Qashqadarya Region Department of the Cultural Heritage Department at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Report

On conservation status of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz, a World Heritage Property

2020
Shakhrisabz, Tashkent
Historical centre of Shakhrisabz town (885)

**Geographic coordinates**: 38° 45' N, 66° 53' E

**Date included in the list**: 2 of December 2000

**Date of report**: 2020

**Name of organisation, responsible for preparation of report on impact to the heritage**:
- Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Cultural Heritage Department, Kashkadarya Region Division
- The State Unitary Enterprise «O’ZSHAHARSOZLIK LITI»
- Open joint stock company "Russian institute of urban planning and investment development "GIPROGOR"

**This report was prepared for the World Heritage Centre**

**Main background and conclusion**
This report was prepared after joint monitoring mission of ICOMOS and World Heritage Centre (21-26 January 2019) and Resolution 43 of World Heritage Committee in Istanbul (Baku, June 2019).

Based on the data from the monitoring mission, the World Heritage Centre expressed its serious worry with the changes that are occurring at the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz town, and upon a decision of the World Heritage Committee at the 40 Istanbul Session (Turkey, 10-17 July 2016), the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz town was included in the list of endangered heritage sites.
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World Heritage Committee decision (43 COM 7A.44)
World Heritage Committee 43rd session (Baku, 2019)

Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Decision: 43 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions 39 COM 7B.74, 40 COM 7B.48, 41 COM 7A.57, and 42 COM 7A.4, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Bahrain, 2018) sessions respectively;

3. Welcomes the Presidential Decree of June 2018 to protect all World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan;

4. Notes that the 2014 Decree for rebuilding the historic centre of the property has been withdrawn;

5. Also notes that the State Party has provided some general documentation in response to the request by the Committee, but that this does not allow a full comparison of what exists now with what existed before the recent demolitions;

6. Further notes that although the State Party was requested to halt all further work at the property until the 43rd session, it has provided details of planned interventions relating to proposals for removing structures around monuments, creating a tourist complex in the ‘spirit of Eastern architecture’, reconstructing one-storey houses along streets, as well as new residential streets for the local population that are in contradiction to the State Party’s two Presidential Decrees of 2018;

7. Recalls the December 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission’s conclusion that “recovering sufficient attributes to justify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) identified at the time of inscription seems impossible at this stage” (Decision 41 COM 7A.57);

8. Notes furthermore that as recommended in Decision 42 COM 7A.4, the State Party invited a High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission to explore “options for the potential recovery of attributes” and “whether a significant boundary modification based on some of the monuments and the remaining urban areas might have the potential to justify OUV”;

9. Notes moreover that the 2019 High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission suggested that the State Party might wish to explore two options for a significant boundary modification, based on either a selection of Temurid monuments or on key elements of Temurid urbanism, including the urban fabric of the mahalla that might have the potential to be recovered, but that the mission did not have the necessary documentation to allow it to explore in detail either of these proposals or how OUV might be justified;

10. Recommends that, if the State Party wishes to explore either option, it should undertake further research and documentation and develop a restoration plan, in order to provide sufficient details to allow assessment of the potential for each option to justify OUV, before any work is undertaken on a significant boundary modification in compliance with Paragraphs 165 and 166 of the Operational Guidelines or on a new nomination;

11. Also recommends the State Party to consider the following options as the outcome of the 2019 mission:

The first option would entail focusing on the monuments representing the Temurid period. The State Party presented the mission with 13 such monuments from the previous total of 18. The Mission considered that the two most significant issues to be considered with regard to a selection of monuments in their current conditions are their authenticity and their disengagement from their urban surroundings. Hence, actions would be necessary to reconnect them to the urban fabric and to improve or reverse recent conservation work in order to meet conditions of authenticity and integrity,

The second option the Mission proposed was to explore the key elements of the Temurid urbanism within the Historic Centre. The mission explored in a preliminary way the scope of these elements. They might include the main north-south and east-west axes intersecting in the Historic Centre with its the main market, residential quarters representing a spatial and social hierarchy, city walls and gates, the main
mosques, and madrassas along with the key monuments. The Mission considered that there might be potential to recover the urban street patterns in several parts of the property and to re-vitalize traditional building technologies. This option would need to be based on detailed research of the urban grain, the specificities of vernacular building traditions, and what has survived, and would need to be supported by measures to upgrade infrastructure and living conditions in order to ensure a living city, and the development of new protection, conservation and management systems;

12. Encourages the State Party to request upstream support in relation to the potential for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination to justify OUV;

13. Decides to allow the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination, and at the end of this period, to consider once again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period to allow time, if by then a clear direction of travel has been articulated, or to delete the property altogether;

14. Requests the State Party to retain a complete building moratorium in the property until any significant boundary modification or a new nomination has been considered by the Committee and a Management Plan for heritage conservation integrated with a city Master Plan in line with the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) has been prepared and adopted;

15. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2019 mission, whether or not the options proposed in Paragraph 11 above are progressed after further research;

16. Also urges the State Party to progress in the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations for the conservation of the Ak-Saray Palace tiles and to develop a conservation strategy and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work is undertaken;

17. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property including a report on the progress in the exploration of options and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 44th session in 2020;

18. Also decides to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
**History and description of the object.** The Historic centre of Shakhrisyzanz town gives evidence on secular development of the town and centuries history, partly during the period, when the town reached peak of its development – Amir Timur reign in XV century. The typological feature of the unique structures is demonstrated in large scales, the compositions, multi-functional ensembles that form the urban quarters, do not have any analogues in Central Asia. The *Timurid* reign period is represented by the following monuments: Aq-Saray, the architectural complexes of Dor ut-Tillovat and Dor us-Saodat, Chorsu market, XV century Bath house, Mirhamid prayer room, Chubin and Koba Madrasahs, Kundizak, Malik Ajdar mosques. All these monuments are under state protection.

**Buildings of later periods (XIX century),** are represented by the Kitob, Kunchiqar and Eshon Pir mosques. These monuments are also under state protection.

Their state of conservation and integrity is satisfactory. For the past few years the monitoring, conservation, support and restoration processes were always underway.

Traditional residential houses of Shakhrisabz have resemblance to Bukhara and Samarqand residential houses. The design is noted for inclusion of an intermediary veranda to block the rooms around the yard. Sometimes, there is a decorated ceiling in sitting room of the house – mehmonxona, but generally the decoration of houses is quite simple and humble. However, with all the simplicity of finishing, lack of rich decoration, Shakhrisabz residential houses are noted for organic integrity of the purpose of the building and its general compositional design development, sense of proportions and forms. Currently, 3 traditional houses were taken under local protection. Photos were taken and printed, and passports of residential houses were prepared. These residential houses, located in the central part and built in the end of XIX century, were in a time-worn state and the inhabitants of these houses did not want live in the conditions, where there is no sewage, water supply lines, etc. After measuring, study and preparation of the passports, these houses were knocked down. The components, which represented architectural value, were preserved. Currently, on the basis of the collected data, designs of reconstruction of these residential houses are under development; but the designs will be developed by taking into account the modern engineering lines: sewage, water supply, gas supplies and electricity supplies etc.
Save the central parts, all the other houses in the historic centre of Shakhrisabz, were left unchanged, thus keeping the urban structure, division into mahalla units, etc.

The Historic part of Shakhrisabz is unique owing to its planning structure (urban structure) for it reflects a Timurid epoch town elements. The buildings and structures, built by Amir Timur and Timurids, are unique synthesis of architecture and decorative-applied arts. The planning of the town, which includes larges architectural complexes, was an event in the urban building practice of Central Asia in XIV century. Construction of these sites in Shakhrisyanz continued for various time periods and giving some unique feature of heritage of different architectural styles. After approval of the state program, the centre of the town was changed and some houses were knocked down.

The historic centre of Shakhrisabz meets two criteria:

**Criterion (iii):** Many wonderful monuments are located in Shakhrisabz, partly, monuments of the Timurids era, which had enormous cultural and political importance in medieval Central Asia.

**Criterion (iv):** Shakhrisabz buildings like Aq-Saray castle and Amir Timur burial vault represent great examples of the style that had deep impact to the architecture of the region.

The following explanation was given on confirming the integrity: that all original components of the medieval town, including the unique architectural monument, built during the Timurids era, are located within the vicinity of the World Heritage site, which is determined by the town walls. The historic town fabric has been preserved notwithstanding some slight changes, done during the Soviet period.

**Authenticity:**
The monuments and buildings in Shakhrisabz are witnesses of the architecture and urban planning of the Timurids era. Most buildings and decorative art have been well preserved and are in satisfactory condition.

