalled degree, and survives virtually intact.

Some of the finest public and commercial monuments of the New-classical revival in Europe survive in the city, reflecting its continuing status as the capital of Scotland since 1437, and a major centre of thought and learning in the 18th century Age of Enlightenment, with its close cultural and political links with mainland Europe.

The successive planned extensions from the first New Town, and the high quality of the architecture, set standards for Scotland and beyond, and exerted a major influence on the development of urban architecture and town planning throughout Europe.

The dramatic topography of the Old Town combined with the planned alignments of key buildings in both the Old and the New Town, results in spectacular views and panoramas and an iconic skyline.

The renewal and revival of the Old Town in the late 19th century, and the adaptation of the distinctive Baronial style of building for use in an urban environment, influenced the development of conservation policies for urban environments.

Edinburgh retains most of its significant buildings and spaces in better condition than most other historic cities of comparable value.

Criterion (ii): The successive planned expansions of the New Town, and the high quality of its architecture, set standards for Scotland and beyond, and exerted a major influence on the development of urban architecture and town planning throughout Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Criterion (iv): The Old and New Towns together form a dramatic reflection of significant changes in European urban planning, from the inward-looking, defensive, wall medieval city of royal palaces, abbeys, and organically developed small burgage plots in the Old Town, through the expansive format Enlightenment planning of the 18th and 19th centuries in the New Town, to the 19th century rediscovery and revival of the Old Town with its adaptation of a distinctive Baronial style of architecture in an urban setting.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

Decision: 32 COM 8B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add* and *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add*,
2. Adopts the following Statement of Significance for **Maritime Greenwich, United Kingdom**:

Symmetrically arranged alongside the River Thames, the ensemble of the 17th century Queen's House, part of the last Royal Palace at Greenwich, the palatial Baroque complex of the Royal Hospital for seamen, and the Royal Observatory founded in 1675 and surrounded by the Royal Park laid out in the 1660s by André Le Nôtre, reflects two centuries of Royal patronage and represents a high point of the work of the architects Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren, and more widely European architecture at an important stage in its evolution. It also symbolises English artistic and scientific endeavour in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Greenwich town, which grew up at the gates of the Royal Palace, provides, with its villas and formal stuccoed terraces set around Nicholas Hawksmoor's St Alphege's church, a setting and approach for the main ensemble.

Inigo Jones' Queen's House as the first Palladian building in Britain was also the direct inspiration for classical houses and villas all over the country in the two centuries after it was built.

The Royal Hospital, laid out to a master plan developed by Christopher Wren and built over many decades by him and other leading architects, including Nicholas Hawksmoor, is among the most outstanding group of Baroque buildings in England.

The Royal Park is a masterpiece of the application of symmetrical landscape design to irregular terrain by André Le Nôtre.

The Royal Observatory's astronomical work, particularly of the scientist Robert Hooke, and John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, permitted the accurate measurement of the earth's movement and also contributed to the development of global navigation. The Observatory is now the baseline for the world's time zone system and for the measurement of longitude around the globe.

Criterion (i): The public and private buildings and the Royal Park at Greenwich form an exceptional ensemble that bears witness to human artistic and creative endeavour of the highest quality.

Criterion (ii): Maritime Greenwich bears witness to European architecture at an important stage of its evolution, exemplified by the work of great architects such as Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren who, inspired by developments on the continent of Europe, each shaped the architectural development of subsequent generations, while the Park exemplifies the interaction of man and nature over two centuries.

Criterion (iv): The Palace, Royal Naval College, and Royal Park demonstrate the power, patronage, and influence of the Crown in the 17th and 18th centuries and its illustration through the ability to plan and integrate culture and nature into an harmonious whole.

Criterion (vi): Greenwich is associated with outstanding architectural and artistic achievements as well as with scientific endeavour of the highest quality through the development of navigation and astronomy at the Royal Observatory, leading to the establishment of the Greenwich Meridian and Greenwich Mean Time as world standards.

3. Recommends that assessment for statements of authenticity and integrity / statements of protection and management should be postponed to the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2009) awaiting adoption of a methodology and an agreed format for Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for inscribed properties.

EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS

Decision: 32 COM 8B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add2*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 8B.24**, which recognized 'that the Sacred Site of the Temple of Preah Vihear is of great international significance and has Outstanding Universal Value on the basis of criteria (i), (iii) and (iv), and agreed in principle that it should be inscribed on the World Heritage List',
3. Having noted the progress made by the State Party of Cambodia towards the development of a Management Plan for the property, as requested by the Committee by its Decision **31 COM 8B.24** in Christchurch, New Zealand,
4. Expressing gratitude to the governments of Belgium, the United States of America, France, and India for providing support for the work of experts to assist in this effort, and to the governments of China and Japan, as well as ICCROM, for providing valuable expert input to this process,

5. Recognizing that the Joint Communiqué signed on 18 June 2008 by the representatives of the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand, as well as by UNESCO, including its draft which was erroneously referred to as having been signed on 22 and 23 May 2008 in the document WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add.2, must be disregarded, following the decision of the Government of Thailand to suspend the effect of the Joint Communiqué, pursuant to the Thai Administrative Court's interim injunction on this issue,
6. Noting that the State Party of Cambodia submitted to the World Heritage Centre the revised graphic plan of the property (RGPP) included in WHC-08/32.COM/INF.8B1.Add2 (hereinafter called "RGPP") indicating a revised perimeter of the area proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List,
7. Decides, on an exceptional basis, to accept, in view of the multilateral process leading to the elaboration of the supplementary report submitted in May 2008 by the State Party of Cambodia at the request of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the information submitted by the State Party beyond the deadline established in the paragraph 148 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Recognizes that Thailand has repeatedly expressed a desire to participate in a joint nomination of the Temple of Preah Vihear and its surrounding areas;
9. Notes that the property proposed for inscription is reduced and comprises only the Temple of Preah Vihear and not the wider promontory with its cliffs and caves;
10. Considers further that archaeological research is underway which could result in new significant discoveries that might enable consideration of a possible new transboundary nomination, that would require the consent of both Cambodia and Thailand;
11. Encourages Cambodia to collaborate with Thailand for safeguarding the value of the property, in view of the fact that peoples of the surrounding region have long treasured the Temple of Preah Vihear, and agrees that it would be desirable in the future to reflect its full values and landscape setting through a possible additional inscription to the World Heritage List that could capture criteria (iii) and (iv), which had been recognized by the Committee in its Decision **31 COM 8B.24**.
12. Inscribes the Temple of Preah Vihear, Cambodia, on the World Heritage List under **criterion (i)**;
13. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Temple of Preah Vihear, a unique architectural complex of a series of sanctuaries linked by a system of pavements and staircases on an 800 metre long axis, is an outstanding masterpiece of Khmer architecture, in terms of plan, decoration and relationship to the spectacular landscape environment.

Criterion (i): Preah Vihear is an outstanding masterpiece of Khmer architecture. It is very 'pure' both in plan and in the detail of its decoration.

Authenticity, in terms of the way the buildings and their materials express well the values of the property, has been established. The attributes of the property comprise the temple complex; the integrity of the property has to a degree been compromised by the absence of part of the promontory from the perimeter of the property. The protective measures for the Temple, in terms of legal protection are adequate; the

progress made in defining the parameters of the Management Plan needs to be consolidated into an approved, full Management Plan;

14. Requests the State Party of Cambodia, in collaboration with UNESCO, to convene an international coordinating committee for the safeguarding and development of the property no later than February 2009, inviting the participation of the Government of Thailand and not more than seven other appropriate international partners, to examine general policy matters relating to the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in conformity with international conservation standards;
15. Requests the State Party of Cambodia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, the following documents:
 - a) a provisional map providing additional details of the inscribed property and a map delineating the buffer zone identified in the RGPP;
 - b) updated Nomination dossier to reflect the changes made to the perimeter of the property;
 - c) confirmation that the management zone for the property will include the inscribed property and buffer zone identified in the RGPP;
 - d) progress report on the preparation of the Management Plan;
16. Further requests the State Party of Cambodia to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **February 2010**, for submission to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010 a full Management Plan for the inscribed property, including a finalized map.

8C UPDATE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Decision: 32 COM 8C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Following the examination of the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (*WHC-08/32.COM/7A* and *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*, *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.2*, *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add.3*),
2. Decides to **maintain** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Decision **32 COM 7A.20**)
 - Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley, (Decision **32 COM 7A.21**)
 - Azerbaijan, Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Decision **32 COM 7A.25**)

- Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.1**)
- Chile, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Decision **32 COM 7A.28**)
- Côte d'Ivoire, Comoé National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.2**)
- Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Decision **32 COM 7A.3**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Virunga National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.4**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.5**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Garamba National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.6**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo Salonga National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.7**)
- Democratic Rep. of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Decision **32 COM 7A.8**)
- Ecuador, Galápagos Islands (Decision **32 COM 7A.13**)
- Egypt, Abu Mena (Decision **32 COM 7A.15**)
- Ethiopia, Simien National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.9**)
- Germany, Dresden Elbe Valley (Decision **32 COM 7A.26**)
- India, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (Decision **32 COM 7A.12**)
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Decision **32 COM 7A.16**)
- Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City (Decision **32 COM 7A.17**)
- Islamic Republic of Iran, Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Decision **32 COM 7A.22**)
- Jerusalem, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Decision **32 COM 7A.18**)
- Niger, Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Decision **32 COM 7A.10**)
- Pakistan, Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Decision **32 COM 7A.23**)
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Decision **32 COM 7A.29**)
- Philippines, Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Decision **32 COM 7A.24**)
- Senegal, Niokolo Koba National Park (Decision **32 COM 7A.11**)
- [Serbia] Medieval monuments in Kosovo (Decision **32 COM 7A.27**)
- United Republic of Tanzania, Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (Decision **32 COM 7A.14**)
- Venezuela, Coro and its Port (Decision **32 COM 7A.30**)
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid (Decision **32 COM 7A.19**)

8D CLARIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND SIZES BY STATES PARTIES IN RESPONSE TO THE RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY

Decision: 32 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8D*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.2** and **31 COM 11A.2**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Recalls that, as decided at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) by Decision **31 COM 11A.2**, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will not be able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitation of such properties as inscribed is unclear;
4. Congratulates States Parties in the European Region and the States Parties of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia on the excellent work accomplished in the clarification of the delimitation of their World Heritage properties and thanks them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List,
5. Takes note of the clarifications of property boundaries and sizes provided by the following States Parties in the European and Arab Regions in response to the Retrospective Inventory, as presented in the Annex of Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8D*:
 - Armenia: Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin;
 - Austria: Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg; Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn; Hallstatt-Dachstein-Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape;
 - Belgium: Flemish Béguinages;
 - Bulgaria: Boyana Church; Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak; Rila Monastery; Ancient City of Nessebar;
 - Croatia: Old City of Dubrovnik; Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian; Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in the Historic Centre of Poreč;
 - Czech Republic: Historic Centre of Telč; Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora; Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape; Gardens and Castle at Kroměříž;
 - Denmark: Jelling Mounds, Runic Stones and Church; Roskilde Cathedral;
 - Egypt: Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur; Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis; Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae; Historic Cairo; Abu Mena; Saint Catherine Area;
 - Estonia: Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn;
 - Germany: Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square; Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl; Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin; Town of Bamberg;
 - Greece: Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae; Mount Athos; Medieval City of Rhodes; Archaeological Site of Mystras; Delos;
 - Hungary: Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue; Old Village of Hollókő and its Surroundings; Millenary Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma and its Natural Environment; Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (presented jointly with Slovakia);
 - Ireland: Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne; Skellig Michael;
 - Italy: Historic Centre of San Gimignano; City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto; Historic Centre of Siena; Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po

Delta; The trulli of Alberobello; Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna; Historic Centre of the City of Pienza; Residences of the Royal House of Savoy; Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico), Padua; Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto); Costiera Amalfitana; Archaeological area of Agrigento; Su Nuraxi di Barumini; Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia;

- Latvia: Historic Centre of Riga;
 - Luxembourg: City of Luxembourg: its Old Quarters and Fortifications;
 - Morocco: Medina of Marrakesh; Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou; Archaeological Site of Volubilis;
 - Poland: Cracow's Historic Centre; Historic Centre of Warsaw; Old City of Zamość; Medieval Town of Torún; Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork;
 - Portugal: Monastery of Batalha; Cultural Landscape of Sintra; Prehistoric Rock-Art Sites in the Côa Valley;
 - Romania: Danube Delta;
 - Slovakia: Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity; Spišský Hrad and its Associated Cultural Monuments; Vlkolínec; Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (presented jointly with Hungary);
 - Spain: Garajonay National Park;
 - Tunisia: Ichkeul National Park;
 - Ukraine: Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra;
 - United Kingdom: Durham Castle and Cathedral; Ironbridge Gorge; Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites; Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd; Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret's Church; Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church; Maritime Greenwich;
6. Requests the European and Arab States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in 2005, 2006 and 2007 within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all requested clarifications and documentation as soon as possible and by **1 December 2008** at the latest.

