

## **Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603rev)**

### Current conservation issues

During 2014 the staff of the Samarkand Regional State Inspection for Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects performed their activities in accordance with the requirements of the following acting laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan: “On safeguarding and use of cultural heritage objects”, “On safeguarding and use of archaeological sites”, Decree No 269 dated 2002 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan “On measures for further improvement for safeguarding and use of cultural heritage objects”, Urban Planning Code and other legal statements regarding issues for protection of cultural heritage objects and Convention for Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage Objects.

An Interagency Commission under Samarkand Regional khokimiyat on the issues of safeguarding of cultural heritage objects was established according to Decree No 269 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan.

The meeting of the Inspection Chief with the members of the Interagency Commission was organized at the Regional khokimiyat in February-March 2014, to present them the management-plan of “Samarkand- Crossroad of Cultures” World Cultural Heritage, which was elaborated together with UNESCO.

The copies of the management-plan were distributed among the members of Interagency Commission for consideration and use in their activities.

The management-plan of “Samarkand - Crossroad of Cultures”, World Cultural Heritage, which was examined and approved by the Commission, was submitted to Khokim of Samarkand region, Minister of Culture and Chief of the Board of Monuments for approval.

Alongside with that, the Inspection for Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects requested Khokim of Samarkand Region and Chief of the Board of Monuments to submit the approved management-plan for consideration and inclusion to the annual finance plan of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In 2014, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted two more Decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers in addition to the existing legislative acts:

1. 06 March 2014 № 53 «On additional measures for the further improvement of protection and use of tangible cultural and archaeological objects»;
2. 21 July 2014 № 200 «On additional measures for the further improvement of protection and use of tangible cultural and archaeological objects»

These acts made the existing system of protection and use of cultural heritage objects more structure-formed and gave an impulse for its further development.

During 2014 the staff of Samarkand Regional Inspection carried out their joint activities with representatives of Samarkand regional board for culture, "Makhalla" public fund, regional and municipal governance on architecture and urban planning, for organization of the joint work in the matter of preservation of cultural world heritage on the territory of the region and Samarkand, its historical centre.

The issues on planning and construction, which are being carried out on the World Heritage territory, are discussed at the meetings with the architectural regional and municipal bodies provided observance of the management-plan requirements, joint actions for the territory included to the World Heritage List.

Alongside with that, the Expert Council under Inspection consisted of representatives of the regional and municipal governance on architecture, restoration workshops, Samarkand Architecture and Construction institute and Inspection staff, continue to work.

The Council discusses the issues on:

1. control of urban construction planning connected with street restoration and reconstruction for replacement of old and emergency objects with the project proposals of the new objects. Elaboration and placing of the new objects are prepared taking into consideration their style requirements;

2. consideration of projects on restoration of the cultural heritage objects and their adjusting territories.

During 2014 the members of the Expert Council got together five times. Thirty three project proposals have been considered at the meetings. Some of them were declined by the Council members, the others were given recommendations to eliminate shortcomings, some of them were agreed.

In 2014, the users of the cultural heritage objects and Inspection concluded 114 safeguard obligations and 244 notifications on preservation of the cultural heritage objects and improvement of their territories.

Moreover, the Inspection insisted to fix 74 safeguard boards on the facades of cultural heritage objects by their owners, legal and physical persons. The boards certified that the objects are taken into account and under the State's protection. The boards were made according to a single design, approved by the Board of Monuments under the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Also, the Inspection for Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects together with the regional and municipal cadastral services annually carry out work on preparation and registration of the cadastral documents for the objects located at the region and Samarkand territory.

This joint work is also being implemented at the territory which is included to the World Heritage List.

Works planned in the framework of the "Programme on research, conservation, restoration and adaptation for modern utilisation of cultural heritage property of Samarkand until 2015" shall prioritise the preservation of specific monuments, neighbourhood mosques and historic housing within the traditional centre of Mahalla Guzars and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

### Conclusion

In 2014, 241 cadastral files were registered in the municipal cadastral service at the territory of the World Heritage Object, among them, 90 cadastral files for the cultural heritage objects, 89

cadastral files for the buffer zone of the cultural heritage objects, and 41 cadastral files of the objects located at the territory of historical centre.

More than 10 000 photographs were taken during survey of the cultural heritage objects in 2014.

During inventory of the cultural heritage objects in the city the Inspection carries out monitoring to identify condition of the objects and their need in conservation and restoration works. Accordingly, 35 objects of cultural heritage were thoroughly surveyed and the acts of their technical state were drawn up.

Every year information on the revealed emergency objects is submitted to the Board of Monuments to be included to the restoration plan.

According to Inspection's information, the Board of Monuments guided by the Decree No164 dated 17 June 2011, has planned to allocate funds for restoration and conservation of 22 cultural heritage objects located mainly at the territory of the World Heritage Object, within five years, from 2011 to 2015.

In this regard, the old objects of cultural heritage such as Shaikhul Islom, Yangi Khairobod and Sufi Rozik have been restored and will be given to the users.

To this end. Regarding the planned improvement activities at the territory of Samarkand Historical Centre in Pendjikent street, six more cultural heritage objects (the former quarter centres) such as Urguti-1, Yomini, Mirzo Pulat, Khuja Safoi Vali and others, were included to restoration plans in 2013, and in 2014-2015 the restoration and conservation works are going on.