**Integrity:**
all original components of the medieval town, including the unique architectural monuments, built during the period of Timurids reign are located within the heritage site, which is surrounded by a fortification wall. The historic urban fabric of the town has almost been untouched, despite some slight buildings, constructed during the Soviet period. The main factor that impacts to the physical integrity of the monuments is rise of the ground waters. Therefore, a drainage system is required around the monuments and the historic part of the town.
The work, completed according to the paragraphs of the UNESCO World heritage Committee 43rd Session (Baku, 2019).

**Answer to paragraph 3:** Resolution No 435 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 9th of June 2018 “On protection of all World heritage sites, located in Uzbekistan” was adopted. All construction-installation activities were halted at “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” for the purposes of ensuring fulfilment of this resolution.

**Answer to paragraph 4:** The works to be conducted in accordance with Resolution No 31 of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 20th of February 2014 On Restoration of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz were halted by the Resolution 435 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan.

**Answer to paragraph 5:** A Master plan is proposed on the state of the Historic Centre as at 2013 (Appendix: maps 1, 2). A Master plan on current status of the Historic Centre has been prepared. A draft of a plan on restoration of the original view in the “Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”, i.e., on restoration of the traditional setting of the streets in the historic period is proposed (Appendix: map 3).

This design has proposals of introducing changes in the following territories:
- Locating of traditional houses that will be restored to their original states, in the Dor ut-Tilovat complex and in the Zingiron mahalla in the middle of the central farm market, which is located in the “Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”;
- joining of the Sangiokhir street in the Qoziguzar mahalla at the entrance from the Kunchiqar gates and the Kapkon Street in the Kulollik mahalla;
- Locating (building) of restored traditional houses in the empty space in the O’rda mahalla to the east and west side of the Ak-Saray complex;
- Locating (building) of restored traditional houses in the northern part of the car parking place, which is in the southern part of the Dor ut-Tilovat complex;
- Locating (building) of restored traditional houses in northern part of the Kunduzak guzar mosque, which is located in the Kulollik mahalla to the east of the Dor ut-Tilovat complex;
- Joining of the streets in Zingiron mahalla in “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” with the streets in the Qoziguzar, Kulollik, Qo’shhovuz, O’rda and Zingiron mahallas;
- Draft design proposal of restoration of the Buyuk Ipak Yo’li main central street in “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”.

**Answer to paragraph 6:** For the purposes of additional improving of protection and conservation of the cultural heritage properties, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted his resolution No PQ-4068 “About measures for
radical improvement of activities in the field of protection of material cultural heritage sites” dated 19th of December 2018, and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted its resolution No 265 “About organisation of the activities of the Department of Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and approvals of certain normative-legal documents, related with protection and use of Material cultural heritage sites” dated 30th of August 2019, and the Law of the republic of Uzbekistan “About introducing some changes and amendments to certain legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to increase of measures for protection of material cultural heritage sites” on 30th of August 2019. The above indicated law, resolutions and orders are attached hereto. Currently, respective professionals are developing a draft proposal of a plan (it will require minimum 6 months).

**Answer to paragraph 7:** Currently, works on preparation of a report on “Assessment of impact to the heritage” of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz are underway.

**Answer to paragraph 8:** The interested organisations are currently conducting works on modification of boundaries at the sites within the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz. On 26th of November 2019, Shakhrisabz town mayor issued resolution No X-2838/11 to confirm the ownership rights to the architectural monuments in the Historic centre, located in “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz.

**Answer to paragraph 9:** Two proposals in Paragraphs 9-11 of the resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (43 COM 7A.44) by joint mission of UNIESCO and ICOMOS from January 2019 on modifying the limits of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz were reviewed. One of the proposals was selected based on the conclusions, drawn from this review, and works are underway on this proposal.

**Answer to paragraph 10:** A proposal on a design of restoration was developed and approvals and agreement processes are underway.

In addition, negotiations are underway since 3rd of December 2019 with GipRoGor Institute of the Russian Federation on implementation of this project.

**Answer to paragraph 11:** The World Heritage Committee Resolution 43 COM 7A.44 mentions the heritage properties. Below are the respective lists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NN</th>
<th>Name of site</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ak-Saray complex 1380-1404 yy.</td>
<td>O’RDA MCM</td>
<td>Historic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jahongir Mausoleum XIV century at Dorus-Saodat complex</td>
<td>QO’SHHOVUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hazrati Imom Mosque XIX century at Dorus-Saodat complex</td>
<td>QO’SHHOVUZ</td>
<td>Historic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Amir Temur underground sepulchre XIV</td>
<td>QO’SHHOVUZ</td>
<td>Historic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NN</td>
<td>Name of site</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Do rut-Tilovat Complex IV century</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ko’k Gumbaz Mosque 1435 y.</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shamsiddin Kulol Mausoleum XIV-XV centuries</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gubazi Saidon Mausoleum 1437-38 yy.</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>XV century</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dorus-Saodat</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Amir Temur underground sepulchre XIV century</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jahongir Mausoleum XIV century</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hazrati Imom Mosque XIX century</td>
<td>QO'SHHOUZ MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ak-Saray Complex 1380-1404 yy.</td>
<td>O’RDA MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chubin Madrasah XIV - XX century</td>
<td>QOZIGUZAR MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Malik Ashtar Mosque, XIV-XVI centuries</td>
<td>ZINGIRON MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kunduzak Mosque XIV century</td>
<td>KULOLLIK MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A midival Bath VI century</td>
<td>ZINGIRON MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Chorsu Dome XVI century</td>
<td>KULOLLIK MCM</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Archaeological finding XIV century</td>
<td>ZARGARLIK MCM</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Abdushukur Og’alik Madrasah 1919</td>
<td>ZINGIRON MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Samarqand Darvoza (Gates) X-XI centuries</td>
<td>O’RDA MCM</td>
<td>Historic centre</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conservation state of historic sites.

Ak-Saray Palace castle (XIV century).

It was repaired and conserved in 2015. The floor part of the castle, disclosed in the southern part of the castle as a result of archaeological diggings, was covered with glass and conserved. The glass cover was installed to protect the floor from atmospheric and man-caused impacts. The Structures Earthquake Stability Department of the Tashkent Institute of Architecture and Construction conducts constant monitoring of the technical condition of the site. A hydrometer was installed in front of the site for the purposes of monitoring the ground waters level. Currently the conservation status is good.
“Dor ut-tilovat” Architectural complex (XIV-XV centuries."

The site was repaired and conserved in 2015-2016. The surrounding area and its yard were improved; troughs and small trenches were dug for draining the precipitation waters. Currently the Shakhrisabz Department of the Qashqadarya Region Cultural Heritage Department is located here. Currently the conservation status is good.
“Dor us-Saodat” Architectural complex (XIV — XIX centuries).

The preserved part of the complex was repaired and conserved in 2015-2016. The surrounding area and its yard were improved; troughs and small trenches were dug for draining the precipitation waters. Currently, it is functioning as the mahalla mosque. The conservation status is good.

“Chorsu” Architectural complex (XIV century).

The preserved part of the complex was repaired and conserved in 2015-2016. The surrounding area and its yard were improved; troughs and small trenches were dug for draining the precipitation waters. Currently, it is used as an art gallery. The conservation status is good.
A medieval bath house (XVI century)

The preserved part of the complex was repaired and conserved in 2015-2016. The surrounding area and its yard were improved; troughs and small trenches were dug for draining the precipitation waters. Currently, it is used in its original function – as a bath house. The conservation status is good.

Abdushukur Og’alik Mosque (Kho’ja Mirkhamid prayer room).
The preserved part of the complex was repaired and conserved in 2015-2016. The surrounding area and its yard were improved; troughs and small trenches were dug for draining the precipitation waters. Currently, it is functioning as “The Centre of Islam Culture”. The conservation status is good.

**Chubin Madrasah.**

The site was repaired and conserved in 2014-2016; and its surrounding area was improved. Troughs and small trenches were installed for drainage of precipitation waters. Currently it is functioning as a museum. The conservation status is good.

**Koba Caravanseray.**

The site was repaired and conserved in 2014-2016; and its surrounding area was improved. Troughs and small trenches were installed for drainage of precipitation waters. Currently it is functioning as a restaurant. The conservation status is good.
Kunduizak Mosque.

The Mosque was repaired in 2014-2016 and its surrounding area was improved. Troughs and trenches were installed for drainage of precipitation waters. Currently it is used as a mosque. The conservation status is good.

Malik Ashtar Mosque.

Repairs were performed at this mosque in 2014-2016. Its surrounding area was improved. It is functioning as a mosque of the mahalla. Current conservation status is good.
Later monuments

Kitab Mosque.
A smaller mahalla mosque. It was built in 1910 inside the mahalla area. No major repairs have yet been performed. Current conservation status is good.

Eshon Pir Mosque.

It is a mahalla mosque, located in the eastern part of the town, inside the mahalla area. It was repairs many years ago. Currently, general conservation status is good.
Kunchiqar Mosque.

