

Name of World Heritage property	State Party	ID number
<i>Old walled City of Shibam</i>	<i>Republic of Yemen</i>	<i>C 192</i>

STATE PARTY'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE OLD WALLED CITY OF SHIBAM, YEMEN – INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN DANGER

Ministry of Culture - GOPHCY– March 2016

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 39TH SESSION (BOON, 2015), CONCERNING THE OLD WALLED CITY OF SHIBAM

Decision : 39 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,
2. **Recalling Decision** 22 BUR V.B72, adopted at the 22nd session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 1998),
3. **Notes with great concern** that the Old City of Shibam is currently subject to significant threats from natural elements , physical changes and a lack of organizational support and material for physical conservation projects ;
4. **Commends the State Party** for the preparation of the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015 and **requests** the State Party to ensure that the Action Plan addresses the current situation and include provisions for conservation of damaged building, local community awareness and strategy for attracting international support;
5. **Also requests** the World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the National Strategy for the preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' to be developed during 2015;
6. **Urges the State** Party to work towards preparation of a management plan for the property, in consultation with the World Heritage Center, in conformity with Decision 22 BUR V.B72;
7. **Expresses its appreciation** for the previous support Shibam by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) but expresses its regret at the termination of the Yemeni/German collaboration in 2010;
8. **Further requests** that State Party, as soon as it is feasible to do so, given the current security situation, to consider initiating a large-scale rehabilitation programme for the property, in co-operation with potential regional and international partners;
9. **Also decides** to inscribe the old Walled City of Shibam on the World Heritage list in Danger;
10. **Also requests** the State party, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

11. **Requests** furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Center, by 1 February 2016, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

1. Executive summary of the report

Since 2011 Yemen under intense unrest, which led to outbreak of armed conflict ended to agreement of national dialogue conference under regional and international auspices.

Before ending of the national dialogue conference, early in 2015 broke out the newest armed conflict, it led to more deterioration of the security, political and economic situation in the country.

Safety and socio-economic states have collapsed, at that time suffer and welter dominated in Yemen.

Up to now, more than 60 heritage sites, (monuments, archaeological sites and cities) have been damaged.

Despite of scarce resources and lack funds GOPHCY has conducted some of emergency activities in coordination and support from UNESCO Doha technical studies and documenting of the most possible accessible sites affected in this war.

In coordination with UNESCO Doha and ICCROM Athar, three workshops have been elaborated in Amman, Cairo and Tunis, in which some of Yemeni experts participated, the objective was, to raise the capabilities of team from GOAM and GOPHCY to first aid intervention during the crises and conflicts.

UNESCO Doha in coordination with UNESCO in Paris, held an experts meeting, who worked in Yemen, the aim was to discuss the status of Yemeni heritage in this arm conflict, the outcome were emergency matrix to implement some urgent actions, to help protection the Yemeni heritage, but this matrix is still ink on paper yet.

In 2014, GOPHCY with financial and technical support of GIZ to prepared a draft of the **National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments** (2016 -2020), thanks to the GIZ. Nonetheless, the ongoing war and arm intervention of the coalition forces and due circumstances, state has been unable to implement the Action plan for 2015. (negative impacts of political, economic and acute shortage of resources), the actions have been postponed until situation allowed. Support of World Heritage center, as well from the global concerned community, for promotion, revision according to the results of the promotion, prepare technical proposals and fundraising activities, in line with the financial and institutional capacities. It is the crucial supportive requirement for preservation of Yemeni built culture heritage.

The Old City of Shibam is subject to significant threats from natural elements, In 2008 Shibam has survived, from a devastating flood hit Hadramout governorate. Moreover , the arm conflict in the country as well the arm intervention of coalition countries, caused more deterioration of the general security and economic situation in the country .Meanwhile Shibam was subjected by other threats, like fanatic groups like Dae'sh, and Al-Qaida, a terror attack.in November 2015 car exploded near the city wall, caused severe damages on historical buildings.

Therefore ,calling for urgent international combing is essential demand, to support the protection of cultural heritage in Yemen.

GOPHCY core expert team , could carry out the necessary studies and documentation ambulatory activities ,if we could overcome the current lacks the resources particularly the finance lack.

State party need of urgent support to finance the work of processing in preparing the technical and financial proposals for postwar plan. Eager to more support in the field of training and rehabilitation during this period.

