

Name of World Heritage property State Party ID number

Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95bis)

Date of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1979; (Extension: 1994)

Inscription Criteria:

(i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1991–1998

**REPORT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION ADOPTED AT THE
44TH SESSION (Fuzhou, 2021) OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, REGARDING
THE OLD CITY OF DUBROVNIK**

This report has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia in accordance with the decision of the World Heritage Committee (44 COM 7B.42), for the state of conservation of the World Heritage site – Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95bis), adopted at the 44 session of the World Heritage Committee held in Fuzhou, China.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The Conservation Plan for the City of Dubrovnik comprises two parts: for the area of the Historic Core of Dubrovnik and for the contact zone area. Following the expansion of the contact zone as the world heritage site in 2017, the Conservation Plan for the inclusion of the new contact zone was set as a priority since not all the contact zone area has the status of the cultural property, on one side, and it has been under the highest pressure of development projects that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the world heritage, on the other. The production of the Conservation Plan for the Historic Core of Dubrovnik started by thematic analyses of the area as well as collection and analysis of the archival records and cartographic material. The Conservation Plan for the Historic Core is developed based on the new methodology stipulated in 2022.

The Management Plan was adopted in April 2021. It is the key document of the overall system of sustainable development and use of the cultural heritage site and its contact zone. The Institute for the Restoration of Dubrovnik is the main coordinator of the implementation of the Management Plan and it started with meeting of the formal and legal requirements for setting up the legal framework and establishing a stable management structure. The risk management as one of the six strategic activities of the Management Plan defines the following activities as the Action Plan main activities: Prepare the preparedness and risk management plan, monitor implementation of the measures, strengthen capacities and the knowledge base related to the earthquake risk, continuous education on risks, and integrate measures of adjustment to climate changes.

The impact of tourism as the most important economic sector in the City of Dubrovnik on the quality of living of the local population and the condition of the cultural heritage is in the focus of the communal services and other relevant institutions. Therefore, in the past couple of years strategic documents have been produced aiming at the sustainable and responsible management of the city. The Study of Sustainable Tourism Development and Carrying Capacity of the City of Dubrovnik with the relevant action plan covers the topic of the carrying capacity of Dubrovnik as a tourist destination. According to the Study results, the maximum number of visitors in the Historical Core of the City of Dubrovnik should not exceed 8,000. Although, this number could exceptionally be increased to 10,000 visitors using a better pedestrian traffic regulation.

Since a contemporary interpretation of the world heritage site is required, the Action Plan of the Management Plan foresees creation of a World Heritage Centre, as a network of spaces within the City of Dubrovnik that perform various functions in order to ensure the interpretation, education and research together with strengthening of capacities of the local community. It is a priority to prepare a comprehensive strategy to ensure that this activity is well prepared. Prompted by a recommendation by the UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the Old City of Dubrovnik a *Project of Marking the Protected Objects in the City of Dubrovnik* has been developed. The project includes the use of smart technology, which would enable provision of more comprehensive information and fun facts about the historic sites within the Old Core.

The Orlando's Column as the famous monument at a prominent location in the City and one of the symbols of Dubrovnik has been severely damaged. A team of experts assigned to determine the approach to the problem of restoration of the Orlando's Column comprising the representatives and professionals of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, City of Dubrovnik, the Croatian Conservation Institute, the Institute for the Restoration of Dubrovnik and Faculty of Civil Engineering of the University of Zagreb, included in its work the experts from ICCROM. Following the three-year period of monitoring the condition of the construction and interpretation of the results of the research implemented so far, the team of experts concluded that the future interventions should

focus on carrying out the conservation and restoration activities *in situ*. This intervention will include the repair of damages and filling the cracks, then release of the force of the central support installed during the restoration in 2007. The beginning of the restoration is planned for 2023, and the main works should be carried out in 2024.

The problem of cleaning and restoration of the sewer system of the Dubrovnik historic core originating from the 14th and 15th century and its adjustment to the contemporary needs is one of the top priorities of the City of Dubrovnik. According to the analysis of the condition of the sewers, the sewers are filled with sludge up to 2/3 of their profile, which causes clogging, and poses risk of washing away the surface and possible collapse of the system. The restoration of the main sewers in the main streets of Stradun and Prijeko were identified as priorities. The technical solution of the Project of Restoration of the Historic Sewer System developed for the first section in the east part of the main street – Stradun was assessed as acceptable by the conservation service since it accepted all conservation guidelines. On one hand, the project ensures restoration and preservation of an object of historic importance, and on the other, it enables continuous utilisation of the vital sewer system of the city core without destroying the original structure. The main principle of the planned intervention includes installation of half-round gutter in the lower part of the old sewer. In the future, proper maintenance of this gutter will be possible or its replacement by another solution, all without destroying the original system. The work in all project phases will be performed under the continuous archaeological supervision and regularly documented.

The expansion of the village of Bosanka on the slopes of the Mount Srđ in the vicinity of Dubrovnik that is a part of the Urban Development Plan of the City is currently at a standstill because of comprehensive changes and amendments of the main urban development documents of the City of Dubrovnik that are being implemented for the purpose of compliance with the guidelines of recently prepared Conservation Plan for the contact zone of the world heritage site. The Conservation Plan recommends removal of a part of the building area specified by the valid Master Urban Development Plan. The acceptable building area will be defined in accordance with the key criterion for protection of the landscape of the Srđ slopes and view from the main vantage points from the world heritage sites.

The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the City of Dubrovnik signed a Cooperation Agreement and agreed on the cooperation regarding the preservation and protection of the cultural heritage of Dubrovnik by responsible tourism management for the benefit of both the local people and visitors. By including key local and international stakeholders and as a part cooperation in the destination management in accordance with the sustainable tourism criteria, activities are planned that are harmonised with the Respect the City Project and goals of improving the sustainable tourism principles in the City of Dubrovnik. The cooperation continued in 2022 by intensive communication on specifying the Berthing Policy. Within the partnership with City of Dubrovnik, CLIA sponsored the destination assessment implemented by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) based on the criteria set by the UN for sustainable tourism and destination management. The City of Dubrovnik achieved an excellent result. Additionally, issues were identified that should be taken into consideration in order to manage the destination in a more sustainable manner.