It is a comparatively small mahalla mosque, built in XIX century. It was repaired in 2014-2015. Current conservation status is good.

**Traditional houses**

**Preserved traditional houses:**

**Kopkon Street 45**

This residential house was built in XVIII century. Some part of it that consists of two rooms has been preserved. Currently, it is used as Dalon B&B Hotel. The ceiling of the historic part of the house is made of vassajuft (planed flat or semi-round bars tightly placed on cross-beams) and cross-beams are decorated with pictures and carvings.
Qozi Guzar 75
Two rooms of this traditional house are preserved, their status requires repairing. The vassajuft bars and cross-beams decorated with carving and painted patterns.
**Town walls**

About 110 metre long part of the Shakhrisabz fortification wall is preserved relatively well. Only some remainders of the other parts of the wall are preserved. Currently, conservation works must be conducted on the Shakhrisabz fortification wall.

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**Answer to paragraph 12:** It will be done in liaison with UNESCO experts. At invitation of the Uzbekistan Party, UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS experts E. Hoybrechts, P. Tricco and K. Iamand visited the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz. It is envisaged that the boundaries of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz – a World Heritage Site will be determined by taking into account their conclusions.

**Answer to paragraph 13:** Upon agreement on the proposals on 3 projects that are submitted to UNESCO on determination of boundaries of the cultural heritage properties that are located in the Historic Centre, respective proposals on buffer zones shall be developed.

**Answer to paragraph 14:** A proposal that includes 3 projects was developed together with the previous pre-reconstruction project of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz town; and traditional residential houses of local population will be restored based on the proposal.

**Answer to paragraph 15:** Works will be carried out on option II of proposed 2 options.

Currently, study of the main elements of Timurid era urban construction in the Historic Centre is underway.

**Answer to paragraph 16:** No works are conducted at Ak-Saray complex. Any future work to be planned for conservation of the Ak-Saray complex will be carried out in liaison with UNESCO.
**Answer to paragraph 17:** By the 1st of February 2020, the Uzbekistan Party will be submitting an updated report to the World Heritage Centre on the conservation status of a World Heritage site, including, practical activities have been commenced on submitting a report on review and implementation of the works, stipulated in paragraph 11 b) of Resolution 43rd the Session of World Heritage Centre for examination by the Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

**Answer to paragraph 18:** Having taken into account the Guide for meeting the terms and conditions of the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972) and recommendations of UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS experts, the Uzbekistan Party is hereby informs that it has commenced works on measures to take the World Heritage site - “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” out from the endangered sites list, also return it to the list of the World Heritage sites list.

**Field studies**

Research works at the Historical Centre of Shakhrisabz had commenced in the second half of XX century. Several research works were conducted on architectural monuments (on deformation, earthquake stability, natural and man-caused impacts).

**Monitoring work at Cultural heritage sites.** The Historic architectural monuments are monitored and, if necessary, the sites are subjected to repairs or measures are taken to prevent negative impacts. Once in six months together with the Tashkent Institute of Architecture and Construction, we conduct site deformation, earthquake stability, their technical condition, foundation and wall moisture levels and other types of monitoring works is carried out at the sites that are located within the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz town, like Do rut-Tilovat, Dor us-Saodat, and Ak-Saray complexes. In addition, the fissures on the walls and the lights, installed in them at the Chubin Mosque, Chorsu Architectural Comple, Koba Caravanseray, Molik Ajdar Mosques, Abdushukur Og’alik Mosque, Eshonpir Mosque, Historic “Mahmud Ibn Boy” residential house, Old Uzbek Bath (Hamman) are checked upon any earthquake and on the 30th date of each month.

In 1995, some instrumental-monitoring works were performed at the Ak-Saray, Ko’k Gumbaz, Chorsu, Dor us-Saodat, Do rut-Tilovat, Molik ashtak, Kunduzak arcthectural monuments in the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz. The results of these observations demonstrated that the structural state of Shakhrisabz monuments were stable.

Monitoring observations were performed at Ak Saray since 1995. In 1995-1998, and in 2001, for the purposes of studying the man-caused impacts and the dynamic characteristics of the site ultra-sensitive seismic survey gauges were used to check the general deformation state of the building. It was determined that the dynamic characteristic values, measured at the portal of Ak Saray almost did not change over time.

**Archaeological research work at the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz.**

Under the headship of M.E. Masson, the Kesh Expedition of Archaeology-
topography was established in 1963-1966. This expedition conducted general topographic studies of the central towns of the Qarshi oasis. In 1980s, this expedition conducted work in upstream areas of Qashqa-Darya River. The purpose of the studies was mapping of archaeological monuments on the basis of its results.

In 1973, Dresvyanskaya G.Ya., Lunina S.B., Sultanov Kh.S., Usmonova Z.I., conducted archaeological studies around the Dor ut-Tilovat.

Due to announcing year 1996 the year of Amir Temur, a square of his name was built around Ak-Saray Palace in the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz. During construction of the Amir Temur square, some archaeological digging and monitoring was carried out in this area.

The expedition headed by A. A. Raimqulov disclosed and studied part of a room and the fire place of the Hamman (Bath), built with burnt bricks in XIV century in the southern part of the Dor us-Saodat complex.

For the purposes of preparation for repairing-restoration of architectural monuments and improvement of surrounding areas, in 2002 Institute of Archaeology of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted archaeological digging works in the areas of Do rut-Tilovat and Dor us-Saodat sites.

On the occasion of the 670 years jubilee of Amir Temur, additional archaeological diggings were conducted in 2006 in the eastern part of Ak-Saray palace.

The main purpose of these diggings was to study the cultural layer of the Amir Temir and Temurids era.

Field works were conducted from 2008 during preparation of the Master Plan and continued during implementation of state programs.

In 2012, some archaeological digging studies were conducted in south-eastern part of Ak-Saray Palace. The purpose of the diggings was to study the irrigation system around Ak-Saray. During the diggings, some cultural layers that belonged to XIII-XIV centuries were studied.

In 2014-2015, archaeological control works were conducted in the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz. As a result of these works, remainders of a Hamman (Bath) that belonged to the first half of XIV century. The conservation status of the site is good.

Summary and conclusions

No changes or restoration works have been conducted in the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz after the joint mission of UNESCO and ICOMOS in 2019.

Currently, a plan of proposals of a Project, associated with repair and conservation works in the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz is under development.

The lighting equipment, installed at the “Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” was readdressed and the number of lighting equipment was reduced.

The entertainment attractions and children’s playground structures, located in the east of Ak-Saray, in the territory of O’rda Mahalla and next to Koba Caravanseray were taken out of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz and placed outside its protection zone.

Appendices: maps 1, 2, and 3
DECISION BY SHAKHRISABZ TOWN MAYOR

26 November 2019   No. X02838-14п

On allocation to the Department of Cultural Heritage of Kashkadarya region of 22.19 hectares of land area that are occupied by the architectural, archaeological and monumental art monuments from Shakhrisabz town reserve land fund and confirming the ownership rights.

For the purpose of ensuring execution of the Order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No PQ-1516 dated 6th of April 2011, on the basis of the review of the Information certificate from the District Commission for Review of the issues of allocation (sales) of land areas and the Communications Letter from the Kashkadarya region Cultural Heritage Department No 152 dated 09 November 2019, and in accordance with the requirement of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “About local state government”

I HEREBY ISSUE THIS DECISION

1. To approve the certificate on allocation to the Kashkadarya region Cultural Heritage Department from the reserve land fund in the territory of Shakhrisabz town for permanent use of the land, occupied by the architectural, archaeological and monumental art monuments that cover a total land area of: 22.19 hectares, including 6.49 ha busy under construction; 2.13 ha landscaped green area; and 13.57 ha of land, not used for agricultural purposes;

2. To approve the documentation on allocation for permanent use from the reserve land fund of Shakhrisabz town and confirming the ownership rights of the Kashkadarya region Cultural Heritage Department of the land area, occupied by the architectural, archaeological and monumental art monuments that covers a total areas of: 22.19 hectares, including 6.49 ha busy under construction; 2.13 ha landscaped green area; and 13.57 ha of land, not used for agricultural purposes.

3. To knock down the buildings and structures of production companies that are located in the land area allocated for each cultural monument and the protection zone to be determined and which contaminate the soil layer, atmospheric air and water sites in the protection zone, and cause aesthetic and physical damage to such in accordance with the requirements of Article 36 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No 269-11 “About Protection and use of Cultural heritage properties” dated 30th of August 2001.

4. To prohibit any earth excavation, construction and other economic activities that damage the view and historic state of the art monuments without permission of respective authorities.

5. The Ehad of the Town Land resources and State Cadastre Department shall be imposed the responsibility if effecting the respective changes in the land register of the town associated with the allocation of the land area.