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9. DISCUSSION ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Decision: 32 COM 9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/9*

2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 9** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), which requested ICOMOS and IUCN to harmonize their reports and finalize the first compendium on Outstanding Universal Value and the inscription of proposed properties by criteria on the World Heritage List,
3. Recognizing that Outstanding Universal Value reflects values and traditions from around the world, representing natural and cultural diversity, takes note of the discussion at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008);
4. Welcomes with appreciation the work of the Advisory Bodies in preparing so far the Compendium on standards for the inscription of natural and cultural properties on the World Heritage List;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN to complete the first compendium for publication in the World Heritage Paper series, including:
 - a) an Executive Summary clearly presenting major conclusions from the report about the thresholds for Outstanding Universal Value relative to each of the criteria, and the potential implications for the World Heritage Committee of the conclusions arising from the report with recommendations;
 - b) a coordinated and integrated introduction;
 - c) a table that summarizes up to 3 landmark cases in the application of each criteria, explaining why the threshold for Outstanding Universal Value was or was not met and the implications of these cases;
 - d) in particular, guidance on comparative analysis; so as to increase its usefulness as a guide to States Parties in developing nominations;
6. Requests ICOMOS and IUCN, when appropriate, to collaborate in the evaluation of properties so as to produce single evaluation reports on cultural landscapes or mixed sites with cross referencing as required;
7. Also requests ICOMOS and IUCN, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, to finalize the second compendium, that shall cover Outstanding Universal Value with regard to debates about seeking to inscribe, or remove, properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for consideration by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to seek extra-budgetary resources to adequately finance the conclusion of the work in the above paragraphs;
9. Reinforces the rigorous, objective and consistent application of the three key tests to determine Outstanding Universal Value as set out in the *Operational Guidelines*:
 - a) the property must meet one or more of the 10 criteria (Paragraph 77);
 - b) the property must meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity (Paragraphs 79/95); and
 - c) the property must have an adequate protection and management system in place to ensure its safeguarding (Paragraph 78).

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 32 COM 10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.10*,
2. Recalling the discussion on the “Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List” at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), and the many experts reports, secretariat documents, notably the “Challenges for the Millennium”;
3. Noting that the *World Heritage Convention* is approaching its fortieth anniversary in 2012 as well as the inscription of the 1000th property to the World Heritage List;
4. Recognizing that the success and growing complexity and diversity of the *Convention* pose challenges and opportunities that could not have been fully envisaged when it came into force;
5. Considers it appropriate to reflect on the achievements of nearly forty years of heritage protection through the *Convention*;
6. Agrees that it is timely to consider how best to respond to these challenges and opportunities for the more effective implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the coming decades;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to convene, before the 33rd session in 2009, a workshop in Paris to reflect on the future of the *World Heritage Convention*, identify global strategic issues, key challenges, trends and opportunities facing the *World Heritage Convention* and develop approaches to address these issues, as well as synergies with other international instruments;
8. Welcomes the offer of Australia to co-sponsor the workshop and calls upon the World Heritage Centre to identify (an) interested State(s) Party(ies) to co-sponsor this workshop;
9. Invites World Heritage Committee members, States Parties, and Advisory Bodies to make written submissions on the issues identified in paragraph 7 above, amongst others, to assist in the establishment of the agenda and preparation of materials for the workshop, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 October 2008**;
10. Decides to consider the results of this workshop at its 33rd session in 2009 and to present a report on these issues for consideration to the next session of the General Assembly of States Parties in 2009.

10A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THEMATIC STUDIES

Decision: 32 COM 10A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/10A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **31 COM 13** and **31 COM 17** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Thanking the Government of the United Kingdom for having hosted the Science and Technology expert workshop, which took place from 21 to 23 January 2008 in London, as well as all the experts who contributed to it,
4. Noting the results and recommendations of the Science and Technology expert workshop within the framework of the Global Strategy,
5. Takes note of the progress report on the global thematic studies undertaken by ICOMOS and IUCN;
6. Requests IUCN and ICOMOS to continue to develop their work on thematic studies, in relation to priorities identified in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/10A*;
7. Noting the underfunding of this significant activity for identifying properties with or having potential Outstanding Universal Value;
8. Takes note of the need for additional resources to be provided to support priority work by ICOMOS and IUCN on thematic studies, including updating existing studies, the application of criterion VII and new initiatives, and to promote their effective use by States Parties;
9. Invites States Parties to the *Convention* to consider providing extra-budgetary assistance to support the work outlined in paragraphs 6 and 7 above;
10. Thanks the government of France for its generous offer to fund a thematic study on Agro-pastoral Cultural Landscapes.
11. Thanks the government of Spain for its generous offer to fund a thematic study on prehistoric sites;

10B. POINT OF INFORMATION ON THE PREPARATION OF SERIAL TRANSNATIONAL NOMINATIONS

Decision: 32 COM 10B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/10B*;

