

Republic of Tajikistan

Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
A. Donish History, Archaeology and Ethnographic
Institute

Penjikent Archaeological Base
Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm

SARAZM



MANAGEMENT PLAN

(2006 – 2010)

November, 2005



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This management plan was prepared by :

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With the involvement of :
(See list page 4)

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Solechzoda Tourdiev, Penjikent administration, responsible for Culture
Sultanova Dilnavoza, Chief of Jamoat (commune) for Sarazm
Mahmoudov Ruziboi, Architect of Penjikent city
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Amzaev Azam, Chief of Sharibnazar village,
Bektemirov Mouhidin, Chief of Avazali village
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Mr. Achurali Taïkonov, villager, who made the discovery of the site possible when in 1997, he discovered a bronze pick in his field and let Dr. Isakov know about it.

Late Dr. A.I. Isakov (late), Archaeologist, who undertook the first archaeological researches at Sarazm.

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PART I

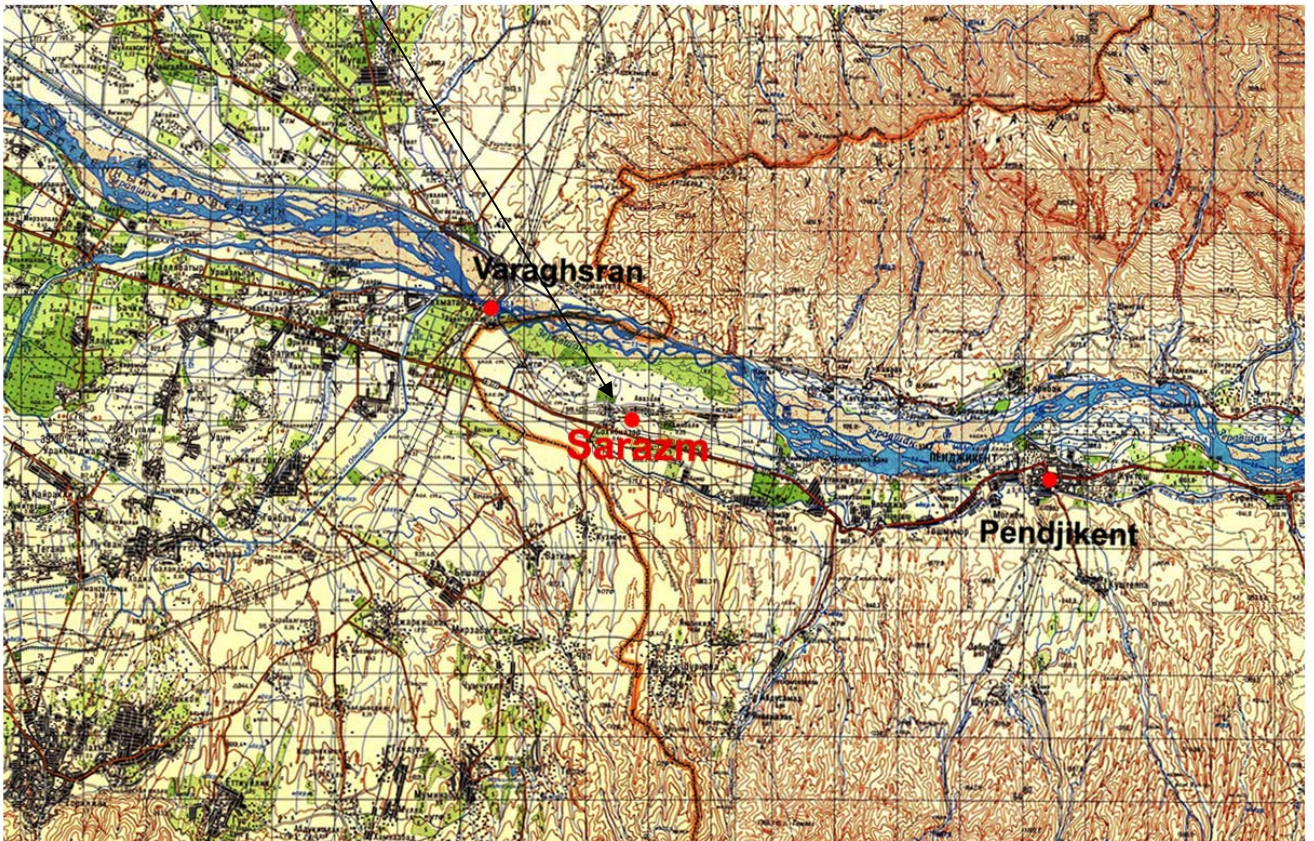
CURRENT SITUATION



LOCATION



SARAZM



1 - HISTORY OF SARAZM

1.1. Development of Sarazm

The proto-urban settlement of Sarazm dates back from the early Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, from around 3500 to probably about 2000 BC. The original Chalcolithic core town of the mid 4th millennium BC could have been established on an earlier late Neolithic village, still to be found.

From a geographic point of view, Sarazm is located in a very strategic place, just between a mountainous zone and a large valley area, one being favourable to cattle grazing, the other to agriculture and farming. Rich fields of the top of the hills could also be used for cattle-breeding. The proximity of the "tugais" (jungles) in the flood-lands of Zaravshan also allowed harvesting and hunting activities. In addition, both south and north mountains sides of the Zaravshan valley possess natural geological resources, including those that allow bronze processing.

These geographic conditions were suitable for an encounter of the nomadic shepherds of the mountains and the agrarian populations of Transoxiane (region between the Syr Daria and Amou Daria). Those populations, which practised complementary activities, could interact in Sarazm where sophisticated metallurgical production started to develop, as well as other industries (pottery, stone processing, shoe making,...).



zharavshan river and the mountains

At the turn of the IV- III millennium BC, Sarazm started to be an important centre for interregional exchange on long distances (export tin particularly). The settlement became a major crossroad, both on the major East-West axis made by the course of the Zaravshan, and on the North-South one.

Most particularly, this last one made Sarazm become an important centre in Central Asia. All main river corridors that allow crossing the impervious westernmost extensions of the Pamir-Alaj massive, the parallel ridges of the Turkestan mountains to the North and the Zeravshan to the South, merge at Sarazm best that anywhere else. The town occupies the most strategic location to combine all directions:

- To the south of Sarazm the main route opens directly following the gentle slope of the Murchab Say up to the town of Cep, now in Uzbekistan, and from here following the slightly more steep clime of the Akdarya back into Tajikistan territory and 20 km down to the town of Farab on the Karadarya headwaters. From here the river opens an easy westward alleyway through Karshi and Merv into Iran, or southward across the Darbent Iron Gates into the Surkhandarya and hence to Bactria and southern Afghanistan on the way to the Indus. An alternative route to the South moves out of Sarazm to follow upstream the southern shore of the Zeravshan moving beyond Penjikent to follow the climber the left affluent towards Dushanbe to reach the upper course of the Amudarya from the headwaters of the Kafirnigan and Kyzyl Su.

- To the North two main alleyways merge in Sarazm. To the West the Ustrushana highway connects with the Syrdarya outflanking the Turkestan mountains around their western front, after crossing the Steppe of Famine and the Gates of Timurlane at Jizzak; to the East again along the Zeravshan upper course till the Ayni and from where it turns northwards to reach directly Ferghana through the Sharistan Pass, an important section of the Silk Road in historical times, the only possible way from Upper Central Asia to bypass Samarqand on the way to India.

Therefore Sarazm was at the origin of a major turn in the history of the region. It was a centre where people developed many complementary activities with plural economy, based on agriculture and cattle-breeding on one side, and processing of mineral resources of close-located regions from another. This allowed new developments that entailed many social changes and most particularly the beginning of specialisation for the production of goods, the formalisation of trade, the association of social classes and finally, the urbanization with the creation of a complex settlement with sophisticated architectural achievements for the period.

Investigation at Sarazm significantly widens our conception of horizons of ancient civilizations, and crossing of different trade links. Contact between Sarazm and ancient agricultural centres of Mesopotamia, Iran, Baluchistan, and Afghanistan are clearly established, the main probable reason being Sarazm's position as one of the major metallurgical centres of Central Asia.

As it appears so far, trades with distant regions in the Near East (Mesopotamia, Elam, Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchistan) were carried out through intermediaries. The underlying local culture, the waves of migration from southern Turkmenistan, and the close relations with many other regions, all combined to form and develop the culture of Sarazm.

Between the middle and the end of the third millennium BC, it seems that Sarazm declined. No traces of occupation have been found on the site for the direct following periods, and it seems that shepherds once again inhabited the area. The reasons for the abandon of Sarazm by its inhabitants have not yet been identified. Hypothesis include migration of the population, epidemic disease, attack of this prosperous settlement which wasn't fortified, ..., but none could really be verified.

1.2. The rebirth of Sarazm

Abandoned for thousand years, the site was re-discovered in 1976 by Mr. Achurali Taikonov, villager, who found some objects, which appeared at the surface of a newly cultivated field, and more specifically an impressive bronze axe. He was so impressed that he immediately presented this find to professor A. Isakov who was the head of the Archaeological base of Penjikent.

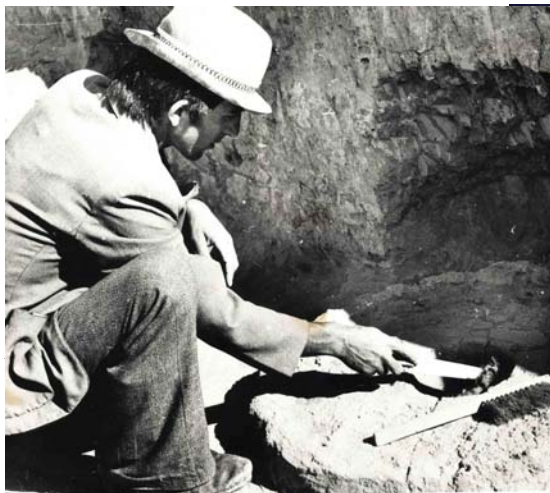


Sarazm, re-discovered by Mr. Achurali Taikonov (right), in 1976. Professor A. Isakov (left)



Following that discovery, discussions were held with the representatives of the population and the expansion of agricultural activities in the zone was stopped to preserve the underground remains of Sarazm.

This was the beginning of an interesting collaboration between archaeologists and the local population and the site was methodologically excavated since 1979.



Dr. Abdurauf Razzokov



Professor. A.I. Isakov

In that regard, It must be noticed that a significant quantity of accidental finds, collected on different parts of the settlement, primarily from private plots were given to the archaeological base by the local inhabitants. Till today, villagers are naturally bringing their finds to the Sarazm archaeological base.

In 2001, the site was inscribed as a national monument and was established as a mark of the Tajik national identity. Since then the conservation of the site and its promotion as a national concern, major efforts continue to be done to ensure that the site is properly used for educational and tourism purposes.



2 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT SARAZM

2.1. the successive campaigns

1. The largest investigations were held in 1977-1994 under supervision of A. I. Isakov. 11 excavations were undertaken as well as 20 prospecting digs. (Penjikent Archeological Base of the History, Archeology and Ethnographic Institute, A. Donish, Academy of Science of Republic of Tajikistan.)
2. One of the excavations (VII) was investigated from 1984 till 1991 by a French Archaeological Mission (CNRS) under supervision of R. Besenval. The expedition was composed of the following persons :
Henry-Paul Franckfort, Anne B. Lyonnet and Michèle Cazanova - archaeologists,
Fabien Cespron – Geologist/ mineralogist, John Dess - paleo-zoologist, J. Vilkoš - paleo-botanist.
In 1985, this team was joined by K.K. Lamberg-karlovski, professor of Harvard university, and professor Philippe. Kohl.
3. In 2000, the Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm was created according to the resolution of the government of the Republic of Tajikistan of September, 21 2000, N° 391
4. Since 2002 archaeological investigations at Sarazm are conducted by the staff of Sarazm base, at a limited scale. A recent campaign in 2005 has permitted to explore a 12th archaeological trench (8 x 8m) which was covered with shelters and partially back-filled.



International archaeological teams exhibiting their findings at Sarazm

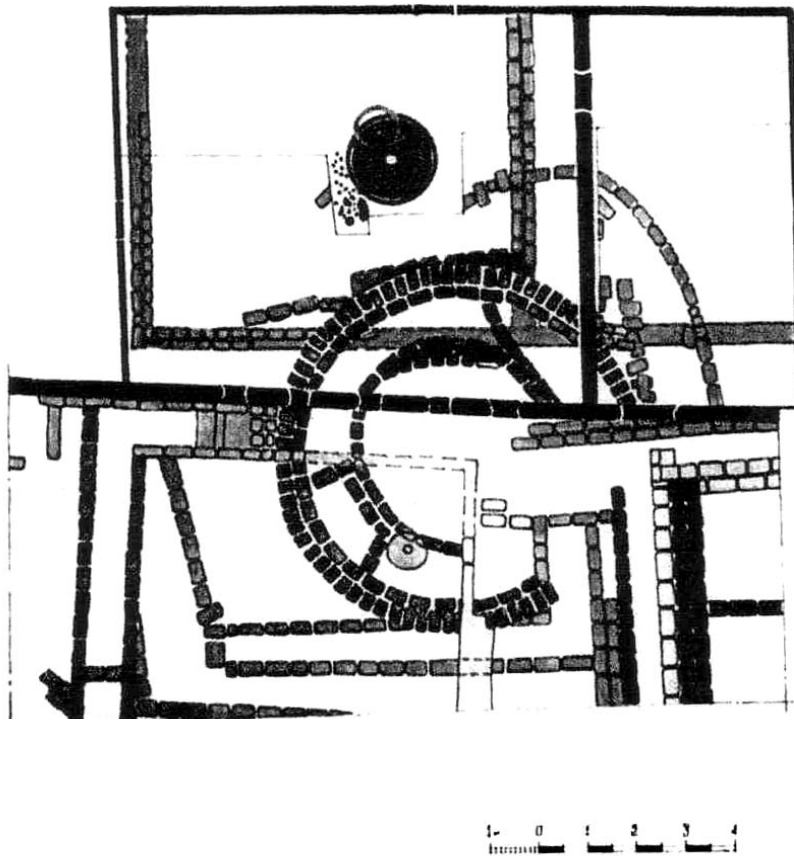
2.2. Overall view of the findings

Stratigraphy

Four stratigraphic horizons have been found at Sarazm, corresponding to at least four successive periods of occupation on continuous occupation, spreading from the mid fourth to the late third millennium BC. Those are more or less known and understood, depending on their level of erosion and the material found.