6. The Head of the Shakhrisabz town department of the region “Land-property cadastre” (Ya. Ismoilov) shall be imposed the responsibility of legalisation of the respective cadastre documents.

7. According to the requirements of Article 6 of the “Land Code” of the Republic of Uzbekistan, this Decision shall be considered final.

8. The First Deputy Mayor of the town O. Rahmonov shall be imposed the responsibility of implementing this decision.

Mayor of Shakhrisabz town T Karimov

Round stamp: illegible
Rectangular stamp: TRUE COPY OF ORIGINAL
MINUTES
of the meeting held at the region governor’s office
___ November 2019  No 549  Karshi town
Chairperson: Z. Mirzaev – Acting Governor of Region
Attending: O’. Bo’taev – the First Deputy of Region Governor, heads of respective state and social
organisation (as per the list)

Agenda items:
Implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee in Shakhrisabz town on
“The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”, which is included in World Heritage List

(Mirzaev, Bo’taev, Allaev, Karimov, Khalilov, Khudoynazarov, Salimoq, Mirchaev)

In accordance with UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural
Heritage, the issue of the conservation status of the Historic Centres of Shakhrisabz, Bukhara and Samarqand
towns that are in the list of UNESCO World Heritage list, were discussed the 43rd Session of the UNESCO
World Heritage Committee, held on 30th of June – 10th of July in Boku and respective decisions were taken on
the results of the discussions. A number of works are under in process on implementation of the
recommendations of the Committee.

Representatives of international organisations and scientific-research institutes, architects, scholars and
international experts from 77 countries of the world took part at the international conference “Conservation of
Material and Non-Material Cultural Heritage: actual problems and strategy of their solution,” held on 26th of
August 2019 the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev and under patronage of UNESCO,
and scientifically grounded recommendations were developed on the basis of views and thoughts, expressed at
the sector meetings.

In addition, the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No O’RQ-560 “About introducing some changes and
amendments to certain legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to increase of measures for
protection of material cultural heritage sites” dated 30th of August 2019 was adopted.

In this law, administrative responsibility is envisaged for initial cases of construction or knocking down of
any buildings and structures in the historical-cultural territories that are under special protection, including, the
in territories that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and the protection zones of such territories,
and criminal responsibility is envisaged for repeated commitment of such actions.

The Cultural Heritage Department is given the right to prepare a report on any administrative offence on
protection of material cultural heritage properties and filing such to the courts for resolving; also this
department is given the right for state fee exemption to apply to the courts.

In Article 22 of the Order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No PF-5781 “About measures on
additional development of the tourism industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan” dated 13th of August 2019, the
General Prosecutor’s Office of Uzbekistan is imposed the function of strict control on prevention of any
welfare and construction activities in the territories of the Material cultural heritage properties that are
included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No 132
dated 23rd of September 2019 “About implementation in Shakhrisabz town of the recommendation of the
World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”, which is included in the UNESCO
World Heritage List” it is indicated that together with the works that are underway on this issue, the process of
fulfilment of certain tasks was not at sufficient level, including the work on development of the plan of
restoration of “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” and the strategy of careful conservation of the decorative
carvings at Ak-Saray is conducted very slowly, also that there was no sufficient state control in place in this field.

The works that the Shakhrisabz town mayor’s office and Region Cultural Heritage Department do not meet respective requirements.

Having discussed the agenda item and taking into account the expressed proposals and views, the meeting hereby takes the following

DECISION:

1. Accept the information from the Shakhrisabz town mayor T. Karimova and Region Cultural Heritage Department J. Khalilov on implementation of the World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” for information.

2. To approve the Region Working group composition in accordance with Appendix 1 here to or efficient implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”,

To approve the practical measures plan for fulfilling the recommendations of Session 43rd of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee according to Appendix 2 hereto.

3. To the Working group (to O’. Bo’taev):

   At the end of each month old month, the Working Group, approved as per to Appendix 1 hereto for ensuring efficient implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to hold a critical review meeting and inform the Region governor’s office on the results of such;

   within 10 days’ time, in liaison with the Ministry of Culture, to address the measures on involving international experts for efficient implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and the issues of funding their costs;

   together with the Region Architecture and Construction Department and other respective authorities, to run control over adherence to legal documents like the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No O’RQ-560 “About introducing some changes and amendments to certain legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to increase of measures for protection of material cultural heritage sites” dated 30th of August 2019, which envisages administrative responsibility for initial cases of construction or demolition of any buildings and structures in the historical-cultural territories that are under special protection, including, the in territories that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and the protection zones of such territories, and criminal responsibility for repeated commitment of such actions;

   before the end of the year, the function of studying on a targeted basis of fulfilment of the tasks in “the practical measures plan”, approved in Appendix 2, attached to the Minutes of the meeting and submit an analytical-critical report on the results of such study to the Region Governor.

4. Region Tele-radio Company, Region Information and Mass Communications Department shall be recommended to broadly depict the works that are carried out on protection of material cultural heritage properties and their rational use, also conservation of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz town, which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

5. Control of fulfilment of the Minutes of this Meeting shall be imposed on the First Deputy of OBkast Governor O’. Bo’taev, Deputy Region Governor D. Allaev

Secretary of the meeting (signature illegible) B. Murodov

(signature illegible) D. Allaev
(signature illegible) A. Kholov
(signature illegible) J. Khalilov
(signature illegible) T. Karimov
Appendix 1 to the Minutes of
the Meeting of the Region
Governor held on 22ND
November 2019
No B-01-03/549

Working group
To ensure efficient implementation of the recommendation of the UNESCO World heritage Committee
1. O. Bo’taev – Deputy Region Governor – Head of the Working group
2. D. Allaev - Deputy Region Governor – Deputy Head of the Working group
3. F. Yusupov – Head of Region Financial Department
4. T. Karimov – Mayor of Shakhrisabz town
5. O. Khudoynazarov – Head of Region Architecture and Construction Department
6. S. Sayimov – Head of Region Department of Culture
7. J. Khalilov – Head of Region Department of Cultural heritage
8. Sh. Jalolov – Acting Head of the Department for Development of Tourism
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

23rd of September 2019 No 132 Tashkent city

Chairperson: A. Aripov
Attending: A. ramatov, K. Quchkarov, E. Ganiev, A. Abduhakimov, E. Basitkhanova, A. Sultanov, A. Vakhabov
R. Abduqodirov, Management of the Administration of the Cabinet of Ministers, heads of secretariat, responsible staff, heads of ministries and offices (according to the list)

AGENDA:

About practical implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee on the “Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”, “Historic Centre of Bukhara” and “Historic centre of Samarqand”, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

(Aripov, Abduhakimov, Sayfullaev, Akilova, Aripov)

The Republic of Uzbekistan ratified the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972) in 1995.

43rd Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 30th June – 10th July 2019 in accordance with the requirements of the Convention.

The agenda of the session included discussions of the Historic Centres of Shakhrisabz, Bukhara and Samarqand cities that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and respective resolutions of the Committee were taken on the basis of the results of these discussion. Systematic works are underway in the republic of Uzbekistan for practical implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

(rectangular stamp of the Ministry of Construction of the Republic of Uzbekistan, incoming No: 4-2689)

Representatives of international organisations and scientific-research institutes, architects, scholars and international experts from 77 countries of the world took part at the international conference “Conservation of Material and Non-Material Cultural Heritage: actual problems and strategy of their solution,” held on 26th of August 2019 the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev and under patronage of UNESCO. The UNESCO General Director Odri Azuls also attended this event. Scientifically grounded recommendations were developed on the basis of views and thoughts, expressed at the sector meetings.

In addition, by taking into account the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee, the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No O’RQ-560 “About introducing some changes and
amendments to certain legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to increase of measures for protection of material cultural heritage sites” dated 30th of August 2019 was adopted.

In this law, administrative responsibility is envisaged for initial cases of construction or demolition of any buildings and structures in the historical-cultural territories that are under special protection, including, the territories that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and the protection zones of such territories, and criminal responsibility is envisaged for repeated commitment of such actions.

The Cultural Heritage Department is given the right to prepare a report on any administrative offence on protection of material cultural heritage properties and filing such to the courts for resolving; also this department is given the right for state fee exemption to apply to the courts.

In Article 22 of the Order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No PF-5781 “About measures on additional development of the tourism industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan” dated 13th of August 2019, the General Prosecutor’s Office of Uzbekistan is imposed the function of strict control on prevention of any welfare and construction activities in the territories of the Material cultural heritage properties that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The draft Master plan of Samarqand city was developed and offered for general public discussions. And according to the instructions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the multi-storeyed buildings, construction of which was planned within the framework of preparations for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit were moved outside the territory of the Historic Centre of Samarqand city and its protection zone. In addition, a draft management plan of the Historic Centre of Bukhara city was developed.