2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 18A** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the developing range of discussions on the nomination of serial transnational properties as a positive expression of international cooperation in line with the aims and objectives of the *World Heritage Convention*;
4. Acknowledges the need to enhance the guidance to States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre on the policies and procedures linked to the nomination and management of serial national and transnational properties;
5. Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to consult States Parties further on the issues raised in *Document WHC-08/32.COM/10B*, particularly the need to revise paragraph 137 of the *Operational Guidelines* and the challenges and benefits of serial national and transnational nominations, through a Circular Letter;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to organize an expert meeting to reflect on current and future practice and strategies for serial national and transnational nominations, taking account of the debate at the 32nd session and the input received through the Circular Letter. The meeting that takes place should address the following subjects, among others:
 - a) revision of paragraph 137 of the *Operational Guidelines*, which states that “the series as a whole – and not necessarily the individual parts of it – [must be] of Outstanding Universal Value”
 - b) the risk of damaging the credibility of the World Heritage List by including properties on it, within serial national and transnational nominations, that would not merit inscription by themselves;
 - c) the role of the World Heritage Centre in promoting and coordinating serial national and transnational nominations, and potential conflict of interest;
 - d) clarification of the ultimate objectives of promoting serial national and transnational nominations as an approach under the *Convention*;
 - e) strategies for funding the evaluation of complex serial national and transnational nominations.
 - f) issues associated with losing the identity of individual World Heritage properties when they are subsumed by a larger, serial national or transnational nomination.
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to prepare an information document for consideration at the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009, providing a list of all existing serial properties on the World Heritage List and of all the known potential future serial nominations;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to propose amendments to the *Operational Guidelines* and more detailed guidelines, if necessary, for the nomination of serial national and transnational properties, for consideration at the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009.
9. Takes note that an expert workshop is proposed for November 2008 in Vilm (Germany), which will reflect on current and future practice and strategies for nomination and management of serial transnational natural World Heritage properties, and will update the Committee on progress with this discussion at its 33rd Session in 2009.

10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to seek extrabudgetary funding to support the expert meeting referred in paragraph 6 above.

11. PERIODIC REPORTS

11A. FOLLOW UP ON THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR AFRICA

Decision: 32 COM 11A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/11A*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11C.1**, **30 COM 11F** and **30 COM 11G** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and decisions **31 COM 10**, **31 COM 11D.1**, adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Recognizing the financial and technical assistance provided by various donors for the follow-up of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Africa, in particular for the implementation of the Africa Regional programme (Africa Nature and AFRICA 2009),
4. Takes note of the progress report on the follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the Africa region;
5. Calls upon the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and all the other stakeholders involved in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage of the Africa region to establish a fund raising strategy to supplement the necessary financial resources required to implement the World Heritage Convention in Africa;
6. Recommends that States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre continue their collaboration in addressing any outstanding issues and in particular focussing on follow-up meetings and training exercises;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to launch in 2009 the second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa, and to undertake a retrospective inventory so as to determine the amount of information needed from State Parties, and also a first indication of the number of properties in need of a revision of their Statements of Outstanding Universal Value;
8. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the African Periodic Report and on the preparation for the next cycle for Africa for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

11B. FOLLOW UP ON THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR ARAB STATES

Decision : 32 COM 11B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/11B*,
2. Recalling decisions **30 COM 11C**, **31 COM 7.3** and **31 COM 11D.1**, adopted respectively at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Also recalling the need for States Parties, as stipulated in Article 5 (e) of the *World Heritage Convention*, "to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field",
4. Takes note of the information provided by the World Heritage Centre on progress accomplished in the implementation of the Regional Programme for the Arab States;
5. Encourages States Parties of the Arab region, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to continue with the implementation of the Regional Programme, especially the Action Plans adopted in Abu Dhabi in 2005, and develop them as operational national work plans;
6. Requests States Parties of the Arab region that have not yet responded to the questions raised in 2006 in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, to provide all clarifications and documentation requested before **1 December 2008**;
7. Also requests States Parties of the Arab region to revise or prepare all the missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value concerning properties situated in their territories and to submit them before **1 February 2009** for examination at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009;
8. Urges States Parties of the Arab region to participate actively in the second cycle of periodic reporting and encourages them to take this opportunity to strengthen their management capacities for World Heritage properties;
9. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide assistance to the Arab States in the preparation of the Periodic Report;
10. Warmly welcomes the proposal of the State Party of Bahrain to create a centre for the reinforcement of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Arab region, and invites it to pursue collaboration established with the World Heritage Centre, as well as the consultation with the Arab States and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) for the efficient development of the project, and encourages it to undertake a feasibility study and all necessary steps for the establishment of the centre as a Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and invites it to submit a progress report on the project to its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Takes note of the offer of the State Party of Egypt to establish a second centre in Cairo to give support to capacity building within the region;

12. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to submit the results of the Periodic Report for the Arab States to the Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

11C. FOLLOW UP ON THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR EUROPE