The less investigated are the one corresponding to period I - (on some excavations it is not represented, and on others to a very limited extent, due to the necessity to save upper structures), and period IV, partially destroyed by agricultural works. Periods II and III, are best represented in remains that are visible today. Approximate dates for the four periods are:

- Period I : 3500 - 3300 BC
- Period II : 3200 - 2900 BC
- Period III : 2900 - 2700 BC
- Period IV : 2700 - 2000 BC



Plan and photograph of Excavation N°V showing the different stratigraphic horizons

Architecture

Buildings remains are numerous at Sarazm. They comprise housing, workshops for craftsmen, storage (granaries), as well as palatial and cult buildings. All are mainly built with earth-brick (adobe) that allowed flexibility in the architecture with a variety of uses, sizes and shapes. River stones were also used but only during the last period of occupation and mostly for the construction of the wall bases.

Roofs were “flat” with wooden beams, covered by a network of branches and reeds supporting one or several layers of earth. There were doors and windows with sometimes clear complex systems, proving a mastership in the implementation of ventilation and lighting devices.



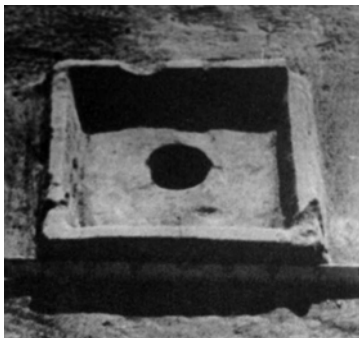
Views of the mud-bricks structures

Residential areas

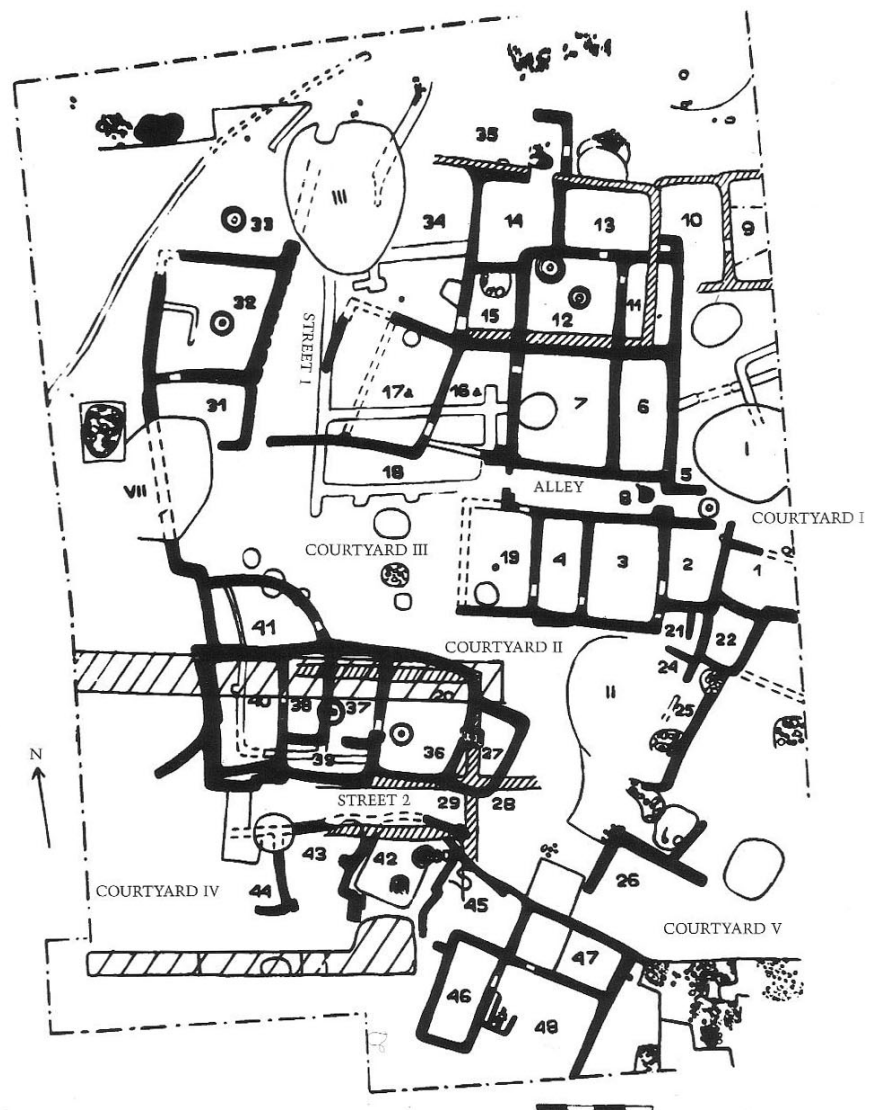
Multi-rooms complexes are very frequent for all periods of occupation. They comprise living areas with adjoining storerooms, workshops, kitchens, and outbuildings. Most of them possess a fenced courtyard in which crafts activities were undertaken. Several related families living together occupied those residential complexes. The placement of those dwelling complexes determined the layout of the residential tracts and the overall population distribution.

They were separated by squares and large or narrow streets, as well as un-built areas for the cattle. Water reservoirs were also present inside the settlements.

Inside the rooms, cult functions corresponding to the period II were carried out in small domestic sanctuaries with hearths-altars in the middle. Starting from period III the sanctuaries became larger and they began to contain square altars along with the round ones. In some cases the sanctuaries were built separately from the dwelling houses (e.g. excavations IV and IX). The walls of cult buildings were often reinforced by buttresses (inside and outside) and generally covered with red or polychrome paintings.



Different types of domestic altars



Plan of excavated area II, with complex superposition of structures.

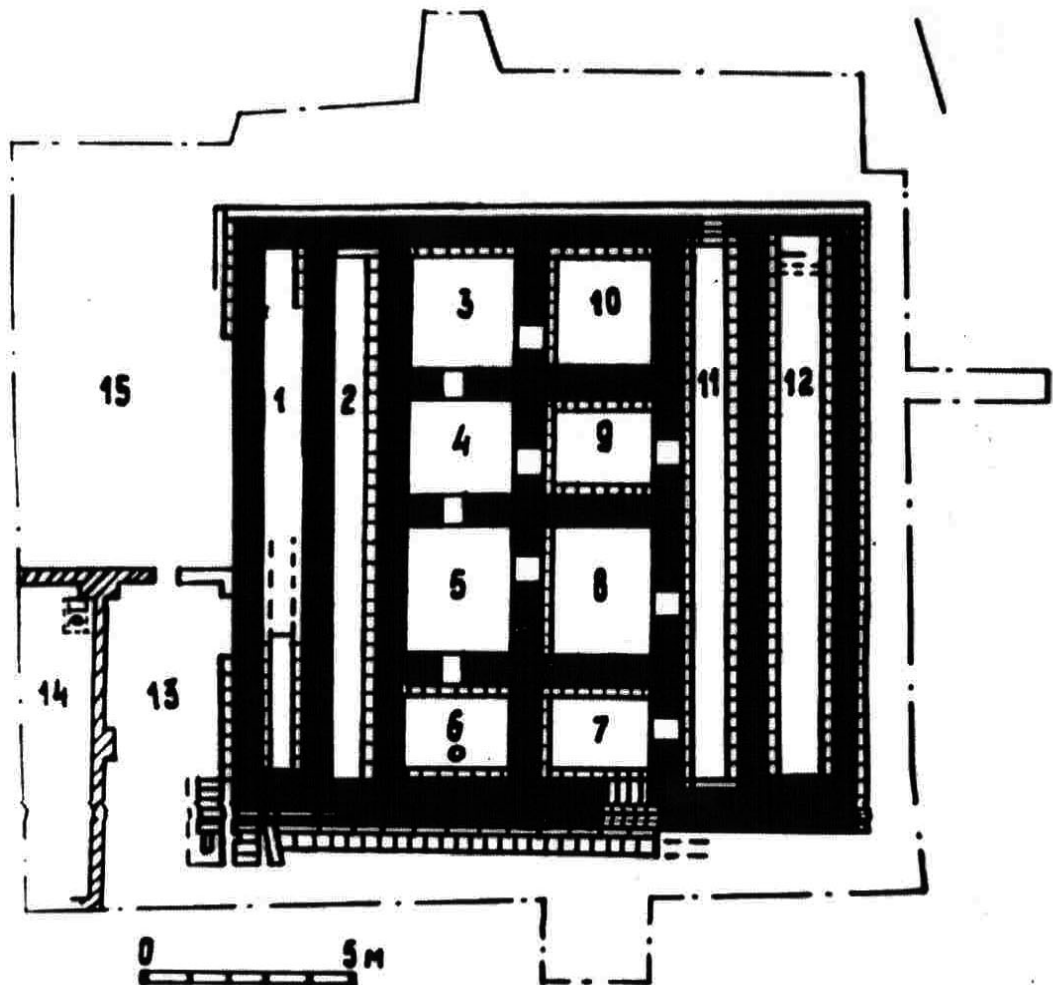
Monumental buildings

Three types of monumental structures, characteristic of the development of the proto-urban culture of the ancient East were discovered in Sarazm: .

A religious building (excavation IV). A 128 m² religious building consisting of four rooms, two of those which are equipped with rectangular altars.

A palatial complex (excavation V). The Palace is a complex measuring 16 x 16.5 meters overall and consisting of six rooms of different sizes and a rather narrow entrance corridor.

A communal granary (excavation III). This monumental building with an area of 15 x 15 meters was built on a platform 0,75 meters above the external level and comprises twelve rooms. Three of them are long corridors, enclosed on all sides, which were probably used to store grains. The other rectangular rooms had residential functions



Раскоп III. План зернохранилища.
Excavation III. Plan of granary.

Burials

No large necropolis has yet been found at Sarazm, but excavation IV led to the discovery of a funerary enclosure with a round plan (15 m in diameter) surrounded by a stone wall. (see general plan of the excavation IV).



A burial site with a woman, a man and an adolescent was the central element. On the woman's skeleton and around it, several thousands of various beads were found (from burned steatite, lapis lazuli, cornelian, turquoise and silver), which were used for decoration of clothes or simply to cover her body, and her hair was decorated by 49 massive gold beads. Her hands were adorned with bracelets made of seashells originated from the Indian Ocean which proves direct or indirect relationships with populations of the Hindus valley.

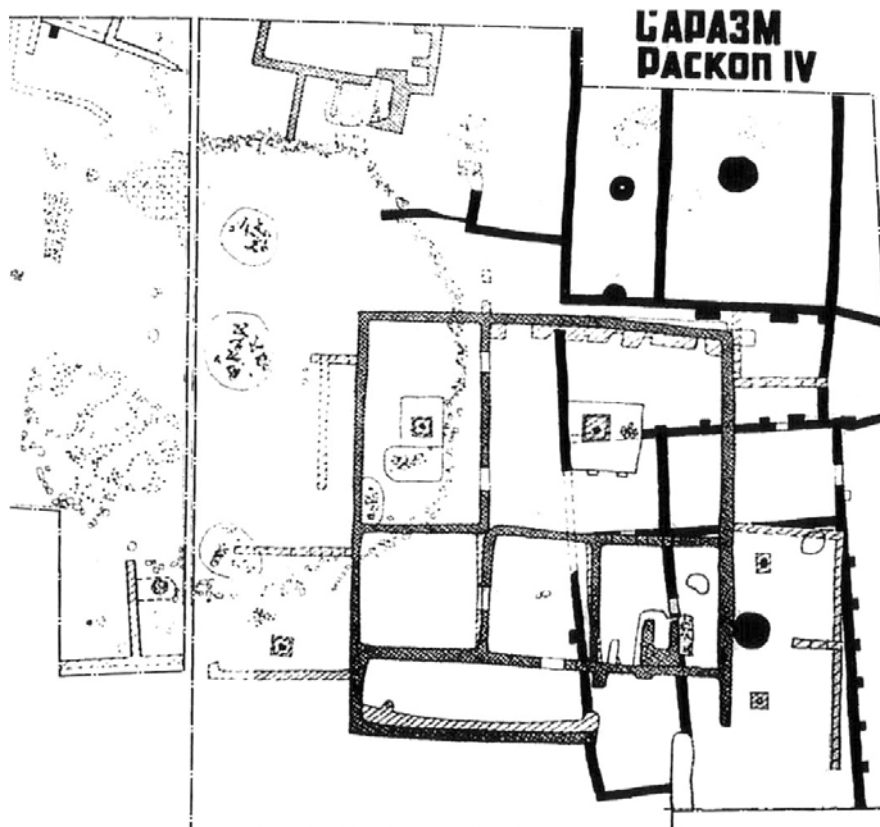
The bracelets of the "great lady" are made from the shells of *Turbinella pyrum* L., the Sanskrit *_anka*, the most important ritual shell in the Hindu religion, extensively worked for bracelets and trumpets in India since the 4th millennium BC. These mollusks live only in the tropical waters between the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Bengal where they are still

harvested today. However it is rather interesting to notice that the pair of bracelets from Sarazm is from an even earlier period than any of those so far found in India.