Together with the works that are underway on this issue, the process of fulfilment of certain tasks was not at sufficient level. With this regard, the work on development of the plan of restoration of “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” and the strategy of careful conservation of the decorative carvings at Ak-Saray is conducted very slowly, also that there is no sufficient state control in place in this field.

After comprehensive discussions of the agenda items, the Council of the Cabinet of Ministers takes the following decisions by taking into account the expressed proposals and views:

1. The information by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan B. Sayfullaev on practical implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”, “The Historic Centre of Bukhara” and “Samarqand – crossways of cultures” to be accepted for information.

2. The following shall be approved:
Plan of practical measures on implementation of the recommendations of 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” in accordance Appendix 1 hereto;

Plan of practical measures on implementation of the recommendations of 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Bukhara” in accordance Appendix 2 hereto;

Plan of practical measures on implementation of the recommendations of 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on “Samarqand – crossways of cultures” in accordance Appendix 3 hereto;

Plan of works for development of relations between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in the fields of culture, education and tourism for 2019-2020 in accordance with Appendix 4 hereto.

3. The Ministry of Culture (Sayfullaev)

within a five days’ period to set up a Permanently functioning working group on ensuring efficient implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”, “The Historic Centre of Bukhara” and “Samarqand – crossways of cultures” and ensure its efficient functioning, including, stimulation/encouragement of the working group members;

by the end of each month, critically review the full and efficient fulfilment of all the tasks, indicated in “the road maps”, approved in Appendices 1-3 to these Minutes of the Meeting and submit information report to the Cabinet of Ministers;

organise state control checking of implementation of the requirements of the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972) and national legal acts in Bukhara, Samarqand and Shakhrisabz towns, which are included in the World Heritage List by way of setting up a committee of skilled professional on the basis of a clearly worded daily plan to be developed and undertake respective influence measures;

by the end of each quarter run critical discussions on progress of these designated tasks at extended Council meetings of the Ministry of Culture.

4. Governor’s office of Bukhara Region (Barniev), Governor’s office of Samarqand Region (Turdimov), Governor’s office of Kashkadarya Region (Ruziev):

for the purposes of successful practical implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, within one month’s time together with the Ministry of Culture (Sayfullaev), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Nurmatov) submit an information report to the Cabinet of Ministers on involvement of international experts and funding of their expenses;
together with the Ministry of Construction (Zakirov) to run control over strict adherence to legal documents like the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No O’RQ-560 “About introducing some changes and amendments to certain legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to increase of measures for protection of material cultural heritage sites” dated 30th of August 2019, which envisages administrative responsibility for initial cases of construction or demolition of any buildings and structures in the historical-cultural territories that are under special protection, including, the in territories that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and the protection zones of such territories, and criminal responsibility for repeated commitment of such actions;

by the end of each month run critical discussions at the Governor’s meetings on progress of these designated tasks in this field.

5. In November 2019 he secretariat for youth policy, issues of culture, morality, mass media, creative and social organisations (Jurabaev), administration of the Ministry of Culture, Department of Cultural Heritage shall study and discuss the purposes of the “road maps”, approved in Appendices 1-3 to these Minutes of the Meeting.

6. To Uzbekistan National Teleradio Company (Khajaev), Uzbekistan National Information Agency (Ko’chinov): shall be recommended to broadly depict in the mass information media of the works that are carried out on protection of material cultural heritage and the historical towns Khiva, Bukhara, Samarqand and Shakhrisabz, which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and that the level of responsibility on this issue is raised.

7. The Minister of Culture B. Sayfullaev and the Secretariat of youth policy, issues of culture, morality, mass media, creative and social organisations (Jurabaev) shall be imposed the responsibility of implementation of the tasks in these Minutes of the Meeting

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan – A. Aripov

Round stamp:

Outer circle: THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Center: GENERAL SECRETARIAT
**PLAN OF PRACTICAL MEASURES**

On implementation the recommendations of 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on “The Historic centre of Shakhrisabz”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NN</th>
<th>World Heritage Committee recommendation</th>
<th>Implementation mechanism</th>
<th>Deadlines for completion</th>
<th>Funding sources</th>
<th>Responsible parties</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1  | Preparation of documents and maps/plans that allow comparison of the status before and after recent demolition | 1. Sign contract(s) with international experts to prepare the required documents in accordance with UNESCO requirements in English.  
2. Submit the document to the Cabinet of Ministers for agreement, appraisal with ministries and offices.  
3. Submit a report to the World Heritage Centre | October 2019  
By the end of 2019 | Local budget of Kashkadarya region | Ministry of culture, Governor’s office of Kashkadarya region |
| 2  | Approval of the World Heritage Committee decision on presence of contradictions in actions on the decisions of the government on halting the construction activities in the town | 1. Developing a necessary base (reports) on halting of all works and lack of any plans until development of the urban development strategy.  
2. Submitting such reports in English without mistakes to the World Heritage Committee by involving the contracted international experts and professional translators. | By the end of 2019  
By the end of 2019 | Kashkadarya Region local budget | Ministry of Culture, Kashkadarya Region governor’s office |
| 3  | Developing a plan of restoration of the town on the basis of the two options for urban development, proposed by the World Heritage Centre and World Heritage Committee. Continue research work and document the findings based on these options. | 1. Register the property and its boundaries.  
2. Perform the necessary research work and prepare respective reports.  
3. Review the conditions together with the contracted international experts  
4. Achieve an agreement with the contracted international experts for cooperation in submission of the chosen option to the Uzbek state party and during the process of obtaining appraisal by UNESCO.  
5. Submit to the World heritage Centre the results of the research works and an initial response with the option from proposed two options chosen by the Uzbekistan state party | April, 2020;  
January 2020;  
May 2020;  
September 2020;  
October 2020 | Kashkadarya Region local budget | Ministry of Culture, Kashkadarya Region governor’s office |
<p>| 4  | Ask the World Heritage Centre for support due to the fact that there is now an opportunity to considerably expand the boundaries to ground the Universal unparalleled value or for submitting a new order | Prepare respective letter together with the contracted experts and submit to the World Heritage Centre | November 2019 | Kashkadarya Region local budget | Ministry of Culture |
|   | 5 Keep to a full moratorium (halt) for construction activities at the property until any major changes to the boundaries or new nomination is reviewed by the Committee and the management plan is integrated with the approaches of the UNESCO 2011 of the recommendations on the historic town landscape: | 1. Consult with the contracted international experts; 2. Prepare a proposal on integration of the management plan. | February 2021 |
|   |   |   | Kashkadarya Region local budget and other sources |
|   |   |   | Ministry of Culture, Kashkadarya Region governor’s office, Ministry of Construction |
|   | 6 Continue implementation of the Committee’s recommendations for the conservation of the Ak-Saray Palace tiles and to develop a conservation strategy and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work is undertaken | 1. Together with the contracted international experts develop a strategy of conservation of Ak-Saray Palace by taking into account the value of the World Heritage Property; 2. Submit the strategy to the World Heritage Committee. | December 2019 January 2020 |
|   |   |   | Kashkadarya Region local budget and other sources |
|   |   |   | Ministry of Culture, Kashkadarya Region governor’s office |
|   | 7 Undertake strict control whether the recommendation, proposed by the 2019 Committee Mission are implemented or not after the post-Mission research works. | 1. Improving the legislative basis: adoption of respective laws and regulations for protection of the property, especially, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of its certain parts, including monitoring of their commissioning and efficiency of such: The current moratorium for construction of new buildings shall be maintained in force until a management system that is integrated with the existing principles of the new Master Plan and designing; 2. Conservation of the historic heritage: Development of the documentation for conservation of the monuments and all works, completed for additional construction for each important historic property, including, the important works for assessment of their current status and for implementation of their major values, including, the documentation, where respective amendments to previous restoration and welfare efforts are determined in accordance with the international regulations and standards of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre on implementation of the recommendations. | Second half of 2020 By the end of 2020 January 2020 |
|   |   |   | Funds of executors |
|   |   |   | Ministry of Culture |
|   | 8 Preparation of a garden-park plan of the Historic Centre that integrates all detailed proposals for major elements of | 1. This condition to be included in the contract with the international experts with the condition that they will regularly cooperate with the Uzbekistan state party for duration of the entire process; | January 2020 |
|   |   |   | Kashkadarya Region local budget and other sources |
|   |   |   | Ministry of Culture, Kashkadarya Region Governor’s office |</p>
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<tr>
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<th>the town that determine the existing principles of designing, which is required for grounding the documenting of each historic monument and opening the locations, and traditional landscape elements.</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Submit a report to the World Heritage Committee with proposals.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Organisation of a reliable management system for the purposes of coordination and monitoring of the activities, associated with historic heritage, surrounded with a wall.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Development of a complex strategy of interpretation of the property for the purposes of giving information about historical development of the town structure (fabric) and that allows the population and the visitors to determine the relationship between the remaining elements of the property and its initial structure.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Development of a detailed strategy of sustainable tourism for the purposes of ensuring protection of the historic heritage, including the live environment in mahallas, also finding a balance between tourism and the live town.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Taking into consideration the interests of local town population</td>
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| 13 | Determine the indicator values for selected options | 1. Development of the indicator values of importance of the property.  
2. Development of a staged costs plan for the purposes of integration of the indicator values with the management system to be proposed and equal restoration of the urban fabric on the basis of the proposed modification of the World heritage property.  
3. Together with the international experts, submit a comparative information report on completed works to the World Heritage Centre. | January 2020  
January 2020  
Before January 2020 | Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Construction, Kashkadarya Region Governor’s office |
| 14 | Management of Ak-Saray Palace facade | 1. Keep the traditional methods for production of tiles.  
2. Arrange additional meetings with experts for discussing the conditions that ensure authenticity and integrity of tiles alongside with the processes conservation of the historic heritage with earthenware tiles.  
3. Submit an information report on completed works to the World Heritage Centre. | Regularly December 2019  
Before 20th of January 2020 | Ministry of Culture |
| 15 | Conduct training courses for local governors offices | 1. Together with international experts to develop a staged program for improving the potential, including conservation of towns and construction of historic heritage monuments on the basis of updated methods  
2. Together with the international experts, submit a comparative information report to the World Heritage Centre on completed works. | 2019-2020  
Before 1st of February 2020 | Ministry of Culture, Kashkadarya Region Governor’s office |
## PLAN OF PRACTICAL MEASURES