Decision: 32 COM 11C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/11C*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.1**, **30 COM 11A.2**, **31 COM 11A.1** and **31 COM 11.A.2** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the results of the subregional meetings on the follow-up to Periodic Reporting for "Central and Eastern Europe" (Wroclaw, Poland, September 2007) as well as for "Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe" (Corfu, Greece, April 2008), and further notes that a number of training initiatives were financed through extrabudgetary sources
4. Encourages the European States Parties to continue to submit any changes to names, criteria, boundaries and draft statements of significance/Outstanding Universal Value as soon as possible;
5. Recommends that States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre continue their collaboration in addressing any outstanding issues, in particular with focused follow-up meetings and training exercises;
6. Thanks the Greek authorities for having hosted the Mediterranean and South-Eastern European Meeting in Corfu, Greece, 18-19 April 2008, and the Spanish authorities for having organized the Iberian Meeting in Plasencia, Spain, 2-4 April 2008, and welcomes the offer of the Portuguese authorities to host a meeting for Mediterranean Europe in spring 2009;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the European Periodic Report and on the preparations for the next cycle for Europe and North America for examination by the Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

11D. FOLLOW UP ON THE PERIODIC REPORT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Decision: 32 COM 11D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/11D*,

2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 16** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), **7 EXT.COM 5E** adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and **29 COM 5** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the World Heritage Centre on the progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned Decisions for the follow-up to the Periodic Report in Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. Notes with concern the lack of progress with respect to the SIDS Programme as agreed at the 29th session of the Committee in Durban (2005);
5. Thanks the financial and technical collaboration provided by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for the follow up of the Periodic Report exercise, and encourages the SFIT to continue its efforts towards the heritage conservation;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the UNESCO regional offices and the States Parties of the region, to continue implementing the Action Plans concentrating on the priorities identified at the sub-regional workshops of 2006 and 2007, and to submit revised Action Plans covering the period 2011-2016, including a budget estimate, for the consideration of the Committee at its 34th Session in 2010;
7. Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to review operations and staffing in the UNESCO regional offices to ensure that services are provided in a coordinated manner with the World Heritage Centre, to assist the States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and the respective Action Plans;
8. Calls upon the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and all the other stakeholders involved in the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage of the region to establish a fund raising strategy to provide the necessary financial and human resources required to implement the World Heritage Action Plans;
9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to provide a detailed report on the results and follow-up of the SIDS programme for the Committee's consideration at its 33rd session in 2009.
10. Strongly encourages the States Parties, other World Heritage partners and stakeholders in the region to cooperate actively and take the necessary actions to follow up on the implementation of the Action Plans for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean in a concerted and concrete manner;
11. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to report to the Committee at its 34th session in 2010 on the implementation of the Caribbean and Latin American Action Plans.

11E. REFLECTION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NEXT CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

Decision: 32 COM 11E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/11E*,
2. Recalling Decisions **25 COM VII.25-27** adopted at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001), **7 EXT.COM 5** and **7 EXT.COM 5A.1** adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004), **29 COM 11.A** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), **30 COM 11G** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and **31 COM 11D1** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Emphasizing the pivotal importance of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in all World Heritage processes;
4. Thanks the States Parties which participated in the Field Testing of the Revised Questionnaire;
5. Congratulates the Working Group on the simplification of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire and setting up of indicators and the World Heritage Centre, for their work on the periodic reporting process, and welcomes the Revised Periodic Reporting Questionnaire (Sections I and II) and its web-based application, as presented in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.11E*, for use during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting;
6. Decides to launch the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States Region;
7. Thanks ALECSO for its offer to translate the revised Questionnaire into Arabic and requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to identify extra budgetary funding to ensure the translation of the entire second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Arab States Region into Arabic;
8. Thanks the Kingdom of Bahrain for its offer to host a workshop of States Parties in the Arab Region to launch the Periodic Reporting process in the region, and encourages other regions to conduct similar workshops on the new periodic reporting process;
9. Requests all States Parties, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to finalize all missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for properties in their territory as soon as possible, and to do so before the beginning of the second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the relevant Region;
10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue the Retrospective Inventory as the basis to prefill the Questionnaire at the outset of the second Cycle of periodic reporting in each region;
11. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to seek extrabudgetary funding for the Working Group to develop indicators for World Heritage properties and, if possible, to report on the progress made on this issue to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

