
World Heritage

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-sixth session

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation 24 June – 6 July 2012

**DECISIONS ADOPTED FOR PANAMA BY THE WORLD
HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 36TH SESSION (SAINT-
PETERSBURG, 2012)**

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

Decision: 36 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.29, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes the examples of transboundary cooperation in management planning, in addressing the requests of the World Heritage Committee, and in carrying out field missions;
4. Regrets that the State Party of Panama was unable to invite a reactive monitoring mission to the property, as requested in Decision 35 COM 7B.29;
5. Expresses its serious concern about the State Party of Panama's stated intent to complete the Bonyic dam without prior consideration of the results of the on-going Strategic Environmental Assessment, and requests the State Party of Panama to put in place adequate mitigation measures at the CHAN-75 and Bonyic dams to overcome barriers to the movement of aquatic species along the affected waterways, and to also put in place an effective and long term monitoring programme to measure the extent to which mitigation measures are effective;
6. Also requests the States Parties to submit a copy of the Strategic Environmental Assessment to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is completed;
7. Expresses its concern over the absence of progress in developing and implementing a systematic approach regarding the cattle in the property, and in the unresolved situation concerning the remaining mineral exploration permits in Costa Rica, and further requests the States Parties to address these issues;
8. Requests furthermore that both States Parties jointly invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, prior to its 37th session in 2013, which should assess the threats posed by ongoing dam construction in Panama, existing and further potential dam developments, mining in Costa Rica, the planned road project to traverse the property from Boquete to Bocas del Toro, and the effects of cattle in the property, and to make a recommendation on the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Requests moreover both States Parties of Costa Rica and Panama to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2013, a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, including on the halting of dam construction that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, a report on progress on the transboundary dam Strategic Environmental Assessment project, a report on progress achieved in resolving land tenure and land use issues, as well as on the other points raised above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013, with a view to consider, if the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value is confirmed, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

REFERENCE

Decisions report – 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) page 80-81

33. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138 rev)

Decision: 36 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.33, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision 35 COM 7B.33;
4. Takes note that it is unclear whether the Management Plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection has been finalized and adopted as previously urged by the World Heritage Committee in Decision 35 COM 7B.33, and considers that the property's lack of management capacity, if not addressed, is likely to negatively affect its Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Requests the State Party to urgently confirm the status of the Management Plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection, and to report on its progress in undertaking an independent Management Effectiveness Evaluation in order to inform the effective implementation of the Management Plan and fishing regulations for both Coiba National Park and its Special Protection Zone;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement a coastal zone development and conservation policy in order to ensure that cumulative coastal zone development impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value are effectively addressed, and encourages the State Party to develop this policy on the basis of a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the coastal zone's development potential;
7. Notes that the State Party did not submit a revised International Assistance Request for the removal of cattle from Coiba Island, and urges the State Party to re-submit a revised request in line with the recommendations made by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN at the time of submission;
8. Welcomes the State Party's submission of a revised retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and also urges the State Party to submit a final version within the framework of the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Latin America and the Caribbean;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2013, a report on the state of conservation of the property, and on the progress made on the issues mentioned above, including increased fishing pressures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

REFERENCE

Decisions report – 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) page 82-83

**102. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobello-San Lorenzo
(Panama) (C 135)**

Decision: 36 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.129, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2010),
3. Notes the limited implementation of activities being carried out by the State Party with regards to the fragile state of conservation of the property;
4. Reiterates its deep concern regarding the state of conservation of the property, in particular the significant and accelerated degradation of the historic fabric which directly impacts its Outstanding Universal Value, and the lack of significant progress made in addressing the decay conditions of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to finalize the processes related to the establishment of boundaries, buffer zones and the related regulations of the two components of the inscribed property, and to submit them within the Retrospective Inventory process of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region;
6. Considers that the State Party has not complied with all the requests expressed by previous World Heritage Committee Decisions, and that therefore the property is in danger in conformity with Chapter IV.B of the Operational Guidelines and decides to inscribe the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobello-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Adopts the following Desired state of conservation for the property, for its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - a) The approval and full implementation of an emergency plan, a comprehensive assessment of structural and mechanical risks, preventative conservation strategy and maintenance measures at San Lorenzo and Portobello,
 - b) National laws and policies for the conservation of built heritage at San Lorenzo and Portobello defined and in place,
 - c) Long-term consolidation and conservation through annual plans for the components of the inscribed property ensured,
 - d) The operational and participatory management system, including its related public use plan, approved and implemented,
 - e) The Management Plan fully integrated within territorial and urban development plans,
 - f) Encroachments and urban pressure adequately controlled,
 - g) The boundaries and buffer zone of all component parts of the World Heritage property precisely clarified,

h) Budgets for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the management structures and conservation measures secured;