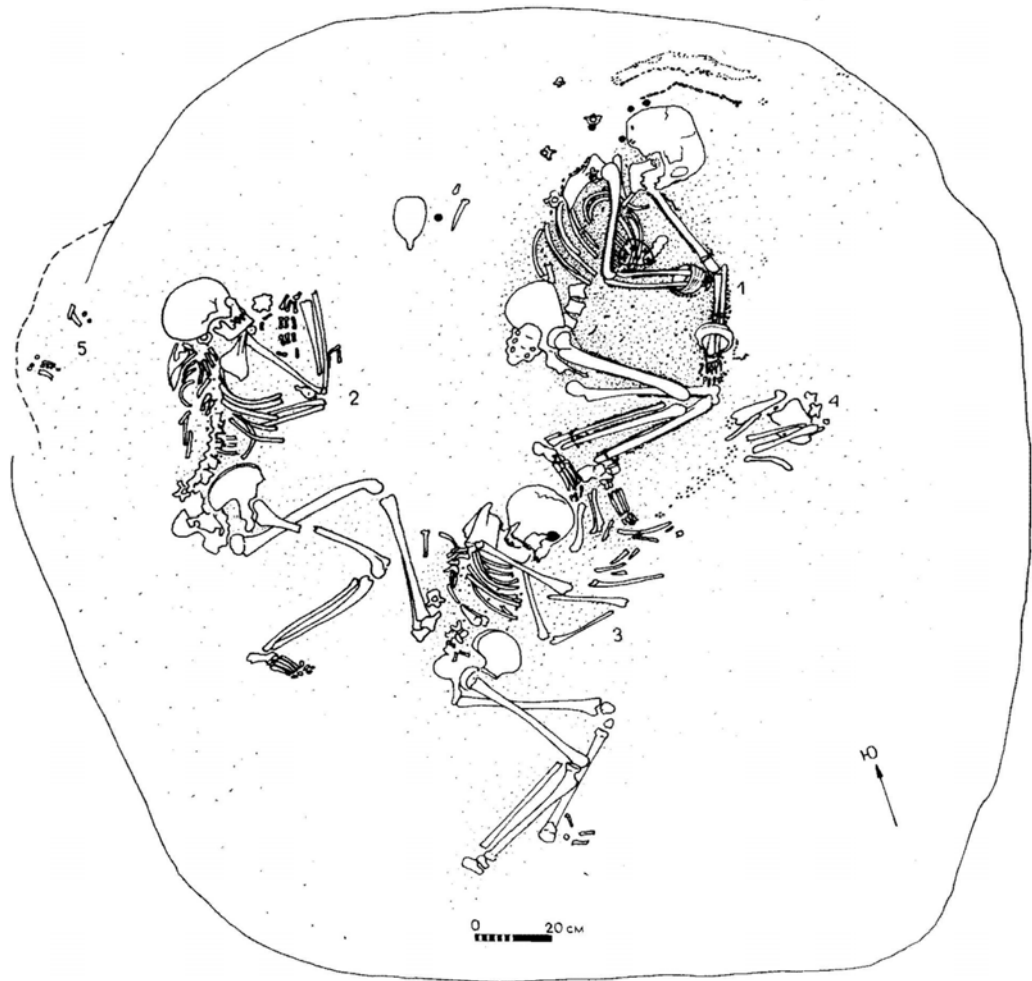
The accompanying artefacts also included a bronze mirror, bone awl, and two small schematic women's figures. The necropolis comprises four other burials (individual and double).

This necropolis has similarities with those corresponding to the southern settled agricultural cultures, and the stone fence recalls associations with burial customs corresponding to the steppe zones of Eurasia.

All these findings reinforce the idea that since its first period, Sarazm had direct or indirect relationships with many other populations from the north, west and south.



General plan of the excavation IV



Excavation IV, central burial with the "lady of Sarzam"

Artefacts / Workshops for production

The numerous findings - ceramics, metallic, stone, bone and other wares of high quality for the period- are the evidence of the high level of the development of various specialized productions in Sarazm.

More than 150 metal artefacts (bronze: axes, arrow heads, knives, spare, hair pins, needles, lead blocs for export, lead stamps; silver and gold jewels) and numerous artefacts made of stone (grinding grains, leather, wood, showcases, bow and arrows, tools, marble cups and goblets) were found. Specific artefacts testify that cloth weaving as well as leather works, including shoe making were practised.

Tools for metal-processing, metal-fusing furnaces and crucibles, and ceramic casting forms that were found are evidences of craftwork with different metals: tin, copper, bronze lead, and also silver and gold.

Small pieces of quartz, Ferghana turquoise and Badakhshan lapis lazuli are also proofs that these minerals were processed in Sarazm.

A unique feature in the whole Central Asia and Iranian plateau is that, in Sarazm, painted ceramics have been found which originates from many other areas of the region (see picture below). This is mainly the case for South Turkmenia and Baluchistan, but small quantity of vessels, originates from North-East Iran (grey clay ceramics) and Khoresmia (culture of Kelteminar).

A two-layers potters' kiln from the beginning of the 3rd millennium B.C. attests to the specific development of ceramic production in Sarazm, since nothing similar had existed in other parts of Central Asia before 2000 BC.

All those findings prove that Sarazm, following the first nucleation of the mid-to-late fourth millennium BC, developed into a proto-urban centre supplying manufactured goods to its own population as well as those of a vast hinterland.

Most important is that the town manufactured not only goods (ornaments and tools) from strictly local resources – copper, lead, tin, steatite, wools, woods, and those coming for the regional context (up to a radius of 500 kms) including semiprecious stones like turquoise, agate and lapis lazuli, but also those gathered from great distances (over 1500 kms) such as shells from the Arabian Sea to the south.

The bracelets of the “great lady” may have been imported as finished objects from Gujarat or Kutch, but the hundreds of broken waste pieces found by Issakov in the later periods of the sequence are really exceptional because they prove the centrality of Sarazm as a major goods processing centre during the early Bronze Age.



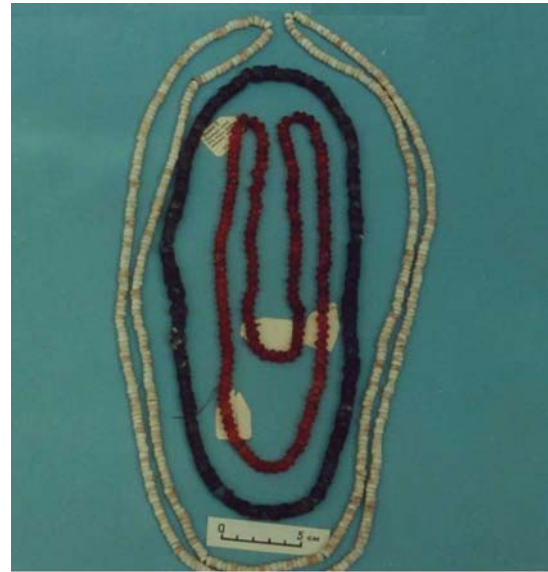
Excavation IX. Double-circle potter-furnace



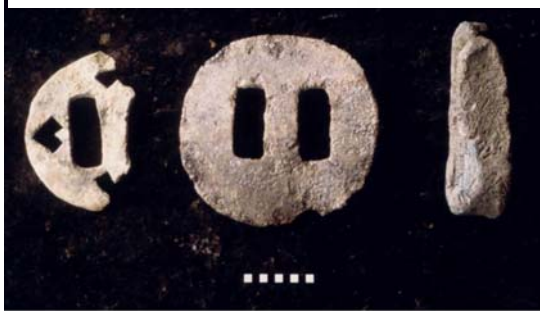
Bronze Tips



Excavation IV-Necropolis : Bangle made of shell



Excavation IV. Necropolis. Central burial. Beads from carnelian, turquoise and gypsum.



Lead ingots



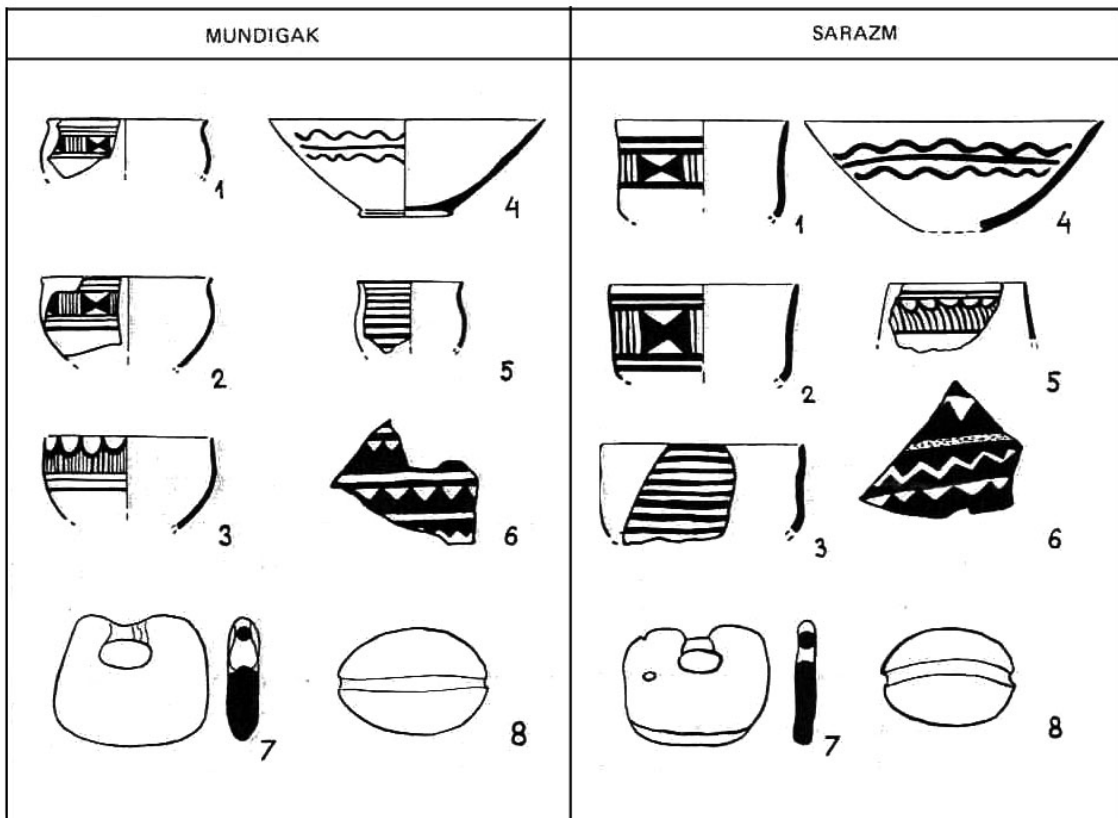


Fig. 8 - Cultures matérielles de Mundigak et de Sarazm. Mundigak : 1-3, céramique Mundigak IV ; 4, céramique Mundigak II ; 5, 6, céramique Mundigak IV ; 7, pierre, poids discoïdal ; 8, peson en pierre. Sarazm : 1-6, céramique Sarazm III ; 7, pierre, poids discoïdal ; 8, peson en pierre.

2.3. Current situation and perspectives

The last archaeological excavation was carried out in 2005. It was rather limited in size but moreover, was done in a very different way than has usually been done. Actually, this was the first time that excavations were made after having provided a protective roof and somehow this fact inaugurates a new era at Sarazm.

After intensive archaeological researches during the times when the excavations were left with a limited protection, the team in charge could just take stock of the regular decay of the revealed remains, knowing that this would probably become totally irreversible situation. Sarazm being a very important witness of a paramount period of the history in the region, the perspective of such a loss became intolerable to the team in charge of the site. Sarazm was also to be presented to the people of Tajikistan and to the people of the World. In that respect, it was decided that no archaeological research could be done at Sarazm if protection of the remains could not be ensured.

Another aspect is that recent researches did not necessarily brought in paramount new information and that, in these conditions, it would probably have been better to focus on the quality of the excavations undertaken and the deepening of the existing excavation pits in the view to continue the exploration down, towards a better knowledge of the earlier strata of occupation.

At the occasion of a visit of Dr. Mahmoud Bendakir, CRATerre-ENSAG, discussions were held on possibilities to take actions regarding the protection of the excavated zones and to ensuring that they could be presented to visitors. Several examples were shown and advantages-disadvantages of each of them were debated. As a result the team in charge of the site was convinced that large protective roofs would be the best suited solution. That resulted in a proposal made to cover 5 of the most interesting areas that had been excavated (4) or were to be excavated (1).

The idea was presented to the President of Tajikistan at the occasion of a visit paid to Sarazm. Convinced by the pertinence of this idea, he decided to allocate some of his "special funds" for the project. In addition to the protective roofs, the overall project includes fencing, entry gates, and two small guard houses. This project is now about half way and should be completed in 2006-2007.

In the mean time, the site will start to be formally open to the public. It is foreseen that the revenue gathered will be used to gradually improve the offer to the various possible publics : school kids, students, national and international visitors.

Another will is to give priority to conservation activities, both for the in-situ ruins and the artefacts, as some of them, even though kept protected, appear to face conservation problems. There are also some needs in terms of storage, more specifically for the large stone and pottery artefacts which are nowadays kept outside. It is felt that there is a need for establishing a small conservation laboratory on the site and also to start launching a campaign of experimentation that would permit to define adapted conservation techniques as well as proper monitoring schedules and procedures.

This experimental period should also be used to provide training so that the existing competences can be complemented.

In terms of archaeology, researches would be carried out at a very low pace, mostly under the protective roofs. It is foreseen that those can be used for training of young Tajik archaeologists, but also as part of the attractiveness of the site for visitors who could, almost at any time, see archaeologists at work. A series of archaeological

borings of the superficial layer could also be carried out, with proper backfilling being provided after realisation. Other archaeological activities could be undertaken outside the reserved land, at occasions, when the inhabitants of the villages (buffer zone 3) will carry out works which involve serious diggings and movements of earth.



Protection of one of the 13 excavated areas with shelter



Recent excavation at Sarazm

3 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

3.1. Location

Sarazm is situated on the left bank of the Zaravshan river, at an average altitude of 910 m, 15 km to the west of city Penjikent and 45 km to the east of city Samarqand (Republic of Uzbekistan), 500 meters north of the main route connecting these two cities.

As the meaning of its name suggests, Sarazm “the beginning of the earth” is located just

between the end of the mountainous part of the riverbed, and the entrance of a much larger valley: a strategic place between mountains and flatlands.

It lies on an elevation stretching from west to east, about 1,5 kilometers in length and 400 to 900 meters in width. Apparently, the area of the settlement exceeded 50 hectares during its most developed period, when Sarazm had a settled population of about 3000 (IV – III millennium BC).



3.2. The remains

The settlement consists of ten small mounds of different heights and five depressions, corresponding to constructed zones, open spaces and water reservoirs that were used at the time of Sarazm ancient settlement. From its topography, one can see that the settlement of Sarazm does not have a clearly defined plan. The settlement which didn't have any protective enclosure was apparently radiating in different directions with no bordering limits.

In its great majority, the core zone of the site is covered by low steppe vegetation. Twelve areas, representing less than 4% of the restricted land have been excavated and backfilled, leaving visible traces of the structures found.

3.3. Protective structures

In order to provide better protection of a selection of the most interesting excavated areas, five large roofs have been constructed (Excavations N° V, IX, XI, XII and XIII). Those covered spaces are to be the main attractions for the visitors, where they can actually see the finds of the archaeologists, just as they are being freshly unearthed. Some of them will still be subject to archaeological researches, providing both a better knowledge of the site and an opportunity for more interesting visits.