SPECIAL REPORTS

12. PROTECTION OF THE PALESTINIAN CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Decision: 32 COM 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/12*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 12A** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Commends the efforts of all professionals involved in preserving the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage despite difficult conditions;
4. Regrets that the prevailing situation, besides heavily affecting the life of the communities, does not allow effective and smooth implementation of conservation programmes;
5. Urges all parties concerned with the safeguarding of the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage to take appropriate measures to prevent and avoid any damage to the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage and requests the World Heritage Centre to continue its efforts to this end, in liaison with the concerned parties;
6. Thanks the concerned States Parties, IGOs and NGOs for their substantial contributions to UNESCO's action in the Palestinian Territories and appeals to them to continue supporting this endeavour;
7. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to continue assisting the Palestinian institutions concerned in reinforcing their capacity in the protection, preservation and management of the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage;
8. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report to the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

13. REVISION OF OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 32 COM 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/13*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 16** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Takes note of the amendments compiled in the Annex of the Document *WHC-08/32.COM/13*;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to draft the amendments to the *Operational Guidelines* proposed in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/13* taking account of the debate at the 32nd session and the Committee's reflections, and in cooperation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, to develop a screening process for the *Operational Guidelines* to ensure consistent references between the different proposals for submission to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
5. Establishes an informal working group to review and propose revisions to Chapter VIII of the *Operational Guidelines*, as well as clear procedures and tools to promote consistent and appropriate use of the World Heritage emblem, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, notwithstanding Decision **31 COM 16**, to publish the updated English and French versions of the *Basic Texts of the Convention* following the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009.

14. CONTINUATION OF THE REFLECTION OF ELECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

No Decision was required under this item.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

15. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

No Decision was required under this item.

16. REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF THE 2006-2007 BUDGET AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2008-2009 BUDGET

Decision: 32 COM 16.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2006-2007 and the situation of the reserves and contributions as at 31 December 2007;

2. Also takes note of the implementation of the budget and the statement of accounts for the World Heritage Fund for 2008-2009 and the current situation of the reserves and contributions as at 31 March 2008;
3. Notes that, where possible, it is desirable that contributions by States Parties are paid by 31 March;
4. Calls upon States Parties who have not yet paid the totality of their contributions, including voluntary contributions, to do so at their earliest convenience.

Decision: 32 COM 16.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the budgetary adjustments proposed by the World Heritage Centre,
2. Authorizes the World Heritage Centre to proceed with the necessary budgetary adjustments to partially compensate the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre a total amount of USD 250,000 for the negative effects of the exchange rate between the USD and the Euro, according to the Table presented in *WHC-08/32.COM/16A*, paragraph 18, from the USD 639,577 unspent balance of the 2006-07 funds.
3. Also authorizes the World Heritage Centre to proceed with the additional budgetary revisions set out in the table below using the USD 389,577 balance of the unspent funds from 2006-07:

• Reinforced monitoring mechanism	USD 50,000
• ICOMOS Reactive monitoring	USD 120,000
• ICOMOS State of conservation reports	USD 60,000
• Monitoring missions	USD 70,000
• Periodic reports	USD 40,000
• Publishing of manuals	USD 49,577
4. Decides to reallocate the USD 90,000 in the current Budget line 1.2 “Studies and Evaluations” to support the development and publication of the resource manuals approved at the 31st session of the Committee and presented in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/18*;
5. Encourages States Parties to contribute extra-budgetary funding to support the publication of resource manuals, which play an important part in capacity building;
6. Recognizes the desirability of protecting the World Heritage Fund from the adverse effects of currency fluctuations;
7. Recommends that the General Assembly of States Parties consider paying future contributions to the World Heritage Fund using the split assessment method and percentages used for core contributions to UNESCO;
8. Strongly recommends the General Conference and the Executive Board of UNESCO to significantly increase the level of core funding to the World Heritage Centre so that

adequate funding is available to support the staff necessary to enable the World Heritage Centre to effectively meet the increasing needs of this very successful and high profile *Convention* .

Decision: 32 COM 16B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents *WHC-08/32.COM/16A* and *WHC-08/32.COM/16B*;
2. Asks the Chairperson to establish an informal working group, comprised of World Heritage Committee members, for the following purposes:
 - a) examine ways to ensure the continuity, efficiency and effectiveness of the World Heritage work and the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund in a context of increasing workload and a fixed budget, including measures to ensure adequate resourcing for the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to meet their responsibilities;
 - b) recommend measures that can be implemented by the Director General of UNESCO, by the World Heritage Committee and by the General Assembly of States Parties.
3. Requests the informal working group to submit its report to the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, with a view to presenting recommendations to the General Assembly of States Parties at its seventeenth session in 2009.

17. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2007 AUDIT

Decision: 32 COM 17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/17*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 19**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Takes note of the progress in implementing the World Heritage Committee's Decision **31 COM 19** (Christchurch, 2007);
4. Encourages the Director General of UNESCO and the Director of the World Heritage Centre to continue their efforts in implementing the remaining recommendations of the management audit;
5. Urges the Director General of UNESCO to fill the post of Deputy Director of Management as soon as possible;
6. Requests that the Committee be informed at its 33rd session in 2009 about the progress made with the implementation of its decisions on the management audit of the World Heritage Centre.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

TITLES AND COSTS FOR WORLD HERITAGE RESOURCE MANUALS

Decision: 32 COM 18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/18*,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 21B**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Endorses the revised timeline for the World Heritage Resource Manuals Series to be published in 2008/2009, including the addition of the Disaster Risk Reduction Manual, subject to availability of funding;
4. Allocates the amount of USD 49,577 from the unspent balance from the 2006-2007 budget towards the finalization and publication of the resource manual entitled *Preparing World Heritage Nominations*; and decides to reallocate the USD 90,000 in the current Budget line 1.2 "Studies and Evaluations" to support the development and publication of the resource manuals approved at the 31st session of the Committee and presented in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/18*;
5. Encourages States Parties to contribute extra-budgetary funding to support the publication of titles within the Resource Manuals Series which play an important part in capacity building;
6. Approves the proposed list of titles for future publications in the Resource Manuals Series and takes note of the indicative costs for their publication:
 - *Establishment of Tentative Lists*
 - *Monitoring World Heritage Properties*
 - *Vulnerability Assessment of World Natural and Cultural Heritage to Climate Change Impacts*
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to prepare a list of titles for the Resource Manual Series to be presented and prioritized to the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. Decides to replace and supersede Decision **31 COM 21B** (Christchurch, 2007) by Decision **32 COM 18**.

CLOSING SESSION

19. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 34th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (JUNE 2009)

Decision: 32 COM 19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its Decision **31 COM 22**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), which elected a Bureau whose mandate began at the end of its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) until the end of its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
2. Decides to elect, in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, a Bureau with the following composition:
 - a) H.E. Maria Jesus San Segundo (Spain) as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 32nd session of the Committee (Quebec City, 2008) until the end of the 33rd session of the Committee (June 2009);
 - b) Mr Antonio Ricarte (Brazil) as Rapporteur of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 32nd session of the Committee (Quebec City, 2008) until the end of the 33rd session of the Committee (June 2009);
 - c) - Australia
- Barbados
- Kenya,
- Tunisia, and
- United States of America
as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 32nd session of the Committee (Quebec City, 2008) until the end of the 33rd session of the Committee (June 2009);
3. Also decides that the Bureau of the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (June/July 2010) will be elected at the end of the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (June 2009) in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee;

20. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 33RD SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 32 COM 20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/20*,

2. Decides that its 33rd session will take place in Seville (Spain) in June 2009;
3. Adopts the following provisional Agenda for the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009:

OPENING SESSION

1. Opening session
2. Observer status
 - 2A Requests for Observer Status
 - 2B Amendment to the Rules of Procedure concerning 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 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec City, 2008)
5. Reports of the World Heritage Centre
 - 5A. Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions
 - 5B. Report on World Heritage and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) programme
 - 5C. World Heritage Convention and main multilateral environmental agreements
6. Progress reports on Funding initiatives
 - 6A Progress report on the African World Heritage Fund
 - 6B Progress report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund

EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION

7. Examination of the State of conservation of World Heritage properties
 - 7.1 Proposal for the preparation of a new recommendation relating to Historic Urban Landscapes
 - 7.2 Report on the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism

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

7C Reflection on the trends of the State of Conservation

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8. Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger

8A Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2009, in conformity with the Operational Guidelines

8B Nominations to the World Heritage List

8C Update of the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger

8D Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes by States Parties in response to the Retrospective Inventory

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9. Discussion on Outstanding Universal Value

10. Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

10A Serial transnational nominations

10B Global training strategy

10C Thematic studies

PERIODIC REPORTS

11. Periodic Reports

11A Follow up on the Periodic Report for the Arab States

11B Follow up on the Periodic Report for Asia and the Pacific

SPECIAL REPORTS

12. Protection of the Palestinian cultural and natural heritage

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

- 13. Revision of the Operational Guidelines
- 14A. Reflection on the future of the World Heritage Convention
- 14B. Report by the Chairperson of the Working Group on the election of the members of the World Heritage Committee

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- 15. International Assistance
- 16. Report on the execution of the 2008-2009 Budget and adoption of the 2010-2011 Budget
- 17. Other business

CLOSING SESSION

- 18. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (June-July 2010)
- 19. Provisional Agenda of the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (June-July 2010)
- 20. Adoption of Decisions
- 21. Closing ceremony

21. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

22. CLOSING CEREMONY