On implementation of the recommendation of 43rd Session of the UNESCO World heritage Committee on “The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NN</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Preparation of documents and maps/plans that allow comparison of the status before and after recent demolition</td>
<td>1. Signs contract(s) with international experts to prepare the required documents in accordance with UNESCO requirements in English. 2. Submit the document to the Cabinet of Ministers for agreement, appraisal with ministries and offices.</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>Region local budget</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Approval of the World Heritage Committee decision on presence of contradictions in actions on the decisions of the government on halting the construction activities in the town</td>
<td>1. Developing a necessary base (reports) on halting of all works and lack of any plans until development of the urban development strategy. 2. Submitting such reports in English without mistakes to the World Heritage Committee by involving the contracted international experts and professional translators.</td>
<td>By the end of 2019</td>
<td>Region local budget</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Developing a plan of restoration of the town on the basis of the two options for urban development, proposed by the World Heritage Centre and World Heritage Committee. Continue research work and document the findings based on these options.</td>
<td>1. Register the property and its boundaries. 2. Perform the necessary research work and prepare respective reports. 3. Review the conditions together with the contracted international experts 4. Achieve an agreement with the contracted international experts for cooperation in submission of the chosen option to the Uzbek state party and during the process of obtaining appraisal by UNESCO. 5.</td>
<td>April, 2020; January 2020; September 2020; October 2020</td>
<td>Region local budget</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ask the World Heritage Centre for support due to the fact that there is now an opportunity to considerably expand the boundaries to ground the Universal unparalleled value or for submitting a new order</td>
<td>Prepare respective letter together with the contracted experts and submit to the World Heritage Centre</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Region local budget</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Keep to a full moratorium (halt) for construction activities at the property until any major changes to the boundaries or new nomination is reviewed by the Committee and the management plan is integrated with the approaches of the UNESCO 2011 of the recommendations on the historic town landscape</td>
<td>1. Consult with the contracted international experts; 2. Prepare a proposal on integration of the management plan.</td>
<td>February 2021</td>
<td>Region local budget and other sources</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Architecture and Construction Department</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Implementation Plan</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Responsible Party</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Continue implementation of the Committee’s recommendations for the conservation of the Ak-Saray Palace tiles and to develop a conservation strategy and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work is undertaken.</td>
<td>1. Together with the contracted international experts, develop a strategy of conservation of Ak-Saray Palace by taking into account the value of the World Heritage Property; 2. Submit the strategy to the World Heritage Committee.</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>Region local budget and other sources, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Undertake strict control whether the recommendation, proposed by the 2019 Committee Mission are implemented or not after the post-Mission research works.</td>
<td>1. Improving the legislative basis: adoption of respective laws and regulations for protection of the property, especially, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of its certain parts, including monitoring of their commissioning and efficiency of such: The current moratorium for construction of new buildings shall be maintained in force until a management system that is integrated with the existing principles of the new Master Plan and designing; 2. Development of the documentation for conservation of the monuments and all works, completed for additional construction for each important historic property, including, the important works for assessment of their current status and for implementation of their major values, including, the documentation, where respective amendments to previous restoration and welfare efforts are determined in accordance with the international regulations and standards of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Submit a progress report to the World Heritage Centre on implementation of the recommendations.</td>
<td>Second half of 2020</td>
<td>Regional budget and other sources, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Preparation of a garden-park plan of the Historic Centre that integrates all detailed proposals for major elements of the town that determine the existing principles of designing, which is required for grounding the documenting of each historic monument and opening the locations, and traditional landscape elements.</td>
<td>1. This condition to be included in the contract with the international experts with the condition that they will regularly cooperate with the Uzbekistan state party for duration of the entire process; 2. Submit a report to the World Heritage Committee with proposals.</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Regional budget and other sources, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Organisation of a reliable management system for the purposes of coordination and monitoring of the activities, associated with historic heritage.</td>
<td>1. Organisation of an authority for coordination and control of implementation of the recommendations; 2. Determine the functions of the authority including in accordance with the parameters and permitted materials.</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Regional budget and other sources, Region Cultural Heritage Department</td>
<td></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Development of a complex strategy of interpretation of the property for the purposes of giving information about historical development of the town structure (fabric) and that allows the population and the visitors to determine the relationship between the remaining elements of the property and its initial structure.</td>
<td>1. Determination of priority tasks to develop a complex strategy of the property; 2. Consult with local population and organise round table discussions. 3. Together with the international experts, submit a comparative information report on the completed works to the World Heritage Centre.</td>
<td>March 2019</td>
<td>Region local budget and other sources</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Department for Development of Tourism, Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Development of a detailed strategy of sustainable tourism for the purposes of ensuring protection of the historic heritage, including the live environment in mahallas, also finding a balance between tourism and the live town.</td>
<td>1. Commence development of a plan of development of tourism together with the contracted experts; 2. Hold joint consultations of international and local experts. 3. Development of detailed plans and projects for the six gates for the purposes of managing the activities, traffic between the town and the historic centre, especially by taking into consideration concentration of tourists, rendering services to such and parking of vehicles. 4. Development of an interpretation strategy. 5. Adoption of a management mode that includes a complete strategy on additional integration of tourism and municipal services byway of using the town historic landscape approaches by the local governor’s office. 6. Jointly with the international experts, submit a comparative information report to the World Heritage Centre on completed works.</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
<td>Funds of Executors</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Cultural Heritage Department, Department for Development of Tourism</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Taking into consideration the interests of local town population</td>
<td>1. Prepare/develop principles of protection and restoration of the traditional residential houses and mahallas. Existing principles for architectural and urban development designing are necessary for the strategy of supporting social and physical restoration of the traditional mahallas, also of the construction craftsmanship that existed in Shakhrisabz from ancient times, and of restoration and protection of other non-material elements of the cultural heritage, associated with the Timurids era. 2. Adoption of best advanced experiences on modernisation of own residential houses in accordance with the adopted existing principles and undertake effective measures on encouraging the local community. 3. The information certificate on fulfilment of this paragraph conditions to be included in report on the conservation works.</td>
<td>Regularly</td>
<td>Region local budget and other sources</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Cultural Heritage Department, “Hunarmand” Association (Craftsmen association)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Determine the indicator values for selected options</td>
<td>1. Development of the indicator values of importance of the property. 2. Development of a staged costs plan for the purposes of integration of</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz mayor’s office, Architectural and</td>
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<td>No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Action Plan</td>
<td>Date of Action</td>
<td>Responsible Department</td>
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<td>2. Arrange additional meetings with experts for discussing the conditions that ensure authenticity and integrity of tiles alongside with the processes conservation of the historic heritage with earthenware tiles.</td>
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<td>3. Submit an information report on completed works to the World Heritage Centre.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Conduct training courses for local governors offices</td>
<td>1. Together with international experts to develop a staged program for improving the potential, including conservation of towns and construction of historic heritage monuments on the basis of updated methods.</td>
<td>2019-2020 Before 1st of February 2020</td>
<td>Shakhrisabz town mayor’s office, Cultural Heritage Department</td>
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<td>2. Together with the international experts, submit a comparative information report to the World Heritage Centre on completed works.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Study of signs of protection of cultural heritage. Creation of conditions for international tourism and local travellers</td>
<td>1. Legalisation of the state cadastre documentation of all cultural heritage properties in the territory of the Region and study all 950 signs of protection.</td>
<td>By the end of 2019</td>
<td>Local governors offices, Region State Cadastre Department, “Yermulkkadastr”, Cultural Heritage Department, Region Department for Motor roads</td>
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<td>2. Sign contracts for protection and conservation of Cultural heritage properties and appoint community (social) inspectors for such.</td>
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<td>3. Install turnstiles (gates) and direction signs at 20 cultural heritage properties.</td>
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STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT (2020)
"HISTORIC CENTRE OF SHAKHRISYABZ"
(UZBEKISTAN, Ref. 885)