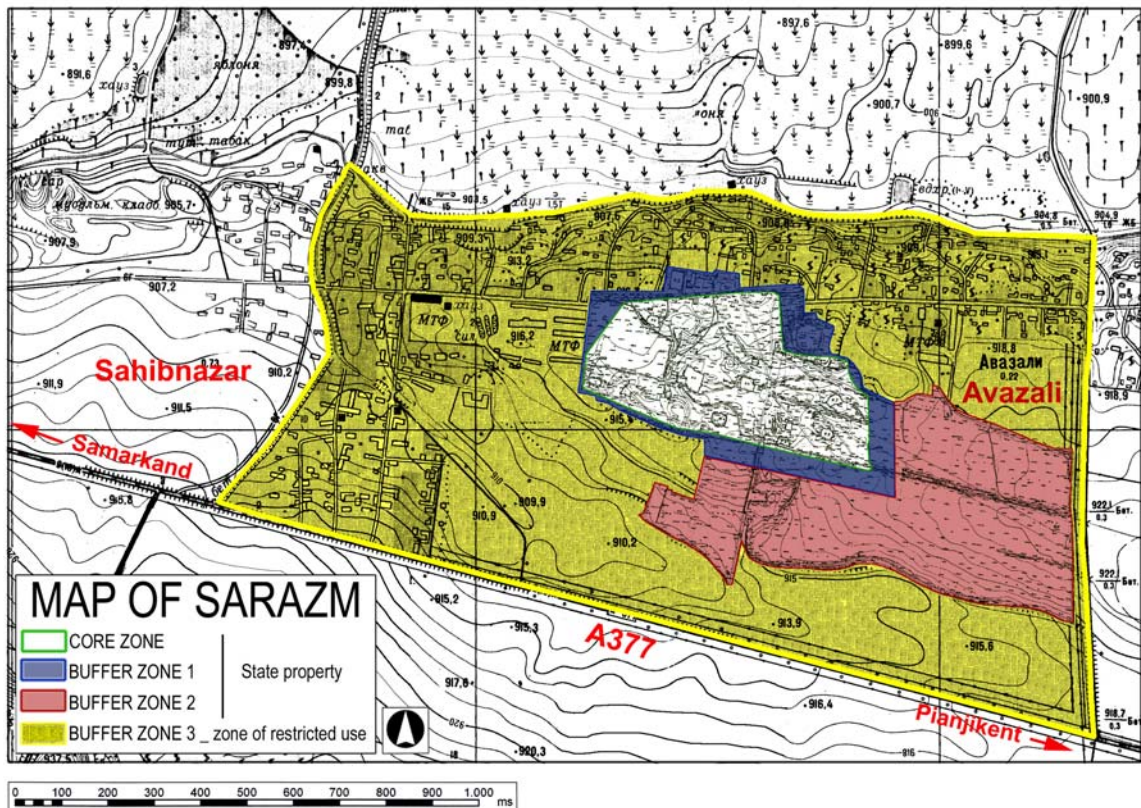
3.4. Buffer zones

Buffer zone 1 surrounds the core zone. It clearly separates it from the village as well as the agricultural lands. Buffer zone 1 comprises one of the most ancient excavation zones (P2). This choice was made as the excavation that had covered all layers of occupation was left unprotected for too long and does not represent a valuable

potential for visits. The zone concerned is also very close to the residential areas and useful to the local communities (access, drying of crops). Buffer zone 1 also comprises the archaeological base and the site museum.

Buffer zone 2 currently remains an agricultural land. It is also where the access road and parking lots have been implemented.

Today, the village of Sahibnazar lies on top of the northern and western parts of the settlement, and the village of Avazali, on its north-eastern section. A great portion of these two villages are in buffer zone 3 which is also an area subject to restrictions and a collaboration agreement between the local population and the archaeological base.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone

3.5. Farming activities and assets

Since the fifties, the overall land where Sarazm remains are located was cultivated. For rendering that possible, a network of canals was installed. Those are the only assets that actually disturbed the archaeological remains as for the overall land, only about 20 cm of earth was turned over when preparing for sowing. This has been far less destructive, and one has to recognize it today, led to the discovery of the site.

Today agriculture has been abandoned in the core restricted zone as well as in the first buffer zone. However, one of the canals is still functioning. This is seen as a necessary measure as it drives water towards some houses and gardens of Avazali village, and no alternative either exist or is already planned.

Agriculture is still practiced in buffer zone 2. It mainly concerns wheat and rice.

4 - CONSERVATION OF THE SITE

4.1. A progressive concern

As was the case in most of the archaeological sites in Central Asia, conservation of the excavations has always been very minimal. The practice was to make a backfilling of the revealed structures with soil that had been removed from the zones excavated. The practice is to fill the pits with dry soil, up to the level of the higher walls, or just above. Special attention was given to places where “precious” assets were found (altars, furnaces,...) with a thicker layer being provided.

In fact, this practice was mostly adapted to excavations that had to be left for a year and reopened for the following research season. It appears that results were considered as good or at least sufficient. When very fragile remains were found, they were generally taken off the structures (mural paintings).

But after several years of exposure, with at times higher rainfalls, a simple observation of the remains shows that degradation is progressing, even if it is at a very slow pace. It is from that assessment that gradually the team in charge of the site understood that, if nothing was done to conserve the revealed structures, they would, sooner or later, completely disappear.

So when the importance of this site as a precious witness of the history of the region was finally recognised, it appeared important that it would not only be presented through articles and books, but that the site itself was to be valorised. To do so, there was a need to find ways of protecting the overall site and more specifically the excavated zones, and to launch a process that would ensure proper conservation of the remains for the long term, and together to organise visits in the view of providing a proper experience and understanding to the visitors.

4.2. Threats

4.2.1. Development Pressures

With a gradual increase of the population in the Zarafshan valley, people have looked for more and more land for agriculture. Sarazm was on a hilltop and remained non-cultivated for long. But in the 50^s, some irrigation canals were made and the land was occupied for agriculture.

The territory of the Buffer Zones is crossed by ground and asphalt roads, which go to Sahibnazar and Avazali villages, which occupy the northern boarder of the territory of the ancient settlement of Sarazm.

Fortunately, the ancient village zone which was higher and therefore more difficult to irrigate was left almost untouched by these new settlements and the agricultural activities.

From 2001 no new development is authorized on the 47 ha reserve and there are strict rules for the use of the larger buffer zone that comprises a great part of the two concerned villages.

4.2.2. Environmental Pressures

The site is subject to the harmful local climate (continental) with rapid changes in temperature and moreover a long yearly period when there is frost during the night. Frost combined with possible presence of humidity in the remains after snowing or raining is the most important factor of degradation.

4.2.3. Natural disasters and risk preparedness

Natural disaster in the area is only related to earthquakes. The probability for the site to be affected is however almost null as most of the remains are structures of very limited height. The site does not feature very stiff slopes, thus the risks of associated landslip is also probably null. A fault would also rather follow the axis of the valley and develop in the river bed.

4.2.4. Visitor/Tourism Pressures

As for now, the number of visitors/tourists is limited and there is no record of adventurous visitors that could have damaged the remains.

The plan to increase the number of visitors has taken that issue into account. There will not be any visits without a guide, and moreover of a trained guide, featuring a guided tour in which the specific facets of site preservation are presented and explained. Visitors' access will be limited to a distance of 1m from the excavation pits. Also, the edges of the visited excavation pits will be maintained and if necessary repaired or reinforced.

4.2.5. Number of Inhabitants within Property, Buffer Zone

At the moment, nobody lives in the "Archaeological reserve of Sarazm". The buffer zone (part 1 and 2) is accessible to the population but activities there are restricted. The archaeological base is located in the buffer zone. Archaeologists live there on a temporary basis.

Finally, about 300 families live in the "Larger Restricted Zone". They started to settle there in the early 1940^s.

4.3. Conservation history

From the 70^s, excavation works were conducted in 12 locations. Those cover an area of about 2,5 out of the 47 ha of the reserved land. An agreement with the surrounding villages has been established so that incidental or random findings at proximity of the main site can be recorded. Archaeological researches can still be carried out of the reserved zone if felt necessary.

The excavated zones have been covered with soil in order to preserve them from destruction. This solution has proved not to be fully satisfactory, with visible degradations of the revealed structures. For that reason, five zones, including the most interesting excavations or those which were better preserved were covered with tri-dimensional metallic constructions. Those are visible, but actually they are very different from the remains so that no confusion is possible. These protections also render possible a visit of the site "as it was when it was just excavated". Opportunities exists for further excavations of the under layers (there are 4 levels of occupation at Sarazm) where the remains have been affected when left insufficiently protected after the first excavations were carried out.

4.4 Current state of conservation and new perspectives

As long as a major part of the surface of the site remains non-excavated, and the most important parts have been protected the site can be considered as being in a rather good state of conservation. Artefacts are stored at the archaeological base or at Penjikent and Dushanbe Museums.

Still, one has to recognise that some of the earlier excavations were insufficiently backfilled, causing the unearthened remains (architecture) to become affected. However, in most of the cases, these have brought new opportunities to research the most ancient layers of occupation. It is to be raised here that proper documentation has always been done on very regular basis so that most of the information that could be provided by the remains is available and can be used for further research, interpretation as well as for educational activities.

Buffer zone 1 surrounds the core zone. It clearly separates it from the village zone as well as the agricultural lands. Buffer zone 1 comprises one of the most ancient excavation zones (P2). This choice was made as the excavation that had covered all layers of occupation was left unprotected for too long and does not represent a valuable potential for visits. The zone concerned is also very close to the residential areas and useful to the communities (access, drying of crops). The buffer zone one also houses the archaeological base and the site museum.

Buffer zone 2 currently remains an agricultural land. It is also where the access road and parking plots have been implemented.

Finally, the buffer zone 3 is the larger zone that includes a great part of the neighbouring villages of Sharibnazar and Azavali which is considered as potentially detaining remains of secondary parts of Sarazm settlement.



5 - VISITORS MANAGEMENT AND SITE PRESENTATION

5.1. Access and facilities

For international visitors, access to Sarazm is either through Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, either through Samarqand in Uzbekistan. In fact, access from Uzbekistan through Samarqand is quite easier as the road is very good. Samarqand is just 50 km far from the site, and is about a 4 hours drive from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. This situation is going to improve as a tunnel is currently under construction. It will reduce considerably the duration of the road Dushanbe-Penjikent, which today goes through a passage above 3000 m, and is not completely asphalted. Also, it is not opened throughout the year (snow).

There are no hotels in Sarazm, but in Penjikent city (15 kilometres away) there is a number of hotels and guest houses, which accommodate about 300 persons, and a number of family houses.

The site itself is some 500 metres far from the main road (Penjikent-Samarqand). Access is through a gravel road which is in a good state. A parking area has been installed just before the proposed location of the future entry gate. This parking lot is not used today as vehicles are allowed to enter inside the site and can reach the archaeological base. Most of the visitors' vehicles stop just very close to the protective roof which is just beside the gravel road. This situation is to be changed. Before the parking place is actually used, it will be possible to organise a smaller parking place just in front of the archaeological base.

Today, visitors' facilities are quite limited. However, the base is there and its toilets can be used. Only special visitors can access the few rooms that are available for accommodation. There is also a kitchen and meals can be prepared there. The base is quite nicely looking from inside its courtyard. But no efforts have been made to render it friendly when looking at it from the site itself. That situation could easily be improved.

5.2. Cultural experience

The site is not yet well equipped to receive visitors. In general, groups come with their guides who take them around the two structures which are immediately accessible. The knowledge of the guides is generally a bit limited for them to actually be able to transmit all the values of Sarazm. They also have difficulties to make actual use of the different areas covered and explain what their specificities are. So today it is only if you have the chance to be guided by the archaeologists that you would actually be able to take stock of all the values and be able to fully experience the site through so many anecdotes that can be quoted at the various places.

The must for visitors is always when they have the chance to come a day when archaeologists are at work. Such rare opportunities could easily be multiplied so that all visitors would then experience an unforgettable visit.

In terms of the overall environment, the conditions of the visit are rather good. The place is very quiet and there are no disturbances.

Visually, the site benefits from a large view on the hills and mountains in the south. The hills are rather an arid area and the mountains have a modest height, so that the eye is not disturbed. On the north, the village and the base are visible. At places, they are partially hidden by trees. That could systematically be done and so, would reinforce the concentration of the visitors on to the site itself.

Finally, the covering structures, though being quite impressive have the advantage of being very transparent and it is easy to forget about them. As they are very different in nature, they cannot confuse the visitors. It is easy to distinguish what is the ancient and what is the contemporary. One interesting aspect is that their impressive size somehow reinforces the importance of what they protect !

5.3. The site museum

One of the rooms of the archaeological base has been renewed, equipped with air conditioning system and widely enlightened with large glass panels that now allow the base to present numerous artefacts found at the site, so as to complete the site visit. This site museum is about 70 m² (11 x 6 m) and equipped with 11 new showcases and numerous panels with ancient photography, historical information, analogical tables etc..., exposed on the walls.



5.4. Promotion

National Tourism Policy

Recently, many tourism agencies were created in Tajikistan to address the very interesting tourism potential. Those agencies are not yet very well coordinated at the national level, but this is a strong will of the president, Mr. Rakhmonov. This organisation of the tourism sector with the definition of national policies is in the process of being undertaken, as well as a general opening of the country to tourism. In that regard, a "tourist fair" is organised in Dushanbe on a yearly basis since 2004. There are also representatives of Tajikistan at the tourism fair organised also every year in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Education policy

The site already receives school kids from Penjikent in the frame of their annual excursion, but also during field visits. It is foreseen that there will have more visits now as the archaeological base is better prepared to receive such large groups.

Promotion in the National Museum at Dushanbe

Sarazm is very well represented at the Dushanbe National Museum with $\frac{3}{4}$ of a 60m² room devoted to showcases presenting a very interesting selection of artefacts originating from Sarazm. There are also panels showing plans of a selection of the revealed architectural structures.

The Museum catalogue is having a substantial presentation of Sarazm with 8 pages including texts in 4 languages and numerous illustrations.

Promotion in Pendjikent Museum (Roudaki)

Sarazm is also very well represented at the Penjikent museum with about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a very large room devoted to numerous artefacts originated from the site, including a very interesting collection of those found on the "Lady of Sarazm" site. The guides at Penjikent museum are also guides at the site.



