



## Unofficial Translation of Letter

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Ministry of Information and Culture

Directorate of preservation and restoration of historical monuments

Operation Department

Date: 28 January 2014

Ref: 1144

**TO: UNESCO Kabul Office:**

Herewith we are sending the eleven pages annual report in regards to the conservation status of World Heritage Sites in danger the Jam minaret and Bamiyan Cultural sites

With Regards,

Deploma Architect Abdul Ahad Abassi

Director of preservation and restoration of historical monuments



دولت جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
وزارت اطلاعات و فرهنگ

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوري دولت  
د اطلاعاتو او فرهنگ وزارت



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Information and Culture

ریاست حفظ و ترمیم آبدات تاریخی  
مدیریت اجراییه

شماره.....۱۱۴۴

تاریخ ۱۳۹۲/۱۱/۱۶

به دفتر محترم یونسکو مقیم در کابل !

اینک وسیله صادره هـذا گزارش پیرامون وضع حفاظتی میراث های معروض به خطر که درمورد منارجام وسایت فرهنگی بامیان در ظرف ( ۱۱ ) ورق ترتیب یافته بشما ارسال است

بالحترام

دبیلوم مهندس عبدالاحد عباسی  
رئیس حفظ و ترمیم آبدات تاریخی



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوري دولت  
د اطلاعاتو او فرهنگ وزارت

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوري دولت  
د اطلاعاتو او فرهنگ وزارت



## Ministry of Information and Culture

رياست : حفظ و ترميم آبدات تاريخي  
مديريت : اجراييه

شماره.....

تاريخ / / ۱۳۹۲

### Report on the State of Conservation The Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (May 2002, in Danger) ID Number: Ref: (C 211 rev)

#### 1. Response from Afghanistan to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 36COM 7A.29

#### Corrective measures taken by Afghanistan in reply to the World Heritage Committee's Decision(s):

Afghanistan Government and in special the Ministry of Information and Culture have identified a range of corrective measures in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre aimed to eventually have the site removed from the List in Danger. The measures include the establishment of:

- 1) A monitoring system through regular topographic measurements set-up and long-term monitoring of the Minaret and archaeological site.
- 2) Capacity building programs for national experts developed and implemented.
- 3) Topographic and archaeological surveys carried out and core and buffer zones re-defined accordingly.
- 4) A damage assessment report developed for the Minaret and the archaeological remains.
- 5) Protection of the site against illicit excavations ensured.
- 6) Marking of the core zone as World Heritage protected area.
- 7) Consolidation of the minaret structure.
- 8) Emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret.



**Progress towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:**

The MoIC has also been working with UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre and its implementing partners concerning monitoring the Minaret, establishing the boundaries of the site, topographic surveys and the establishment of a Master Plan and Management Plan for the site. In cooperation with UNESCO and the World heritage Centre the third Expert Working Group Meeting for the Old City of Herat and the World Heritage property of the Minaret of Jam and its Archaeological Remains held in Torino Italy September 2012 and had a very good achievements. It is hoped that the results of these expert meeting will help the Afghanistan government in preserving the site specially to contribute in designing of Management and Conservation plan .

For security of the Site, the MoIC and the Ministry of Interior have deployed a team of police officers for the protection of cultural property to monitor and safeguard the World Heritage property. They are currently in place at the site to address the issue of illicit traffic.

From 2006-2008 the MoIC and UNESCO implemented a “River Defense” project to install a type of retaining wall to protect the Minaret from seasonal flooding of the Jam and Hari Rud Rivers. Some part of this wall by devastating floods of fall 2012 washed out. For the safeguarding of the minaret against the seasonal floods, a temporary retaining gabion wall has been constructed in the bank of Jam Rud River with the financial help of US Military Founding. Since the constructed gabion wall is considered as temporary solution, and the width of the river has been narrowed, this gabion wall has to be removed. Therefore, the damaged previous retaining wall has to be treated. In addition to inclination and the damages occurred to the structure of the minaret, it is to be mentioned that the damages of minaret decoration are increasing by the passage of each year. Therefore, the urgent treatment of structure and decoration of the minaret is required.



**Challenges:** the major challenge part of preserving the site is natural disaster with flooding the rivers especially in spring time, remoteness of the Site from major cities in Afghanistan and the generally unstable security environment for organizing safe missions and fieldwork for national and international experts in such remote conditions.

**Major Restorations / alterations and new constructions within the protected area and buffer zone envisaged:**

The topographic maps of core and buffer zone of The Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam have been created by RWTH-Aachen University of Germany in 2013. These maps are provided to MoIC. An expert team of Department of Historical Monuments, MoIC had a survey mission to Jam Minaret on October 2013. The survey mission achieved the photography documentation of the area, survey of minaret structure and decoration status, determination of a foot bridge spot on the Harirud River, arrangement of action plan for the site, taking GPS coordination of some additional spots to be added to the buffer zone. The report of the achievement of the mission has been sent to the UNESCO, Kabul Office and MoIC.

For gaining this urgent need, MoIC has set a plan to reach the scope of:

1. Removing the new gabion wall constructed in the Jan Rud River
2. Treatment of the previous retaining stone masonry wall on the bank of jam Rud
3. Construction of flood breakers in several points of Jam Rud River to reduce the power of the flood
4. The south bank of the Hari Rud should be consolidated with gabions and planting of trees upstream of the minaret
5. A system of recording the height and flow of both rivers should be instituted to facilitate planning for future seasonal flooding.
6. Construct new foot bridge (abutments with wood planks)
7. structural repairs should initially be undertaken on the lower parts of internal brick masonry of the minaret, followed by replacement of timber lintels, treads to stairs, and frames to the openings through its height, as well as stabilization of the uppermost sections. Following this, a detailed programme of preservation should be developed on the basis of the surveys and documentation identified above.
8. Decoration of the minaret requires accurate measurement and survey



The above action plan needs urgent international donor support to be carried out. The Ministry of Information and Culture would like to request emergency assistance form the World Heritage Fund in order to carry out as many of the urgent steps as possible within the funding able to be provided.

Best Regards,

Diplom. Architect Ab.Ahad Abassi  
Director of Historical Monuments  
Department



Nabi Frahi  
Deputy Minister  
Acting Minister of Information  
and Culture