Shakhrisyabz-Tashkent, January 2021
Date: 26 January 2021

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT BY THE STATE PARTY (UZBEKISTAN)
“HISTORIC CENTRE OF SHAKHRISYABZ” (Ref. 885)

In response to Decision 43 COM 7A.44 adopted at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, Azerbaijan)

Identification
Geographic coordinates: N39 2 60 E66 49 59.988
Date of Inscription: 2000
Criteria: (iii) (iv)
Property: 240 ha
Buffer zone: 82 ha
Ref: 885
Reporting period: 2020
Reporting date: January 26, 2021

Introduction
The Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz was designated as a “Monument of Significance for the Republic” in 1973. The same year, the town was put on the List of Historic Towns under Resolution no. 339 of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan. In 2000, the “Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz” has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, according to criteria (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (iii): Shakhrisabz contains many fine monuments, and in particular those from the Temurid period, which was of great and political significance in medieval Central Asia.

Criterion (iv): The buildings of Shakhrisabz, notably the Ak-Sarai Palace and the Tomb of Temur, are outstanding examples of a style which had a profound influence on the architecture of this region.

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been adopted in 2012.

Since 2016, the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The State of Conservation report was required by the World Heritage Committee, Decision 43 COM 7A.44, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020. Due to exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemics, the 44th session has been postponed to 2021.

The administration of Shakhrisabz city, together with the Regional Department of Cultural Heritage of Kashkadarya Region, having studied and prepared the necessary information
required by the Decision No. 43 COM 7A.44 of the World Heritage Committee, reports the following:

1. Executive Summary of the Report

As suggested by the 2019 High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission, the State Party studied carefully the options explored during the Reactive Monitoring Mission of January 2019, reiterated in the Decision 43 COM 7A.44 of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2019), and decided to pursue the World Heritage obligations according to the Operational Guidelines. This decision is associated with a strong will and determination of the local and regional authorities, experts and community to work together, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to find the best solution to recover the attributes of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz, inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger.

The two options for a significant boundary modification are based either on a selection of Timurid monuments, or on key elements of Timurid urbanism, including the urban fabric of the mahallas that might have the potential to be recovered.

The numerous meetings, stakeholder consultations and intense dialogue with the community suggest a strong leaning towards the second option, associated with the improvement of infrastructure and living conditions of residents. Nevertheless, the two options will be explored in-depth, and the final choice will consider the complexity of the site and its current critical condition.

In a preliminary phase, a working group have been set up and an Action Plan for the Implementation of the Decision 43 COM 7A.44 has been established. The preliminary Action Plan includes the following:

1. Compiling the necessary documentation that would allow to exploring in detail either of these proposals or how OUV might be justified. Further research and documentation will concentrate on: the review of available cartography, as to facilitate the comparison between ‘before’ and ‘after’ demolitions (harmonize the scales, graphic presentation, etc.); assessing the condition of monuments, and their authenticity; assessment of the existing urban fabric, its authenticity and integrity; the study of architectural typologies of Shakhrisyabz and intangible aspects related to them; an urban morphology study to understand the relationships between different components of the historic centre and their hierarchy, corroborated with a study on Timurid architecture and planning to clearly define the characteristics of the Timurid plan.

2. Analysis of the two options based on comprehensive documentation, which will allow the drafting of preliminary boundaries of the propriety for both options. Terms of Reference for this strategic study - to be completed by December 2021 - have been established.

3. Reviewing (expanding) the boundaries of the buffer zone.

4. Preparing a detailed urban restoration plan for the property, including solutions for filling the urban lacunae and re-creating or recovering the settings of the monuments in the central area, which have been significantly altered for beautification purposes and for opening the 'views'. The plan will also include the rehabilitation of the existing urban fabric
and provision of proper services, upgrading of the public space, improvement of green infrastructure. The main aims are to re-connect the monuments with the urban fabric by removing the newly built walls separating the mahalla from the central tourist area and to re-articulate (“re-stitch”) the existing fabric with the restored parts of the mahallas, including the re-establishment of the vital urban functions that have been moved out to the modern city. Several variants will be drafted and discussed with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.


6. Preparing, by December 2024, an Integrated Conservation and Development Plan for the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz, harmonized with the Master Plan of the City of Shakhrisyabz and the Project for Detailed Planning (PDP). This plan will include specific regulations and guidelines for existing buildings and open spaces, and for new construction.

No matter the final issue of the efforts mobilized within the timeframe of the two years to restore the site’s values in order to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger as soon as possible, when the property will be no longer under threat, the State Party is committed to pursue the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission of 2019 and the Decision 43 COM 7A.44.

The deadline of two years has to be reconsidered in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic that seriously affected internal activities and slowed down the work on this project. Until October 2020, the movement between cities was prohibited and all internal and international flights were suspended. Therefore, national or international experts could not come to Shakhrisyabz as planned to assist the local team in this project, although the contractual arrangements have been made. The international experts have already received a part of the documentation in November 2020 and in February 2021 a first field mission will take place.

The complete building moratorium implemented since 2016 is being strictly applied. The moratorium will last until all the requirements of the World Heritage Committee will be fulfilled.

Regarding the issue of the falling tiles of the Ak-Saray Palace, the regular monitoring showed that, in the last years, the occurrence of material failures on tiles and tile falling has increased and consequently, the durability of the entire tile system is slowly decreasing. Although falling tiles is a common problem to all Timurid monuments covered with glazed tiles, in Ak-Saray Palace, this phenomenon occurs more often because on the surviving remains of the gate pillars the tiles are more exposed to the elements, especially to rain water infiltration, though more susceptible to detach from their support.

National experts are continuously scrutinizing the effects of orientation (number of hours of exposure to solar radiation), daily and seasonal thermal cycles, and rare but extreme events. However, these results need to be correlated with the study of the intervention methods and materials used in previous restoration works, as well as the effects of climate change and the increased presence of pollutants, among other factors. Therefore, a national and international multidisciplinary team including conservation scientists, chemical engineers, restorers and archaeologists, has been set up to examine the problem of Ak-Saray's falling tiles and outline a
conservation strategy in line with international conservation principles. The report including the research results, final conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS.

2. Response to the Decision 43 COM 7A.44 of the World Heritage Committee

The administration of Shakhrisabz city, together with the Regional Department of Cultural Heritage of Kashkadarya Region, having studied and prepared the necessary information required by the Decision No. 43 COM 7A.44 of the World Heritage Committee, reports the following:

In response to point 6:

6. **Further notes** that although the State Party was requested to halt all further work at the property until the 43rd session, it has provided details of planned interventions relating to proposals for removing structures around monuments, creating a tourist complex in the 'spirit of Eastern architecture', reconstructing one-storey houses along streets, as well as new residential streets for the local population that are in contradiction to the State Party’s two Presidential Decrees of 2018;

Regarding this point, the ‘details of planned interventions’ refer to the PDP of 2009, whose implementation has stopped with the halt of new construction in 2018. A local team also started to work on different proposals that will serve as a base for discussion, but are in no way intended to be implemented and have no binding force. In conclusion, there is no contradiction between the current halt on new construction and the ‘planned interventions’, and the two Presidential Decrees of 2018 regarding the halt of new construction are strictly applied.

In response to point 7:

7. **Recommends** that, if the State Party wishes to explore either option, it should undertake further research and documentation and develop a restoration plan, in order to provide sufficient details to allow assessment of the potential for each option to justify OUV, before any work is undertaken on a significant boundary modification in compliance with Paragraphs 165 and 166 of the Operational Guidelines or on a new nomination;

As suggested by the 2019 High-Level Reactive Monitoring mission, the State Party explored the two options for a significant boundary modification, based on either a selection of Timurid monuments or on key elements of Timurid urbanism, including the urban fabric of the mahalla that might have the potential to be recovered. This undertaking started with a preparatory phase in which a supervising committee and a working group have been established. Their scope of work and responsibilities have been defined and clear tasks have been assigned.

