

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fort & Shalamar Gardens in Lahore, Pakistan were inscribed on the World Heritage List of properties in 1981. The state of Conservation of the Fort and Shalamar Gardens were discussed in the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in June-July, 2019 at Baku, Azerbaijan. In that particular session the Committee took various decisions and requested the State Party to implement them and submit a State of Conservation Report to the World Heritage Centre for its review in the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee.

The present State of Conservation Report consists of two parts. In the first part, progress on the decisions of the 43rd Session of the WHC has been elaborated and the second part of the report deals with the conservation efforts of the State Party for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens.

To implement the recommendations of Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission (RMM), the State Party convened a series of meetings with all the stakeholders and resultantly various studies were proposed to check the viability, detailed design, cost estimates and then supervise following execution of the recommendations of the consultant while remaining strictly within the confines of the directions of the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan. After thorough deliberation, all the stake holders collectively agreed for hiring services of reputed consultants for the preparation of detailed Terms of References (TORs) to carry out the studies. An international consultant was hired who prepared comprehensive TORs. A PC-II amounting to Rs. **48.328** million was prepared based on the TORs prepared and same was approved by the Competent Forum. Expressions of Interest from national and international consultants were invited through an open advertisement. A consultant selection committee as per law was constituted and process of selection of consultants is underway.

The State Party has also been considering the modification of boundaries of the world heritage property as it involves various factors including dislocation of large number of community, hence, a study will be conducted for an appropriate solution. The World Heritage Centre will be kept informed about the outcome of these studies for review and comments prior to their implementation. Meanwhile, following the recommendation of RMM, the restoration/conservation for Aiwan/ summer pavilion, historical gateway, wooden ceiling, the restoration of external waterways on the eastern side of the perimeter wall being part of the Mughal hydraulic system of Royal Hammam of the Gardens has been completed after carrying out necessary

documentation. The restoration of perimeter wall of uppermost terrace of Gardens is under restoration. Furthermore, the State Party has developed a green area with trees and these trees are gaining height to form a natural “mask” for the newly-constructed Orange Line Metro Train track.

In the light of decision of the WHC and recommendations of the RMM, the State Party, considering the importance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Property, has strictly been implementing the decision of the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding protection, preservation and conservation of the property through continuous monitoring under the supervision of a high level Special Committee of Experts. Furthermore, as recommended by WHC, a regulatory committee has been setup by the Directorate General of Archaeology for Orange Line related operations and future projects to enable informed decision-making processes, in compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines.

During the test operations of the orange Line vibration & sound levels are being closely monitored and recorded vibration levels are negligible and well within the permissible limits. The State Party has also shared Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) including a Visual Impact assessment (VIA), and the Vibration Analysis previously undertaken to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The second part of the report deals with the conservation efforts of the State Party for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens. Comprehensive conservation plans for the preservation and restoration of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens of the cost of PKR- 300 million (\$2.89 million) each were chalked out in **2006** and same have been reviewed by the project Technical Committee and Steering Committee to the cost of PKR- 964.087 million (\$9.286 million) and PKR.290.90 million (\$2.84 million) respectively due to necessary modifications in the scope of work. The conservation works on various historical structures and decorative features of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens are in progress in accordance with the international standard and guidelines for the World Heritage monuments.

The State Party stands committed to paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines of UNESCO Convention in relation to future projects. A brief description on all upcoming and future works within the Lahore Fort are Preservation and Restoration of Dewan E Khas, ShahjahaniKhuwabgah, Kala Burj, LalBurj, Alamgiri Gate, Moti Masjid, MakatibKhana, Arzghah, and AkbariHammam. These projects have been documented, and architectural drawings

have been prepared. Further research and analysis of the projects are in process. These projects will be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme for the Fort in collaboration with Aga Khan Trust Services and Archaeology Department Punjab, Pakistan.

To address the roof water proofing system, a comprehensive study related to the hydrology and drainage system of the Lahore Fort has been conducted by the State Party. The study includes understanding the historical drainage system as well as developing proposals to drain out water in a contained manner to prolong the life of historical structures with particular focus on the Picture Wall. Along with this study, emergency stabilizations of all the dilapidated roofs of the Fort have been completed along with improvement for the roof drainage. For the other parts of the Fort, improved drainage system will be fully implemented by 2021, however for the upcoming monsoon all the preventions actions through fixing of temporary drainage system will be in place.

The UNESCO World Heritage sites in Lahore are among major tourist attractions of Pakistan and the government of Pakistan is undertaking serious efforts to ensure their protection and promotion of Tourism. In order to promote tourism to Pakistan, the state party has initiated a project for the improvement of public facilities at key heritage sites including Shalamar Gardens. Another development scheme for renovation of horticulture works at gardens has also been approved and is in process of implementation. The state party has taken various steps in light of the recommendations by the WHC/ICOMOS monitoring team and has been taking all possible measures to mitigate noise, air pollution and visual impact on the Shalamar Gardens.