Exhibitions and conferences

Ceramics and metal wares from Sarazm were exposed on the exhibition "Antiques of Tajikistan", held in 1985 in the Hermitage Museum (Russia) and were included in the catalogue of this exhibition.

During the 80-90's, republican and regional television has showed several times the episodes about the excavations of Sarazm in Tajik and Russian languages. The last film on this matter was made in 2002.

The republican and district newspapers published more than 50 scientific articles about works conducted in Sarazm. All reports on excavations were published in annuals "Archaeological works in Tajikistan".

Reports and presentations about Sarazm were presented on many international and regional symposiums and conferences. Among those, we can quote :

- 2ème colloque Franco-soviétique sur l'archéologie de l'Asie Centrale des origines à l'âge du fer, CNRS, Paris, 16-26 Novembre 1985
- Third USA-USSR Archaeological symposium, Washington D.C., Smithsonian Institution, May, 7-9, 1986
- In 1994, in Penjikent international symposium was organised, solely devoted to Sarazm and the 5500 anniversary of agricultural culture of the upper Zaravshan. This symposium was reported by Penjikent television and a special film was made.

Historical wall in Dushanbe

The long wall of the cement factory in Dushanbe, along one of the most important national roads (to the north) has been used to display panels representing some of the most important periods or events of the country. The first 4 panels of this impressive series (total of 100 panels) are devoted to Sarazm.



5.5. Ideas and plans for the future

With the progressive concern and wish to have the site be used as a teaching and learning tool, as well as a centre to receive tourists, several ideas have come about. They comprise the installation of a souvenir shop and national kitchen/restaurant. To improve site visits, it is programmed to provide guides, set up information panels and develop the site as a living archaeological place. It is also foreseen to publish books, booklets, postcards, CDroms that will provide information and will also increase the revenues of the archaeological base.

In addition, the existing web site is to be developed in a very near future.

One of the rooms of the archaeological base has been renewed and widely enlightened with large glass panels that now allow the base to present numerous artefacts found at the site and so complete the site visit. It is foreseen that this museum will be regularly improved, when in the mean time, the construction of a larger museum near the site will be studied.

5.6. Statistics

Sarazm is visited by tourists. Before breakdown of Soviet Union, the number of tourist per year was about 2000. Later this number decreased to about 500 persons. But during last years, the situation was reversed with the organisation of special tours by Penjikent Tourist Bureau to Penjikent and Sarazm, as well as to other neighbouring historical sites and picturesque places of the upper Zaravshan.

The information on tourism concern the whole region of Penjikent as no registration specific to Sarazm are done already. But according to the Tourism organizations, most

of the visitors coming to Penjikent are visiting Sarazm. It is one of the highlights of their visit.

Number of visitors in Penjikent (source: Penjikent tours manager: Sharifbadalov M.)

Year	Number of foreign visitors	Local visitors
2001	560	940
2002	685	1,270
2003	1,340	2,800
2004	2,400	3,500
2005	3,560	4,450

There are no hotels in Sarazm, but in Penjikent city (15 kilometers) there are number of hotels and personal guest houses, which can accommodate up to 300 persons.

The City of Penjikent is making numerous efforts so as to increase the number of tourist per year to 5000.



ic of Tajikistan, Mr. Rakhmonov came two times with official delegations to visit the site, in August 2003, and in September 2005.

6 - PRESENT MANAGEMENT

6.1. Ownership and protection

By resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan N°198 and land certificate N°006981 issued on April 19, 2001, the piece of land of 47, 34 hectares (core and buffer zones) of Sarazm, is a property of the Republic.

Historical and cultural monuments are protected at the Constitution level and regulated by laws and normative acts of the Republic of Tajikistan

i. Constitution level.

The constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan bounds all citizens to respect and protect historical and cultural monuments.

Paragraph 44 : “Every person is obligated to protect natural, historic and cultural monuments”

ii. Law on culture

Protection, management, and monitoring of historical and cultural monuments are conducted according to the contents of the law “About Culture” of the Republic of Tajikistan ratified on 13.12.1997. Bellow are some extracts of this law :

Article 1. Goal of the Law.

Provision and protection of civic constitutional rights of the citizens in cultural issues.

Article 2. Spheres of operation of the present Law.

Promotion, preservation, restoration, utilization and monitoring of historical and cultural properties.

Article 4. Main principals of government politics on historical and cultural properties.

- availability of the cultural memorials to the public
- national, scientific, and social significance of culture
- establishment and development of cultural links between Tajikistan and foreign countries

Article 6. Types of historical and cultural properties.

According to Article 1 of the present Law are considered historical and cultural properties:

archaeological sites, sites of ancient settlement, tumuli, remnants of ancient settlements, castles, industries, channels, roads, ancient burial places, stone sculptures, graven images, antiquity items, places of historical cultural layer of ancient settlements.

Article 8. Specially authorized government officials for preservation of the sites.

Specially authorized government officials for preservation of the memorials in the Republic of Tajikistan, are the authorities from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan and from its local representative offices.

Article 10. Competency of specially authorized government authorities for preservation of the sites.

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan provides government protection of the historical and cultural memorials, and supervises processes of monitoring, preservation, restoration, utilization and promotion of historical and cultural assets in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Article 28. Provision of preservation of historical and cultural properties, situated on the national territories that were given to utilization.

Enterprises, organizations, establishments and citizens shall provide protection and preservation of historical and cultural assets, which are situated on the territories left to their utilization.

Article 39. Excavation and prospecting works of archaeological sites.

Excavation and prospecting works of archaeological sites is allowed only with the permission (open pages) provided and registered in affirmed order.

Organizations and citizens that conduct archaeological works, are required to take care of security matters on the site.

iii. Specific texts related to Sarazm

Juridical status of Sarazm reserve is defined by the Republic of Tajikistan government resolution N° 391 from 21.09.2000 - "About organization of historical and archaeological reserve Sarazm" and N°198 from 19.04.2001 - "About approval of resolution on historical and archaeological reserve Sarazm".

Resolution of Government of the Republic of Tajikistan N° 391 from September 21, 2000, Dushanbe.

About organization of the "Historical and Archaeological reserve Sarazm".

In accordance with Law of Republic of Tajikistan dated December 13, 1997 "About culture" which aims at protection and promotion of cultural and historical assets, the Government of Tajikistan resolves:

1. To proclaim the 5500 year old archaeological site of Sarazm in Pendjikent district, which is the centre of formation of agriculture, handicraft and urbanization of Tajiks to be a historical and archaeological reserve.

2. Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan in accordance with Chairman of Penjikent district shall present for approval the statement of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan the resolution about the site, timetable and estimate of necessary expenditures.

3. Academy of Science of Republic of Tajikistan, chairman of Leninabad (presently Sogd) province and Pendjikent district shall implement funding of the historical and archaeological reserve of Sarazm from State budget resources, entitled for Culture and Science in the year 2001.

4. Chairman of Leninabad (presently Sogd) province and Pendjikent district Committee on Land Resources and Arable Land of the Government of Tajikistan shall define the area of Sarazm archaeological reserve and solve the question of the land distribution.

Define that any construction works of buildings, structures, conduction of any kind of works that could harm the memorial on the territory of the above-mentioned reserve are strictly forbidden.

Signed by : The Chairman of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan,
E. Rakhmonov.

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan N°198 from April 19. 2001. Dushanbe

On the approval of the resolution about the Sarazm historical-archaeological reserve.

1. Sarazm historical-archaeological reserve is operated under Penjikent Archaeological Base and is subordinated by the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography named after A. Donish of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan. Sarazm historical-archaeological reserve has been established on the basis of ancient agricultural settlement of Sarazm.

2. The main tasks of the Sarazm historical-archaeological reserve are the preservation, renovation, investigation, archaeological excavations, conservation and reconstruction of the unearthed assets, museums and popularization of the ancient Tajik history, dispersal of knowledge about history and ancient culture of Tajik people, promotion of scientific and cultural achievements.

3. Direct administrative and scientific coordination of the activities of the reserve is implemented by Head of Penjikent Archaeological Base of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography named after A. Donish.

On 21.09.2001 by government resolution Sarazm Settlement was proclaimed historical and archaeological reserve, located in the Pendjikent District, Sogd Region, under Pendjikent archaeological base of Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Agreement between the Hukumat of Panjakent, the Jamoat of Sarazm and the Sarazm historical and Archaeological reserve. From October 31. 2005. Pendjikent (See annexe)

An official agreement exists between the local population and the Archaeological base. It is ratified by the Hukumat of Penjikent, represented by Samadov Sh. D., chairman of Hukumat, - Sarazm Jamoat, represented by Sultonova D., chairwoman of Jamoat and - The Sarazm Historical and Archaeological reserve, represented by Razzokov A., director. This agreement specifies the following:

1. Due to their importance in continuing to better determine the history, daily life and culture of the inhabitants of ancient Sarazm, villagers of Avazali and Sharibnazar agree that all random findings when practising agriculture or superficial works will be given to the archaeological reserve of Sarazm. The location of the find should be precisely indicated.

2. When the villagers will proceed with diggings for whatever reason (house foundations, toilet pits, ..) they will inform the archaeological base (at least two weeks before operating) so that the archaeologists can be present when the digging is done. If the presence of the archaeologist could not be possible during the digging, the owner must wait until a visit of an archaeologist be undertaken before closing the ditch so that the stratigraphy can be documented.

3. The overall zone also needs to be controlled in terms of urban development. In order to avoid any intrusive construction, the agreement comprises a paragraph stating:

- The delimited zone is subject to urban development control by the archaeological base in partnership with the village representatives and the authority of Pendjikent region.

- Houses in the zone cannot exceed one level (one storey) with a maximum height of 6m at the top of the roof so that they remain discreet and are not harmful to the landscape, and more specifically to the views from the site.
- The zone is reserved for agricultural activities and normal village activities. The implementation of other activities in the area are subject to preliminary impact studies and authorisation from a committee gathering the three above quoted authorities who will check the compatibility with the cultural characteristics of the site.

6.2. Means of implementing protective measures.

State organisation for protection of the monuments:

Management of protecting historical and cultural monuments is carried out by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan in close cooperation with the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Culture records, controls and drafts legislations regarding historical and cultural monuments, creates and manages state research programmes, conservation and restoration of cultural monuments, coordinates joint activities with other state bodies on research, protection and utilisation of historical and cultural monuments. It prepares conservation projects to be submitted to Government and manages funds of the conservation projects.

The Academy of Science, Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, carries out scientific expertise on historical and cultural monuments, and determines the criteria for nominating monument to be considered as historical or cultural monument. It allocates budgets for regular functioning of archaeological bases, as well as for archaeological research and conservation projects at archaeological sites.

Inspections for protection of cultural monuments of the Ministry of Culture and local authorities (Municipality, district branches of historical and cultural monuments protection) are carried out as field operations. These organs monitor and protect historical and cultural monuments, and prepare biannual and annual reports for higher level authorities.

6.3 Main local stakeholders

Samadov Shakarbeg, Mayor of Penjikent
 Rofieva Fotima, Head of department for culture, Hukuomat of Penjikent
 Solechzoda Tourdiev, Penjikent administration, responsible for Culture
 Sultanova Dilnavoza, Chief of Jamoat (commune) for Sarazm
 Mahmoudov Ruziboi, Architect of the city Penjikent
 Rhoursandmouroodov Abdulla, Representative of the department for urbanism of Penjikent district
 Amzaev Azam, Chief of Sharibnazar village,
 Bektemirov Mouhidin, Chief of Avazali village
 Rhoudajorov F., Chief of Tshoubot village – director of the school n°12
 Yarova M., Chief of Tojikiishlok village
 Sodikov R., Chief of Taghirmon village
 Otchilov H., Director of the school n°22
 Koutchkorov A., Director of the school n°48

Kudjov Rholmarmat, Director of In Tourist Penjikent (Tourism Agency)
Sharifbadalov Abdulrasul, Director of Sayrou Sayoat (Tourism Agency)
Nematov Niyozkul, Manager of Pamir travel (Tourism agency)

Abdumain Juraev Director of Television channel "Simo" Penjikent
Ovlokoulov Shoin, Journalist, Varorout newspaper
Gourbanov Lougmon, Redactor, Zarafchan newspaper

6.4. Staff

Sarazm reserve, at the moment has the following staffing:

- 1 director,
- 1 scientific consultant
- 2 researchers
- 1 person responsible for the promotion
- 1 curator for exhibits
- 3 guards
- 1 chief accountant
- 1 accountant cashier
- 1 supervisor
- 1 technician
- 1 typist
- 1 electrician

6.5. Financial situation

Financing of the conservation and restoration works at Sarazm historical and cultural reserve is provided by the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Hukumat (government) of the Sogd province, Penjikent district, from budget resources dedicated to science and culture (resolution of the Government of the republic of Tajikistan from September 21, 2000 N°391).

The Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography named after A. Donish of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan is providing a yearly budget that currently amounts about \$ US 10,000.00 (yearly state funding).

Yearly budgets (2001 – 2005)

	Somoni	US \$
2001	5 377	1 600
2002	21 777	6 642
2003	53 752	16 394
2004	37 948	11 992
2005	39 941	12 621
Total	158 775	49 256

The Soghdian province has provided a yearly budget (2001 – 2002) which is now covered by the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography named after A. Donish of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Tajikistan).

Budget allocated (2001 – 2002)

	Somoni	US \$
2001	9 958	2 990
2002	16 000	4 880
Total	25 958	7 870

In 2003, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan allocated **US \$ 381 003** from the presidential reserve fund. This fund was used to construct the protected roofs over 5 excavated areas, each with an area of 30m x 30m, to protect them from weathering. Those correspond to archaeological excavations III, IX, XI, XII, XIII.

Next year (2006), a special fund is to be allocated on the celebration of the 15th anniversary of Independence Day of Tajikistan. For a amount of **US \$ 92 272**

A **US \$ 14 900** budget is on the point to be allocated for the erection of the fence around the core zone of the two entry gates, as well as two small guards houses.

6.6. Facilities and equipment

The Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm has the following facilities and equipment :

1. Archeological base of Sarazm – since 1994 - 5 rooms Kitchen, Shower, toilets
2. Site museum (70 m2)
3. Archive room at Penjikent
4. Office at Penjikent in the governmental building with two computers and easy access to the internet on the second floor of the building (separate office)
5. One Car (Volga – 3110) and one very old mini-bus
6. One Computer, a scanner and a printer
7. One Camera Pentax

PART II
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2006-2010





1- SIGNIFICANCE AND VALUES

1.1. Statement of significance

Sarazm is located in a very strategic place which has probably been the key to its unique development during the IV-III millennium BC in Central Asia. It is located on the bank of the Zaravshan river, just between a mountainous zone and a large valley area, one being favourable to cattle grazing, the other to agriculture and farming. Sarazm was a natural meeting point between the nomadic shepherds of the mountains and the first agrarian populations of Transoxiane (region between the Sy Daria and Amou Daria) which practised complementary activities.

In addition, both south and north mountains sides of the Zaravshan valley possess natural geological resources, including those that allow for bronze processing. Sarazm became a major centre of tin and bronze metallurgy in Central Asia and developed into a proto-urban centre supplying manufactured goods to its own population as well as those of a vast region. The town also manufactured goods (ornaments and tools) from strictly local resources – copper, lead, tin, steatite, wools, coming from the regional context (up to a radius of 500 kms) including semiprecious stones like turquoise, agate and lapis lazuli, and also some gathered from great distances (over 1500 kms) like shells from the Arabian sea to the south.

This allowed new developments that entailed many social changes and most peculiarly the beginning of specialisation for production of goods (cattle breeding, agriculture, crafts), the formalisation of trade, the associated appearance of social classes, and finally the urbanization with the creation of a complex settlement with sophisticated architectural achievements for the period.

Through organising the trade of different kinds of food, but also that of various useful products and tools, Sarazm contributed to the improvement of people's lives in the area and further in the whole region.

Sarazm has been the first centre (probably from the beginning of the III millennium BC) in Central Asia which had trade relationships with populations of a large geographical area with limits as far as the Eurasian Steppe zones and Aral Sea on the North, Turkmenia and the Iranian Plateau in the West, and the Hindus valley in the south.

Sarazm became a prosperous and rich city. It had a sophisticated culture with a complex organisation and capacities for erecting monumental buildings. Traders of Sarazm, or coming to Sarazm, facilitated exchange of goods, but also knowledge, skills and cultural assets, which contributed to further developments of the Central Asian region.

As being the first sophisticatedly organised society in the sub-region which had such an impact, most Central Asian people and more specifically all Tajik people today consider Sarazm as the starting point of the genesis of their culture.

As a precious testimony to an innovative ancient culture, Sarazm represents a pedagogical interest for archaeologist, visitors, and also the young Tajik generation, as being an important key to understand the history of the region in a better balanced manner.

1.2. Comparative analysis

Other sites from the same periods

Other Middle Asian Chalcolithic-Bronze Age settlements have been compared to Sarazm by the archaeologists in order to understand the origins of the culture of Sarazm and its spread in the sub-regions.

Some analogies were detected with the monumental buildings discovered in several sites dating from the same period such as Altyn Tepe, Göksür, Tepe Hissar, Mundigak, Shahr-e Sukhte, which are typical of the development of the proto-urban culture of the ancient East. Comparisons were established for example between:

- The religious monumental building of Sarazm and the one found at Göksür. (rooms 28-31, V.I. Sarianidi)
- The communal granary of Sarazm and the public storage buildings in the "noble quarter" at Altyn-Depe. (V.M. Masson)
- The palace complex of Sarazm and comparable structures of the third millennium B.C. at Sumer.

More similarities between Sarazm and the cultural complex of southern Turkmenistan can be observed clearly in the disk-shaped altars and the general layout of the housing.

Other evident analogies with those sites were found by comparison with the artefacts discovered at Sarazm, such as the painted pottery, the disc-shaped stone weights, the plumb bobs etc..

More recently, new hypotheses are suggested by scholars who find similarities for Sarazm with sites that are now better known in the Jiroft valley or the Sistan basin in Iran, and even sites such as Mundigak in Afghanistan, Ra's al-Jinz in Oman or Lothal in India.

A unique site

However, Sarazm presents many particularities which really distinguish it from the other sites:

- Sarazm is the largest early Bronze Age town in northern Middle Asia so far discovered.
- Sarazm is a unique example of proto-historic settlement (IV-III millennium BC) with plural economy, based on agriculture and cattle-breeding from one side, and processing of mineral resources of close-located regions from another.
- The specificity of Sarazm probably lies in the peculiarly rich geological resources of the upper Zarafshan valley. Its chequered relief possesses veins of copper, lead, gold, silver, mercury, tin, turquoise etc.. Sarazm was not only a large centre of metallurgy, it was also a very important centre for production of different stonewares and jewellery art, as well as many different craft products (weaving, leather, pottery,...).
- Sarazm possesses a unique variety of components or imports from distant and very different cultures of the overall region, including South Turkmenia, North-East Iran, Seistan, Baluchistan, Pre-Ural region. Sarazm provides evidence about large trade-ways, that crossed the territory of Central Asia, starting with the oldest ancient periods of existence of agrarian societies, very long before the start of the Silk Road.
- If marine shells were the key import resource to establish the long range trading capacity of Sarazm as a manufacturing centre, tin is the corresponding export one. The

Zeravshan Valley was the main supply region for tin in the ancient world. So far archaeological investigations have proven its continuous exploitation at mining sites both in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan since the second millennium BC. But it is quite likely that the exploitation started at least a millennium earlier as evidenced by tin-bronze metallurgy at Sarazm and the contemporary use of tin in the leading cities of Mesopotamia, like Ur. In the Royal Graves the abundance of lapis lazuli and tin point in the same direction, to the north-eastern limits of the oikumene. Sites like Sarazm on the Zaravshan and Shortugai on the Kokcha-Amudarya intersection occupy corresponding strategic locations to channel tin and lapis lazuli respectively, to the urban centers across the Middle East and South Asia alike.

- In terms of architecture, if Sarazm presents some analogies with what was produced in other regions of Central Asia during the same period, as a general consideration, the buildings present more complexity and sophistication, with more rooms, complex plans, monumental realisations and decorated surfaces. In addition, Sarazm has no evidence for any protective enclosure while many protohistoric settlements of this time were surrounded by earth enclosures, moats, canals or embankments; or defined in their eminence by raised platforms or high terraces.

Comparative table of the chronology of Sarazm and the archaeological settlements of the neighbouring regions.

ZONES DATES	ASIE CENTRALE						STEPPES	BALUCHISTAN						INDUS			IRAN		MESOPOTAMIE									
	Sarazm	Talapan	Geokjez	NZG	Civ. Oxuz	Shortugai		Yaz	Oxuz	Kof'hisar	S.S.	Mundigak	Mehrgarh	Aufex	KGM	DS	Prak	Musharti		Amri	Kot Diji	Gandh	Stalk	Hissar				
500										VII																		Achéménides
750																												Néo-Assyrien
1000																												Méso-Assyrien
1250								I																				
1500										V																		Micéni
1750																												
2000								IV		IV																		III C
2250																												Palo-Babylonien
2500																												Ur III
2750																												Agade
3000																												III A
3250										III	IV 3	VII	V	III														DA II
3500										II	IV, 1-2	VI	IV	IV	II													DA II
3750										I	III, 4-4	V	III	IV	II													DA I
4000											III, 1-3	IV	III	III														Dynastie Néo
4250											II	IV	III	III														I C
4500											I	II	II	III														Ur III
4750																												II
5000																												IA
																												Old
																												I

Tableau 9 - Chronologie des principaux sites mentionnés dans l'étude comparative. Les chiffres romains en italiques et entre crochets correspondent aux dates proposées par les archéologues de l'ex-URSS. NZG : Namazga-Depe, S-S : Shahr-i Sokhta, KGM : Kibi Chal Muhammad, DS : Damb Sadzat.

1.3. Values

The Statements above makes it clear that Sarazm has outstanding universal values, that will probably be recognized by the international community with its inscription on the World Heritage List.

Because of its intrinsic significance, Sarazm has very strong values:

- first of all to the people of Tajikistan and the overall sub-region, as being recognised as a native place for their culture.
- scientific and historical values; probably much can still be learnt at Sarazm.
- informative and educational values; those are already present but can still be enhanced through gradual improvements.

However, besides its intrinsic values, one has to recognise and take into account the fact that the site and some of its assets are very useful to the population leaving around. This includes the presence of canals but also simply of land that is used for playing (children), moving around (roads and paths) and also for agricultural activities (drying of crops,...).

I S A K O V: Sarazm

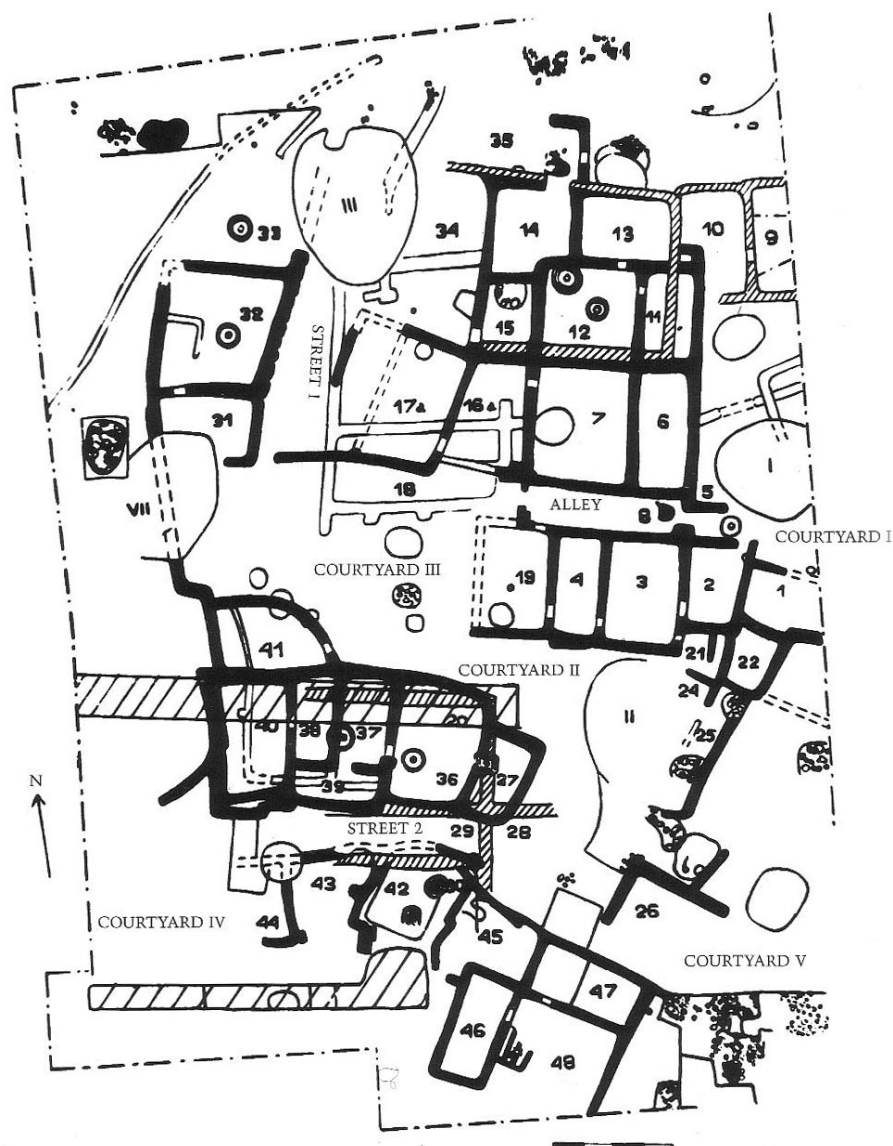


Fig. 1. Sarazm. Plan of excavated area II, with indication of structures in the dwelling horizons.

2. A VISION FOR SARAZM

SARAZM IN 2020

Sarazm is recognized as the place where modern Tajikistan has its roots. As such, the site receives a very special attention by the national, regional and local authorities and is properly managed so that it can play its very important commemorative and educational roles.

In that respect, the site continues to be subject to archaeological research undertaken by both Tadjik and international experts. The researches allow better knowledge and understanding of Sarazm at its different periods and are carried out in such a way that the findings are well preserved so that visitors can actually have a good vision, perception and understanding of the remains. Regular monitoring of the remains is in place so that they can be well preserved to the benefit of present and future generations.

In continuation with the initial discovery made by Achurali Taïlonov, the populations of the nearby villages, Sahribnazar and Avazali, make a substantial contribution to the researches through a very positive collaboration with the archaeologists. They are proud of their contribution as well as of the important sacrifice that they have made through stopping agricultural activities on the site.

With its inscription on the World Heritage List, the site is now known to the overall international community. With the newly built tunnel, access from Dushanbe is also easier. In these conditions, the number of visitors per year has substantially progressed and is constantly increasing. New facilities have been established to receive them in the best way and make sure that their huge number does not become a threat to the remains.

There are several covered spaces where remains are visible, just as the archeologists discovered them, each of them presenting more specifically a period of occupation and/or a specific aspect of the site. In order to help visitors understand the site, a museum has been built. It present collections of artifacts found at the site. It also presents the lifestyles and full-size restitutions of the habitat at the time of the people at the different periods of occupation of the site.

Sarazm has become a model of integrated conservation of an archaeological site located in a leaving landscape. Its conservation and management takes into account all concerns and interests of the various stakeholders, including decision-makers, archaeologists, conservators, visitors and the local population.

The 15 other archaeological sites which are located nearby Sarazm have been declared “national monuments”. They are now protected by a clearly defined buffer zone and no harmful activity is being carried out at their proximity. These sites can now be gradually taken care of with the simultaneous implementation of archaeological researches, conservation and presentation activities, making the area even more interesting for visitors as they can find there a complete Archaeological complex that illustrates the evolution of the people in the area over an extended period of time.

Archaeological researches are undertaken continuously, but at a very low pace and they have become part of the attractiveness of the site

3. SWOT ANALYSIS AND KEY ISSUES

3.1. Strengths

- . Unique site
- . Strong government support
- . Regular funding
- . Skilled archeologists (3)
- . Delimitated area
- . Partnership with local population
- . Existing base
- . Small museum
- . Inventory system

3.2. Weaknesses

- . No laboratory for material analysis and conservation of artifacts
- . No precise monitoring procedures and schedule
- . No professional / trained restorator (objects and architecture)
- . Inventory system is not fully operational (passportization)
- . No computer
- . Limited promotion
- . No booklets available
- . Limited infrastructure for receiving tourists
- . Electricity lines
- . Canal
- . Lack of documentation published

3.3. Threats

- . Presence of cattle
- . Climatic conditions (rain, snow, frost)
- . Regular deterioration of artifacts even when they are stored properly
- . Growing of grass on the remains
- . Birds nests
- . Belletes, rats, snakes, lizards
- . Canals

3.4. Opportunities

- . Continuous support of government
- . Close contact with population
- . Funding for fence is on the point to be given
- . Small guards houses at two locations 'Entry and North West corner)
- . Promotion
- . Sensitization programmes (radio, television, press, educational programmes,,...)
- . Official opening to tourism
- . Web site
- . Constant contacts with tourism operators

- . Generation of revenue by providing services to tourists (Booklets postcards, souvenirs, copies of artifacts, Catalogues,...)
- . Tunnel on Dushanbe road
- . Inscription to World Heritage
- . Possible technical support from UNESCO and other international sources
- . Many other sites are around, archaeology, historical monuments, museums landscapes,...., picturesque places
- . Improvement of visitors' experience
- . Removal of electricity lines
- . Planting few trees around
- . International cooperation

3.5. Key areas and priorities

3.5.1. Conservation of structures and artifacts

There is a need to better take stock and understand the threats, processes of decay, and possible restoration techniques of both the remains of structures and artifacts. This requires :

- . the definition and setting up of monitoring procedures and
- . to have at disposal (on permanent or temporary basis) the equipment and skills for undertaking the monitoring activities
- . to identify and to test the validity of possible conservation techniques

3.5.2. Promotion

It is wished that the site would be well visited both for making it useful (information, education) and generating revenue that can in turn be used to gradually improve its state of conservation.

Towards that end, it is hoped that the nomination to the World Heritage will be successful, but numerous activities needs to be launched, including :

- . Sensitization programmes (radio, television, press, educational programmes,....)
- . Official opening to tourism and Constant contacts with tourism operators
- . Creation of a Web site
- . Preparation of booklets, postcards, souvenirs, copies of artifacts, Catalogues,...)

It would also be good to better use the potential that the upper Zaravshan valley presents with its many other possible attractions including: archaeological sites, historical monuments, museums, mountainous landscapes, and picturesque places.

3.5.3. Documentation

A special focus needs to be made on rendering operational the inventory "*passportization*" system.

All archaeological sites which are located around Sarzam have to be clearly mapped.

All activities (archaeology, conservation,...) on the site will be documented in detail

3.5.4. Site protection

The proposed zoning system and its attached rules for the uses of the different zones needs to be finalized and established. When this done, the site will be fenced.

Based on the map of archaeological sites, zones where agricultural / construction / public works assets should not be implemented need to be clearly identified on the land use map, and also on the ground with boundary stones.

3.5.5. Visitor's experience

The site is already providing a good level of experience but that can probably be easily improved through training of guides, presentation panels, and on-going excavations. Other possible improvements are with the cleanliness of the site and making sure that foreign elements don't perturb the view of the site and the view from the site so as to keep the visitors' concentration. (electricity lines, Planting few trees around)

3.5.6. Cooperation

If the Government of Tajikistan is ready to continue to support the archaeological base of Sarazm, the team in charge wishes to get technical support from UNESCO and other international sources.

4 - OBJECTIVES FOR THE 5 YEARS PLAN (2006 - 2010)

Objective 1: Launch a process that will gradually lead to the precise definition of the conservation techniques that suits the requirements of the site and its environment

Objective 2: Ensure that the site is well known and frequently visited

Objective 3: Ensure revenue generation on the site so that conservation costs can be covered and gradual improvements of the site can be made

Objective 4: Finalize the organization of the documentation and start enriching the existing data

Objective 5: Reinforce the capacities of the Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm

5 - STRATEGIES AND INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

Objective 1: Launch a process that will gradually lead to the precise definition of the conservation techniques that suits the requirements of the site and its environment.

- 1.1. Erect fence around core zone and engage guards (2)
- 1.2. Finalize the protection of the archeological remains, (gradual complete backfilling of uncovered structures)
- 1.3. Establish a regular monitoring process for the archaeological remains
- 1.4. Implement a first set of sample conservation techniques (structures)
- 1.5. Establish a basic laboratory
- 1.6. Implement a first set of sample conservation techniques (artifacts)

Indicators of success :

- . % of non-roofed excavations backfilled
- . Fence erected
- . Monitoring (schedule, frequency)
- . Operational laboratory equipment
- . Number of samples of conservation techniques

Objective 2: Ensure that the site is well known and frequently visited

- 2.1. Organize an official opening of the site
- 2.2. Ensure that sensitization/information programme are delivered by the media (radio, television, press)
- 2.3. Organize information sessions with the tour operators
- 2.4. Explore potential of the site within a possible cluster of other cultural and natural sites within the Zaravshan valley
- 2.5. Creation of a web site
- 2.6. Information sent to visitor's guide editors.
- 2.7. Organize a huge event for both the 5,000 years jubilee and inscription to the World heritage List
- 2.8. Gradually improve site aspect (cleanliness, removal of electricity lines, planting trees in front of houses around the site,...)
- 2.9. Gradually improve visitors' experience (training of guides, presentation panels, site maps,...)
- 2.10. Study the possibility to construct a larger site museum

Indicators of success :

- . Activities organized
- . Number of tour operators bringing visitors to the site
- . Number of registered visitors (entry fees collected)
- . Site aspect (activities undertaken / visitors satisfaction)
- . Visitors satisfaction (questionnaires distributed by the end of the visit)
- . A project for a larger site museum has been prepared and approved

Objective 3: Ensure revenue generation on the site so that conservation costs can be covered and gradual improvements of the site can be made

- 3.1. Set-up entry fee and collection mechanism (entry fee, photo, video permits)
- 3.2. Organize specific visits (high level) with archaeologists

- 3.3. Preparation of booklets, postcards, catalogues
- 3.4. Organize a souvenir shop with local crafts
- 3.5. Offer new services to the visitors (Tea house, traditional dinners, ...)
- 3.6. Explore the possibility to prepare copies of artifacts for sale

Indicators of success :

- . Revenue collecting organized
- . Number of specialized visits available; number of clients per activity
- . Number of derived products available (types), quantities sold
- . Revenues at the souvenir shop
- . Perspectives for selling copies of artifacts

Objective 4: Finalize the organization of the documentation and start enriching the existing data

- 4.1. Finalize the work already done on the passportization of artifacts (inventory)
- 4.2. Organize the photographic documentation, and prepare for its enrichment
- 4.3. Carry out archaeological research at very specific locations (under protective roofs, partnerships with the local population, or provided there is immediate backfilling)
- 4.4. Ensure proper documentation of all conservation works made at the site
- 4.5. Map and document all archaeological sites around Sarazm.

Indicators of success :

- . Progress made to establish passports for artifacts,
- . Progress made to have passports in electronic form
- . Number of pictures identified, numbered and properly stored
- . Archaeological reports, excavations backfilled, nb of researches carried out in partnership with the population
- . Reports on works done including before, during and after works
- . Number of sites identified, nb of sites mapped, nb of sites delimited

Objective 5 : Reinforce the capacities of the Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm

- 5.1. Employ a person with computer skills, mainly responsible for the inventory and documentation
- 5.2. Acquire computer equipment and install a documentation office at the archaeological base
- 5.3. Employ two guards and an “entry fee collector” - accountant
- 5.4. Provide training to base staff for the provision of special guided tours.
- 5.5. Provide training to local artisans (basic conservation techniques)
- 5.6. Explore possibilities to establish partnership at the national level
- 5.7. Explore possibilities to establish partnership at the international level

Indicators of success :

- . New personnel employed,
- . Documentation office in function
- . Qualification of the new persons employed / needs
- . Number of tourists guide trained / operational
- . Number of artisans trained / quality of the achievements
- . Partnerships established at the local and national levels
- . Partnerships established at the international level

6 - MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Monitoring is an activity mainly aimed at regularly assessing the condition of sites and progress made or difficulties encountered to implement activities proposed. This allows for the record of changes and enables the understanding of processes of decay, threats, conflicts, successes and failures, as well as identifying opportunities. It also allows checking if activities are implemented following the specifications provided and according to international conservation standards.

Monitoring is to be done by the site manager as it facilitates the decision-making process and also allows the foreseeing of problems and bottlenecks. However, monitoring is also done on a yearly basis by the mother institution which will organize a visit to the site just before the yearly report is prepared by the site manager.

It is also pertinent to ensure proper integration of conservation and visitor-related activities in the socio-cultural environment. To that end, the regular complete inspection of the site and organization of stakeholders meetings on regular basis need to be implemented. Specific meetings could be organized rather on an ad-hoc basis so as to solve a new problem which is arising.

Meetings with tour operators and information to tour guides need to be done on a twice a year basis, one just after the tourism season so as to evaluate results, the second just before the tourism season.

Monitoring activities

Staff

- ❖ Overlook site and take care of possible intrusion by animals
- ❖ Carry out regular (weekly) physical inspection of site and report to site manager
- ❖ Undertake duties as specified by Site Manager
- ❖ Record properly the nb of visitors, sales at the craft shop,...

Site manager

- ❖ Prepare yearly action plans
- ❖ Inspect regularly the overall site by (quarterly)
- ❖ Distribute responsibilities and tasks and adapt to possible staff changes or movements
- ❖ Check that all data are properly recorded
- ❖ Take regularly stock of progress of activities to be implemented
- ❖ Evaluate first results and proceed with necessary adjustment
- ❖ Transmit information to the necessary stakeholders on Ad-Hoc basis
- ❖ Inform stakeholders of date and organize meetings long in advance
- ❖ Prepare minutes of meetings
- ❖ Prepare yearly activity reports taking into account the framework of the present management plan with making necessary adjustments according to progress made and first results obtained

7 - EVALUATION AND REVISION OF THE PLAN

7.1. Mid-term evaluation

The present plan has been developed to address key issues at the site. In the course of the implementation of the plan, it is most likely that changes will occur. Therefore, if this plan is to be considered as an important framework for decision making in the proposed time frame, there is also need for keeping avenue for adaptation and changes when the need arises.

To be able to do that, it is important that a mid-term evaluation be carried out.

This evaluation should consider the following:

- ❖ Changes that occurred on the site; in its environment.
- ❖ Changes that occurred in the overall environment.
- ❖ Changes within the organization in charge (staff, equipment,..)
- ❖ Evaluation through checking key indicators.
- ❖ New opportunities.

It is suggested that this evaluation be carried out just after the first two years of implementation of the plan, **beginning of 2008**, making possible, if needed, to propose some adjustments to be made to the plan for the last two years (2009-2010) of its implementation.

7.2. Final evaluation and elaboration of a new plan for 2011-2017

An other evaluation will be carried out just before the end of the foreseen period of completion. That should be done at the **beginning of 2010**, so that the rest of the year can be used to revise and prepare a new conservation and management plan for the next years. The period will coincide with the need for preparing a report to WHC within the regular periodic reporting exercise. That means that the evaluation carried out will directly be useful for reporting to WHC. In order to get the same in the future, it is recommended to then draw plans on a 7-year basis.

Therefore it is suggested that the forthcoming management plan be established for a 7 years period, and so become the **Conservation and Management plan - 2011-2017**.

Of course the new management plan can be done using the present management plan as a base or reference, more specifically for its first part. However, care will be taken to properly include all new information and of course new situation that will have been collected or developed between 2005 and 2010.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

	January 2006	January 2007	January 2008	January 2009	January 2010	January 2011
Objective 1: Launch a process to define precisely the conservation techniques that suits the requirements of the site and its environment.	Year 1					
1.1. Erect fences around core zone and engage guards (2)	■	■				
1.2. Finalize the protection of the archeological remains, (gradual complete backfilling of uncovered structures)	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.3. Establish a regular monitoring process for the archaeological remains	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.4. Implement a first set of simple conservation techniques (structures)	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.5. Establish a basic laboratory	■	■	■	■	■	■
1.6. Implement a first set of simple conservation techniques(artefacts)	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 2: Ensure that the site is well known and frequently visited	Year 1					
2.1. Organize an official opening of the site	■					
2.2. Ensure that sensitization/information programme are delivered by the media (radio, television, press)	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.3. Organize information sessions with the tour operators	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.4. Explore potential of the site within a possible cluster of other cultural and natural sites within the Zaravshan valley	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.5. Creation of a web site	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.6. Information sent to visitor's guide editors	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.7. Organize a huge event for both the 5,500 years jubilee and inscription to the World heritage List	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.8. Gradually improve site aspect (cleanliness, removal of electricity lines, planting trees in front of houses around the site.)	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.9. Gradually improve visitors' experience (training of guides, presentation panels, Visit tour, site maps, Fac-simili...)	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.10. Study the possibility to construct a larger site museum						■
Objective 3: Ensure revenue generation on the site so that conservation costs can be covered and gradual improvements of the site can be made	Year 1					
3.1. Set-up entry fee and collection mechanism (entry fee, photo, video permits)	■					
3.2. Organize specific visits (high level) with archaeologists	■	■	■	■	■	■
3.3. Preparation of booklets, postcards, catalogues	■	■	■	■	■	■
3.4. Organize a souvenir shop with local crafts	■	■	■	■	■	■
3.5. Offer new services to visitors ("tea house" - Traditional diners..)	■	■	■	■	■	■
3.6. Explore the possibility to prepare copies of artifacts for sale	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 4: Finalize the organization of the documentation and start enriching the existing data	Year 1					
4.1. Finalize the work already done on the passportization of artifacts (inventory)	■	■				
4.2. Organize the photographic documentation, and prepare for its enrichment	■	■	■			
4.3. Carry out archaeological research at very specific locations (under protective roofs only)	■	■	■	■	■	■
4.4. Ensure proper documentation of all conservation works made at the site	■	■	■	■	■	■
4.5. Map and document all archaeological sites around Sarazm.	■	■	■	■	■	■
Objective 5: Reinforce the capacities of the Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm	Year 1					
5.1. Employ a person with computer skills, mainly responsible for the inventory and documentation	■					
5.2. Employ two guards and an "entry fee collector" - accountant	■					
5.3. Acquire computer equipment and install a documentation office at the archaeological base	■	■				
5.4. Provide training to base staff for the provision of special guided tours.	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.5. Provide training to local artisans (basic conservation techniques)	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.6. Explore possibilities to establish partnership at the national level	■	■	■	■	■	■
5.7. Explore possibilities to establish partnership at the international level	■	■	■	■	■	■
Project management	Year 1					
6.1. Mid term evaluation				■		
6.2. Final evaluation and elaboration of a new plan for 2011 - 2017						■

9 - SPECIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Objective 1: Launch a process that will gradually lead to the precise definition of the conservation techniques that suits the requirements of the site and its environment.