Then, a series of meetings have been organized to discuss the Decision 43 COM 7A.44 and establish an Action Plan for the Implementation of this Decision. The preliminary Action Plan includes the following:

1. **Compiling the necessary documentation** that would allow to exploring in detail either of these proposals or how OUV might be justified. Further research and documentation will concentrate on:
2. Analysis of the two options based on comprehensive documentation, which will allow the drafting of preliminary boundaries of the property for both options. Terms of Reference for this study have been established and the deadline is December 2021.


4. Preparing a detailed restoration plan, including solutions for re-creating or recovering the settings of the monuments in the central area, which have been significantly altered for beautification purposes and for opening the 'views'. The main aims are to re-connect the monuments with the urban fabric, to remove the newly built walls separating the mahallas from the central tourist area and to re-articulate ('re-stitch') the existing fabric with the restored parts of the mahallas, including the re-establishment of the vital urban functions that have been moved out to the modern city. Several variants will be drafted and discussed with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The Terms of Reference for this study will be established after the review of the previous steps by the Advisory Bodies.


6. Preparing an Integrated Conservation and Development Plan by 2024, harmonized with the Master Plan of the City of Shakhrisabz and the Project for Detailed Planning. This plan will include specific regulations and guidelines for existing buildings and open spaces, and for new construction. Guidelines will include detailed advice on appropriate restoration and rehabilitation techniques and materials for monuments and vernacular architecture, infrastructure, open space, as well as site planning and design recommendations for new construction.
In response to point 8:

8. **Also recommends** the State Party to consider the following options as the outcome of the 2019 mission:

1. *The first option would entail focusing on the monuments representing the Temurid period.* The State Party presented the mission with 13 such monuments from the previous total of 18. The Mission considered that the two most significant issues to be considered with regard to a selection of monuments in their current conditions are their authenticity and their disengagement from their urban surroundings. Hence, actions would be necessary to reconnect them to the urban fabric and to improve or reverse recent conservation work in order to meet conditions of authenticity and integrity.

2. *The second option the Mission proposed was to explore the key elements of the Temurid urbanism within the Historic Centre.* The mission explored in a preliminary way the scope of these elements. They might include the main north-south and east-west axes intersecting in the Historic Centre with its the main market, residential quarters representing a spatial and social hierarchy, city walls and gates, the main mosques, and madrasas along with the key monuments. The Mission considered that there might be potential to recover the urban street patterns in several parts of the property and to re-vitalize traditional building technologies. This option would need to be based on detailed research of the urban grain, the specificities of vernacular building traditions, and what has survived, and would need to be supported by measures to upgrade infrastructure and living conditions in order to ensure a living city, and the development of new protection, conservation and management systems;

At the regional and local level, the two options have been already discussed in numerous meetings, stakeholder consultations and intense dialogue with the community, including also the residents affected by the past demolitions. This broad consultative process indicated a strong leaning towards the second option, which is also supported by regional and local authorities and experts. This choice is mainly based on the results of the 2017-2018 inventory of the historic centre, which indicates a potential for recovery of the urban pattern and building technologies, an idea also brought forth by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring Mission. It was also agreed, during these meetings, that the recovery would go in parallel with the improvement of infrastructure and living conditions based on architectural and urban design guidelines – to be prepared and then reviewed by ICOMOS.

Nevertheless, the two options will be explored in-depth by an extended team including national and international experts and discussed with the International Advisory Committee (to be established), as explained further in the response to point 10 of the Decision 43 COM 7A.44, since the final choice should be based on sound theoretical and technical arguments, that integrate the needs and views of the community and cover the complexity of the site and its current critical condition.
In response to point 9:

9. **Encourages** the State Party to request upstream support in relation to the potential for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination to justify OUV;

See the response to point 10 of the Decision below.

In response to point 10:

10. **Decides** to allow the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination, and at the end of this period, to consider once again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period to allow time, if by then a clear direction of travel has been articulated, or to delete the property altogether;

The local decision-makers and professionals are fully committed to work hard to keep the property on the World Heritage List and are proud about their city and its history, while deeply regretting the mistakes committed in the recent past. However, international support had to be mobilized to carry out these complex tasks, since local capacity is insufficient and lacks in some areas of technical expertise. The current COVID-19 crisis (suspended flights, lockdown, imposed quarantines, etc.) reduced the capacity to mobilize international experts and conduct field visits, slowing down the process. Several online meetings took place to overcome these challenges. Also, the International Advisory Committee for Uzbekistan, which will be established in January 2021, will provide upstream Advisory support to reverse the current situation.

In response to point 11:

11. **Requests** the State Party to retain a complete building moratorium in the property until any significant boundary modification or a new nomination has been considered by the Committee and a Management Plan for heritage conservation integrated with a city Master Plan in line with the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) has been prepared and adopted;

The complete building moratorium implemented since 2016 is being strictly applied. The moratorium will last until all the requirements of the World Heritage Committee will be fulfilled. Arrangements have been made for the preparation of a new Management Plan which will be integrated with the city Master Plan and the PDP in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL).

In response to point 12:

12. **Urges** the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2019 mission, whether or not the options proposed in Paragraph 11 above are progressed after further research;

The State Party have already started working on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission (RMM) and is firmly committed to this endeavor, no matter the final issue of the efforts mobilized within the given timeframe. Part of the documentation phase has been already completed, while other studies are under preparation. Terms of reference have been prepared and an international consultant has been selected to prepare a strategic study based on comprehensive documentation, which analyzes the two options indicated in the RMM report of 2019 and selects the one that has the potential to retain the property on the World Heritage List.
In response to point 13:

13. Also urges the State Party to progress in the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations for the conservation of the Ak-Saray Palace tiles and to develop a conservation strategy and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work is undertaken;

Built between 1380 and 1404, Ak-Saray Palace was planned as the most grandiose of all Timur’s constructions. The palace consisted of a large number of buildings: luxurious reception rooms, inns for famous travelers, terraced gardens with pools and fountains for the king and his numerous noble guests. The main portal was 65 meters high and its arch of 20 meters span was the largest of its kind in all Central Asia. Glazed mosaic tiles of dark-blue and light-blue tint were applied on brick, forming a complex geometric system of patterns and drawings.

Unfortunately, nowadays, only two pylons of the gigantic gate-towers survive to witness the past greatness of Timur’s White Palace. Its glazed tiles are subject to weathering effects and get detached from the wall. Regular monitoring showed that, in the last years, the occurrence of material failures on tiles and tile falling has increased and consequently, the durability of the entire tile system is slowly decreasing.

Falling tiles is a common problem to all Timurid monuments covered with glazed tiles. However, in Ak-Saray Palace, this phenomenon occurs more often because the surviving remains of Ak-Saray are in a ruinous state, so the tiles are more exposed to the elements, especially to rain water infiltration, though more susceptible to detach from their support.

The national experts are continuously scrutinizing the effects of orientation (number of hours of exposure to solar radiation), daily and seasonal thermal cycles, and rare but extreme events. These results need to be correlated with the study of the intervention methods and materials used in previous restoration works, as well as the effects of climate change and the increased presence of pollutants, among other factors.

Therefore, a national multidisciplinary team including conservation scientists, chemical engineers, restorers and archaeologists, has been set up to examine the problem of Ak-Saray’s falling tiles and outline a conservation strategy, in line with international conservation principles. The report including the research results, final conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value;

On 24 August 2019, Senators approved a law “On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the republic of Uzbekistan concerning the enhanced protection of objects of the material cultural heritage”. The Criminal Code, the Code of Administrative Responsibility, the Tax Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the List of activities for which licenses are required, have been amended and supplemented, introducing an increased responsibility and liability for the destruction or damage to objects of tangible cultural heritage, through intentional destruction or negligence that caused significant damage. Liability applies to protected cultural properties situated within protected areas, including the World Heritage properties, as well as to buildings,
structures and other objects, which are not considered objects of cultural heritage, but are located in the above-mentioned protected areas.

On December 29, 2020, H.E. Abdulla Aripov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, signed a Decree on the establishment of the Scientific Research Institute on Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan. The main tasks of the Institute are the following:

- conducting scientific research work on conservation, restoration and reconstruction of heritage sites, archeological monuments, museum collections and other items of tangible cultural heritage while preserving their outstanding historical value;
- conducting inventories of objects of immovable cultural heritage and heritage impact assessments for restoration or development proposals and infrastructure projects planned in the protected areas, especially in World Heritage Properties;
- learning and introducing advanced and innovative practices and technologies in preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage, creating new museums, expositions, etc.

4. Potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone and/or corridors or other areas, that may affect the OUV of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

Systematic monitoring and regular maintenance of monuments and buildings of historic mahallas are the only activities taking place in Shakhrisaybz. There are no potential major restorations, alterations or new constructions intended within the property that may affect its Outstanding Universal Value.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The full report can be uploaded for public access.

6. Signature of the Authority

Mrs. Kamola Akilova, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan