



Ref: 863/17

Paris, 21 November 2017

Dear Ms. Rössler,

I would like to refer to your email dated on 17 November 2017, concerning the World Heritage report of the Iraqi sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Please find herewith as you requested, the report of the state of conservation of Erbil Citadel site.

As for the Ahwar site's report we will send it as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and best regards.

Prof. Mahmood Al-Mullakhalaf
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
of Iraq to UNESCO

Ms. Mechtild Rössler
Director
World Heritage Centre



Erbil Citadel
Inscribed on the
World Heritage
List in 2014

Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C 1437)

State of Conservation Report

Prepared by:

Dara al Yaqoobi,

Head of the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR)



High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR)

November 2017

1. Executive Summary for the state of conservation report of Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C1437) /November 2017

- In response to the recent Decision (40 COM 7B.23) of the World Heritage Committee, the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR), acting as the dedicated institution in charge of site management that implements and coordinates ongoing and planned activities, is hereby reporting on the state of conservation of the property and on its continuing efforts in the implementation of activities and measures in various fields, particularly those undertaken to prevent threats to the property's OUV, as outlined below:
 - A **database** system for the Citadel was created which serves as a tool that will help in the monitoring, conservation and management of the site.
 - Within the framework of enhancing **interpretative and visitation facilities**, the interpretation and visitor center of Erbil Citadel is established, and the study of "Development and Urban Enhancement of Visitor Routes at Erbil Citadel" was carried out. Moreover, HCECR continued in undertaking various facilities for promoting the Citadel and disseminating information about the Citadel, including orientation signage, producing visitor books and informative brochures in addition to coordinating with media. The HCECR is also collaborating with academic institutions for strengthening their engagement in the revitalization process.
 - The HCECR is continuing with **conservation works for preserving the built heritage**, through executing emergency works for consolidation, stabilization, repair and maintenance works for the vulnerable structures located around the perimeter of the slope in addition to other buildings in the Citadel as well.
 - The HCECR is continuing with **archaeological research**, in collaboration with University of Rome, through undertaking studies and investigation of the archaeological remains and findings found during the archaeological excavations at the Citadel, where all the ceramic pieces found during the excavations in area E and in Area G have been cleaned, documented and stored, in addition, 280 shreds were selected and documented for cataloging.
 - The HCECR is undertaking efforts for elaborating opportunities for **implementing conservation and revitalization programs in cooperation with other partners** through encouraging adaptive reuse of the buildings by leasing the buildings to small projects owners in addition to civil society and NGOs in exchange for their participation in providing the funds for rehabilitating the buildings. In addition, the HCECR proceeded with approaching international donors and funds, international organizations and diplomatic missions, for potential support in preparing the Citadel's buildings for future rehabilitation and adaptive re-use.
 - The HCECR continued its efforts in **generating various cultural activities and public events for encouraging the involvement of the local community** at large to be part in the revitalization process of the Citadel. Several activities and events aiming at promoting art, culture, peace and humanity, were held at Erbil Citadel Cultural Centre and other open venues at the Citadel in coordination with civil society organizations, cultural foundations, and volunteerism networks.
- There are no current major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property and the buffer zone, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. With regards to the issue of the proposed project for the Kurdistan Museum that has been halted there are ongoing correspondences for reaching a satisfactory solution.