1.1. Erect fence around core zone and engage guards (2)

Fence needs to be as transparent as possible and with a structure as light as possible , though being able to resist winds and children activities. Access gates need to be provided at several places so as to avoid the need to establish access roads within the restricted area.

Two guards should be sufficient.

For the following activities (1.2 to 1.6) it is recommended to the Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm to get technical assistance so that its professionals can benefit from proper expertise to start implementing these very important aspects of the plan

1.2. Finalize the protection of the archeological remains, (gradual complete backfilling of uncovered structures)

It is suggested to do a proper backfilling with first applying a geotextile on the surface of the excavations and than fill with soil (from the excavation pits). The filling should be slightly wet so that it can be compacted. The compaction is to be done in several courses, with a maximum thickness of 20 cm. Top of the filling needs to be slightly sloped and surface drainage taken into account. If interesting remains are present, the backfilling might have to be done after removal of the old backfilling material.

Backfilling is more technical than it looks like. It is therefore recommended to pay very attention to how it is done. A short technical assistance programme might be very useful to guarantee the quality of the work.

At a later stage, representation of the remains found at the surface (e.g. with stabilized bricks) could be envisaged. Therefore, means to locate the position of those need to be found.

1.3. Establish a regular monitoring process for the archaeological remains

There is a need to define a monitoring process that will :

- . in the first hand, allow to identify possible decay processes
- . in a second phase, allow to measure speed of decay

An important aspect of that monitoring will be to check precisely the protection actually provided by the protective roofs.

That means that in the beginning, some of the monitoring exercise will have to be done in bad weather conditions:

- . Driving rains
- . Wind after snowing

1.4. Implement a first set of sample conservation techniques (structures)

Priority for conservation techniques is to be given to preventative measures. Therefore, it is clear that those can only be done when decay processes are well identified. Complementary protections, either permanent or temporary might be needed. If felt needed for presentation purposes, some first minor restoration works could be tried.

1.5. Establish a basic laboratory

Basic laboratory is mostly needed in view of the treatment of artifacts. A basic soil-testing laboratory could also become useful, but in the short term, simple tests will probably be sufficient.

1.6. Implement a first set of sample conservation techniques (artifacts)

Treatments of artifacts need to be tried. However, the question of improving storage conditions might be necessary first. A proper examination of conditions of decay is therefore a first priority. Specific attention is to be given to metal artifacts, but cloth and leather artifacts also need serious consideration.

Objective 2: Ensure that the site is well known and frequently visited

2.1. Organize an official opening of the site

This was never done and the opportunity of the finalization of the erection of the roofs could be used for creating such an event. It would be the occasion to invite tour operators from Uzbekistan (at least from Samarqand) so as to inform them on the new possibilities offered on the site

2.2. Ensure that sensitization/information programmes are delivered by the media (radio, television, press)

This should be a constant effort, but of course would benefit from the organization of special events.

2.3. Organize information sessions with the tour operators

This needs to be set up as a bi-annual activity. In fact the rhythm of the tourism season has to be followed. One of these yearly meetings is to be organized just before the tourism season starts so that tour operators can be informed on the improvements made during winter. The second meeting is to be organized just after the tourism season so that an evaluation of the conditions of the visit can be made with the professionals. In order to guide proposals that could be raised at that meeting, forms could be distributed to tourists and gathered by the tour operators.

2.4. Explore potential of the site within a possible cluster of other cultural and natural sites within the Zaravshan valley

This work is to be undertaken in collaboration with the tour operators. The meetings organized for Sarazm could be the occasion to start that activity when improvement and lengthening of existing tours can be done with a smaller group of motivated tourism professionals. Of course, Penjikent reserve would also need to be involved.

2.5. Creation of a web site

That can gradually be improved. In addition to scientific material, the site should provide information on opening hours, fees,... The web site is one of the best means to advertise specific high scientific-level visits that could be guided by the archaeologists; Priority for the Web site should be to have the basic info in as many languages as possible in Tajik, Russian, French, English and German.

2.6. Information sent to visitor's guide editors.

The information package should comprise pictures, basic scientific material as well as information on visits. A CD with texts and pictures in electronic format could be useful to the editors.

After a first parcel, new information or activities launched can be transmitted by Email.

2.7. Organize a huge event for both the 5,000 years jubilee and inscription to the World heritage List

Date and program are to be determined with the concerned national and local authorities.

2.8. Gradually improve site aspect (cleanliness, removal of electricity lines, planting trees in front of houses around the site,)

The idea is to get the site as expressive as possible. To obtain that, it is suggested to remove from the site any intrusive element or elements in sight that could disturb the view of the visitors.

That of course concerns the general cleanliness (removal of garbage), but also :

- . removal of painted stones
- . renewal of the natural low vegetation
- . the gradual shift of the electricity lines outside the restricted area
- . the backfilling of non useful canals
- . planting trees in front of the two toilet buildings close to the "secondary" entrance of the archaeological base, and the archaeological base itself, so as to hide them from the villages houses so as to render them less visible
- . planting trees in front of the village houses visible from the site so as to render them less visible

2.9. Gradually improve visitors' experience (training of guides, presentation panels, site maps,...)

As it is at times difficult to interpret directly the visible remains, an effort needs to be done so that visitors can understand the site. That calls for:

- . basic training of guides, with at least emphasizing the summary information contained in this management plan
- . yearly training of guides (at least a day every year, so as to update their knowledge, provide them with new information, new findings, and provide them with update rules for the visit,
- . display presentation panels (which should be discreet so as to avoid being intrusive)
- . preparing and selling visitors guide with maps and plans of the remains as well as figures of the artifacts that were found at the various places
- . prepare specific tours led by the archaeologists themselves
- . organize slow archaeological works on going during the tourist period so as to allow visitors to feel like participating in the discoveries

2.10. Study the possibility to construct a larger site museum

That will comprise the identification of possible locations, selection of one of them, and to prepare a project for it. It is recommended to inform UNESCO WHC on the first intents so that a green light could be given for such a project, ensuring that it would not then be considered as an intrusive structure.

For the purpose, the remaining space behind the archaeological base could be used. However, there is a large space and numerous buildings that might be possible to re-use on the western side of the site (former Kolkhoz).

Objective 3: Ensure revenue generation at the site so that conservation costs can be covered and gradual improvements of the site can be made

3.1. Set-up entry fee and collection mechanism (entry fee, photo, video permits)

Possibilities to collect funds that can be used for the maintenance of the site and possibly making new investments need to be explored.

Of course an entry fee needs to be established.

Fees can also be required for taking pictures and video filming

Money needs to be transparently collected so that benefits made can be used by the archaeological base.

Efforts will be made to encourage all persons involved in the money collection exercise so as to get this activity as productive as possible. But for that, clear rules needs to be established so that everyone can feel satisfied, and moreover so that such activities would not entail tourists harassment.

3.2. Organize specific visits (high level) with archaeologists

Some visitors are more interested than others by archaeological sites and would be ready to pay higher fees for getting in-depth information during the visits, even though they would have to pay a much higher entry fee. Such a tour could last 2 to 3 hours (to be discussed with tour operators). Of course, that needs to be prepared. Some first experiments could be made and from the questions and observation, improvements be gradually made.

3.3. Preparation and sale of booklets, postcards, catalogues

The site being covered by the roofs is going to be difficult to photograph. Therefore, the sales of postcards made with good pictures should be a very good investment.

Site maps, excavation maps could also be sold as tools for the visitors. But moreover, booklets presenting the site (of various qualities/prices) could be sold, as well as posters, pins,...

3.4. Organize a souvenir shop with local crafts

To sell all above and below proposed items, there would probably have the need to construct a small shop.

Though, on the short term, the entry gate could solve the purpose. A portion of the archaeological base could also be allocated for that activity which could be related to the presence of the small museum.

3.5. Increase services for visitors ("tea house" - Traditional diners..)

As a first step, the veranda of the existing building will be used. On a longer term, a traditional tea house will be installed in the garden of the archaeological base for the visitors who could have rest their after the visit. Food for individuals could also be sold and special traditional diners could be organized in cooperation with the tour operators for groups.

3.6. Explore the possibility to prepare copies of artifacts for sale

Is it possible to prepare copies of bronze artifacts (e.g. the first bronze axe found by Achurali Taikonov, pearl necklace of the Lady of Sarazm,...)

The possibilities are many. They should be explored, both in terms of choice of some few elements, identification of artisans who could prepare the copies, and finally make attempts for the sale.

Objective 4: Finalize the organization of the documentation and start enriching the existing

4.1. Finalize the work already done on the passportization of artifacts (inventory)

This involves quite a lot of work, but is a real necessity as there is no complete inventory yet. A person is to be employed for the purposes or at least shared with Penjikent archaeological base which could also follow the same format. Digital information needs to be duplicated, and duplicates updated at regular intervals so as to avoid possible loss of information.

4.2. Organize the photographic documentation, and prepare for its enrichment

A huge photographic documentation is available. However, it is not very well identified and classified. It is recommended that this be done in such a manner that it can be gradually enriched. It is also recommended to launch a process of digitalizing the pictures (scanning) and to keep duplicates of the files in different places so as to avoid risks of possible loss.

4.3. Carry out archaeological research at very specific locations (under protective roofs, partnerships with the local population, or provided there is immediate backfilling)

Archaeological researches will be carried out in priority under the protective roofs where remains can be left visible for visitors. One of the possibilities is to take advantage of the remains that are now in a bad state to continue digging towards the earlier strata. That would allow for the diversifying of remains that could be presented, but also could lead to the discovery of even more ancient traces of settlement.

Archaeological researches could be carried out elsewhere, provided, that there are concrete plans and funds for ensuring the immediate and proper backfilling of the excavations.

As specified in the agreement between the archaeological base and the local population, archaeologists will also have numerous possibilities to examine excavations that will be made in the surroundings of the site. Some of those could lead to findings that could lead to the launch of "safeguard excavations" so as to benefit from works undertaken in the villages to gather interesting complementary information.

Documentation of the excavations should just be done in the same manner as it has always been done, very seriously. One important aspect is that today it would be incoherent not to use digital means. That would allow the team to prepare its reports by itself, and also prepare small booklets that could be sold and/or distributed to the guides.

4.4. Ensure proper documentation of all conservation works made at the site

When works are implemented, there is a need to collect all necessary data so as to make sure that the information can be available at a later stage, when time will have passed over the structure, so that all experiences can be properly used for the definition of sound and efficient technical solutions.

That includes photographic material taken before, during and after works, but that also involves recording properly the materials used, their origin, their properties, how they were applied, ..., the conditions of application, season, climatic conditions, ...

4.5. Map and document all archaeological sites around Sarazm.

There are many other archaeological sites around Sarazm. It seems that most of them are of a later period, but still more investigations may lead to discoveries that will help understand the site; more specifically its earlier periods.

A map will be prepared. After a simple location map, progress will be made, with further investigation, with boundaries, of the sites, associated sites, ...

Objective 5 : Reinforce the capacities of the Historical and Archaeological Reserve of Sarazm

- 5.1. Employ a person with computer skills, mainly responsible for the inventory and documentation

The professional should master basic software : Word, Excel, but if possible, mastership of Access (data base) and of GIS (Geographic Information System) would be very useful. That however may need to be considered within the overall framework of needs of the overall Zaravshan river (including Penjikent archaeological base)

- 5.2. Acquire computer equipments and install a documentation office at the archaeological base

Basic equipment (at least one set) is needed on the site. It is to be considered that photographic material requires huge memory capacities. There is also a need to get a double memory: an external hard disk with a capacity similar to that of the computer itself should be acquired.

More equipment could be made available on the site, but this needs to be considered together with decision that will be taken on point 5.1. GIS requires more sophisticated, and more powerful equipment.

- 5.3. Employ two guards and an “entry fee collector” – accountant

The two guards can be recruited from the village, though discussions could be held on that aspect with the local population representatives. Three could also have a rotating system so that the attribution of the post would not be seen as favoring an individual. The possibility to employ disabled persons could be envisaged, though their handicap should not keep them fulfilling their duty.

- 5.4. Provide training to base staff for the provision of special guided tours.

At a certain point of frequentation, the site will probably require to have a permanent guide, but as a beginning, it is most likely that the existing staff could cope with the demand, more specifically when taking into account the fact that most visitors come in groups and so with a guide which in principle would be able to handle the visit on his own.

However, the person (s) who could take care of individual visitors needs to be trained. That is also the case for the archaeologists as, in addition to their scientific know-how, they will need a minimum of training on ‘how to receive “ a visitor and how to present the site to tourists.

- 5.5. Provide training to local artisans (basic conservation techniques)

This will probably be done at the occasion of the experimental programme to be carried out. As was said earlier, the training should first focus on preventative measures. One aspect is that this training might not be only for interventions on the structures themselves. For example, the protective roofs might need to be maintained from time to time. There may also have the need to install temporary protections during winter.

5.6. Explore possibilities to establish partnership at the local/national levels

The staff of the Archaeological base is not currently capable of carrying out some of the above listed activities. Therefore, there is a need to take time to identify proper partners for undertaking them.

Special efforts should be made to try to involve the local communities, but for specific professional skills, and/or because of the specific role they play, professionals from the region as well as of national importance, of course including the national institutions of Heritage, Archaeology, Conservation, Tourism, Land Administration, will have a role to play.

In order to clarify rules, it might be interesting to establish agreements or memorandum of understanding that will help everyone to contribute positively to the conservation and enhancement of the educational / tourism capacities of the site.

5.7. Explore possibilities to establish partnership at the international level

At the international level, it will be very important to keep very close relationship with the World heritage Centre. That organization can provide advises, provide technical assistance or training, if this is considered necessary by the site managers. The WHC can also help in solving conflicts of interest that may arise, more specifically if there are problems at the national level to take decision on important construction projects to be implemented in the vicinity of the site.

Still the capacities of the WHC Centre may be limited. There are also areas for which the WHC is not providing any assistance (e.g. archaeological research). Therefore, it might be interesting for the team in charge (site manager) to invite partners to contribute to the implementation of this management plan which has been clearly set as what the nation considers as being the priority.