8. Also adopts the following corrective measures and the timeframe for their implementation:

a) To be carried out immediately (by September 2012-March 2013)

(i) Risk assessment completed for all structures and built materials, and an Emergency Plan for all the components of the property in coherence with the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission and defined timeframe and phasing for their implementation finalized,

(ii) Operational management arrangements and budgets for its implementation ensured,

(iii) Budgets for the implementation of the Emergency Plan (first stage) secured,

(iv) Encroachments and urban pressure adequately controlled and reforestation undertaken,

(v) Technical Office in Portobelo to secure the implementation of the conservation measures and management arrangements set up and functioning,

b) To be carried out within one year (by September 2013)

First phase of the Emergency Plan implemented:

Protection

(i) Boundaries and buffer zones for each of the component parts of the property defined,

(ii) Regulatory measures for the established buffer zones for controlling development and addressing existing threats finalized and approved,

(iii) Monitoring indicators as a tool to assess the state of conservation of the fortified built heritage put in place,

Management and Planning

(iv) Development of a Management Plan begun,

(v) Awareness raising activities within the local communities to identify opportunities for eco and cultural tourism to contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the surrounding communities undertaken in full coherence with the conservation measures for the property,

c) To be carried out within two years (by September 2014):

Second Phase of the Emergency Plan implemented Protection

(i) National laws and policies for the conservation of built heritage at San Lorenzo and Portobelo developed,

Management and planning

(ii) Management Plan for the property, including scheduled and costed provisions for conservation, preventative conservation and maintenance of built heritage, public use, and risk management finalized, approved and adopted,

(iii) Management, territorial and urban development plans integrated,

(iv) Annual conservation plans for each of the components of the inscribed property developed and in place,

d) To be carried out within two-three years (by September 2015):

(i) Implementation of the Emergency Plan completed,

(ii) Operational management arrangements and budgets for the continued implementation of the approved Management Plan secured;

9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a financial estimation of the costs associated with the implementation of each of the corrective measures, and invites the State Party to consider a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for technical support ;

10. Also urges the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as other relevant bodies, to cooperate with the State Party to implement the adopted corrective measures;

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2013, 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 37th session in 2013.

REFERENCES

Decisions report – 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) page 140-142

103. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panamá) (C 790bis)

Decision: 36 COM 7B.103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.130, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Reiterates its deep concern regarding the state of conservation of the property, in particular unaddressed issues including the efficacy of the management system, the risk of collapse of historic buildings in the Historic Centre and the potential impacts related to the Cinta Costera project;
4. Also recalls the report provided by the reactive monitoring mission of October 2010, and notes that the critical issues have not been comprehensively and sustainably addressed, and that some of the recommendations were discarded;
5. Also notes that the actions requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session on legal improvements and management issues are still in the planning phase, and requests the State Party to undertake as a matter of urgency, the implementation of the following actions:
 - a) Revise the draft Law as to reinforce the role of the institutions responsible for World Heritage protection in the decision-making process for any intervention at the World Heritage property,
 - b) Officially submit a comprehensive and legally-supported policy for the protection of the property and buffer zone, including the maritime area and the related enforcement of their regulatory measures,
 - c) Improve coordination on the decision-making process between the Directorate of Cultural Heritage and the Patronato of Panama Viejo to ensure the appropriate measures for the preservation of both components of the property,
 - d) Submit three printed and electronic copies of the updated Management Plan;
6. Welcomes the fact that work on the viaduct has not yet begun, in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 35th session;
7. Further notes that the State Party has not fully complied with the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision 35 COM 7B.130 and considers that the continuation of the Cinta Costera III Maritime Viaduct project should be the subject of an impact study as to its Outstanding Universal Value, under the currently inscribed criteria;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit an updated version of the Management Plan according to the requirements made by the Committee in its Decision 35 COM 7B.130, as well as a comprehensive urban transportation traffic strategy, including alternative options for Cinta Costera III;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2013, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

REFERENCE

Decisions report – 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) page 143-144