We urgently suggested to think of an international Conference for promotion of world cultural heritage, which exposed destruction ,to raise awareness to support the implementation of the necessary protection processes and maintenance.

Finally, Our thanks and appreciation to German government on the permanent support to Yemen in heritage protection, and its willingness to continue this support.

We, also thank UNESCO Doha and ICCROM Athar for their support and assistance , hoping to be continuing in the generous and timely manner ,prompt without bureaucratic delays, Mainly in these difficult conditions experienced in Yemen.

Our thanks and appreciation to the Director General of UNESCO Dr.Irina Bokova for her support and solidarity ,as well to all the expertise ,who are in solidarity of Yemeni heritage.

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, paragraph by paragraph

2.1 Yes the Old City of Shibam is currently subject to significant threats from natural elements .The old walled city of Shibam has been many times subjected to floods, it was partially destroyed by water in 1532. Thus flood protection is among the reasons given for the traditional form of its unique high-rise houses; others include the need to conserve agricultural land (the city is surrounded by groves of date palms), the desire to gather patriarchal families under one roof, and, more pragmatically, at least in earlier times, to accept the protection afforded by the perimeter wall. In 2008 Shibam has survived, from a devastating flood hit Hadramout governorate.

In 2010, a project called " Project for the Development of Shibam Oasis", as part of the Sustainable Food Security Program. The project helped in designing a comprehensive development plan for the conservation and use of the Shibam Oasis, it was considered as a buffer zone of the World Heritage Site. Over a period of 10 months, the project rehabilitated the traditional flood irrigation system around the historic city of Shibam, it was funded by GIZ .

Today, Shibam is subjected by other threats, a terror attack by fanatic groups like Dae'sh, and Al-Qaida .On Friday 20th November 2015, car was exploded on the main road near the city wall, It caused severe damages on the facades , terraces and removal of the windows of some of these buildings in particular those that are located on the southern and western part of the city. Moreover, due to the current war and conflict status of the country, lack of administration support and material for physical conservation projects been exaggerated by economic, security and political circumstances due.

Table 1- Damaged buildings affected by Dae'sh explosion in Shibam

#	Type of damage	# of buildings	% of damage
1.	Severe damaged buildings	1-20	90 – 100 %
2.	Medium damaged buildings	21- 80	30 – 60 %
3	Minor damaged building	81- 160	10 – 30 %
	Total of damaged buildings	160	

2.2 Preparation of the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015, was the great step for better management and preservation of culture heritage in Yemen ,but current status and instability due to the war, was the main reason of lacking of resources, that prevented the implementation of any action concerning the National Strategy during 2015. The state party is waiting for WHC and other related concerned international organization to assist in revision of the draft strategy according to the currant status , as well assistance for promotion and, prepare the financial proposals, are utmost demand, the Action Plan ought to address the current situation and include provisions for conservation of damaged building, local community awareness and attracting international support.

- 2.3 The State Party has prepared a draft of management plan for Shibam , in cooperation with previous GIZ project .we attached a copy of it, for remarks and consultation the World Heritage Center.
- 2.4 A programme for Development of Historic Cities in Yemen (PDHCY) was launched in 2007 as a Yemeni-German Technical Cooperation measure, building on the experience and the success of the ending SUDP, to strengthen local development through capacity building in the field of urban conservation in Shibam.
- PDHCY was a co-financing cooperation project with funds from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) and the Social Fund for Development of Yemen (SFD).
The project reached a level of awareness, professional instruments, financing and decision mechanisms in dealing with the safeguarding and revitalization of the urban heritage. Unfortunately, due to the current status of the country, because of the war and conflict the support of the German Agency for international Cooperation (GIZ) have terminated.
- 2.5 In this current conflict situation of the country, **the state party** is requesting the WHC and all other concerned international organization to play its role and commitments for further resources to support regeneration and conservation projects, we are in urgent need of assistance in preparing financial proposals for promoting the need for international partners support.
- 2.6 We consider that, it is urgently important , to get the possible consultation and support of the World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of emergency and corrective measures with a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired State of conservation rot the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party

N/A

4. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the protected area (core zone and buffer zone and/or corridors) that might be envisaged.

N/A

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

State Party, doesn't mind to upload the report for public access.

Signature Of The Authority