

Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602rev)

Current conservation issues

On 28 February 2013, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, providing an overview of actions carried out to address the decisions made by the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the 2010 reactive monitoring mission.

Management Plan

It is almost 7 years since 2008 when Principle Department on Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Heritage Properties in cooperation with UNESCO Office in Tashkent started work on creating GIS database of urban fabric of the Historic Centre of Bukhara. Today we have full GIS database for Bukhara Historic Centre completed. This database is instrumental base for development of the management plan.

Moreover, with the support of UNESCO Office in Tashkent and Board of Monuments the boundaries and buffer zone were examined and problems identified. Boundaries should be set up in place for the protection of the World Heritage properties (UNESCO 2013, para.99–102). In 2011, a map of the inscribed property with boundaries and buffer zone was submitted as requested by the retrospective inventory. However, until 2013 there was no precise information about the boundaries and their surroundings. As a result it was noted that there is a need to redefine boundaries based on the OUV. After carrying out field work in 2013, two main issues were noted. First, two monuments listed as part of the nomination, the Ismaili Samani and Chasma Ayub Mausoleums; a historic area of traditional houses in the south east; another historic settlement in the north east and the original fort wall in the south west were not included within the boundaries nor in the buffer zones. Moreover, in some areas the boundaries are cutting parcels and not well defined. These inconsistencies also affect the buffer zones. Second, the boundaries and buffer zones are not legalized in a decree. Boundaries should be redefined based on the OUV and in agreement with all stakeholders. Furthermore, to add better accuracy to the redefinition, it is suggested to acquire a cadastral map. The field work revealed that there are some areas that should be further included in the buffer zones or boundaries.

The next step is to prepare a management plan that should be then adopted by Governmental bodies together with Urban development master plan of Bukhara. There is a need to mobilize funds and invite international expert to prepare the management plan. In case of Samarkand International assistance request was submitted to WHC and necessary funds were received for the

preparation of the management plan. This is a good practice and should be applied to Bukhara.

During 2014 UNESCO Office in Tashkent together with Regional Inspections held a number of trainings about how to prepare management plans for other property in Uzbekistan listed on World Heritage List. Was decided that experience gained in Bukhara can be useful in each individual case. But still there is a need to prepare a management plan of Bukhara and adopt it. Still there is a lack of knowledge about protecting cultural heritage in a case of disasters and conflicts. In this case International assistance will be needed.

The “State Program on research, conservation, restoration and adaptation to the modern use of cultural heritage of Bukhara until 2020”, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in March 2010, is now in progress. In 2014 new regulation regarding utilization of cultural heritage property were adopted. According to new decree of Cabinet of Ministers abandoned property can be used and rented. But special group of heritage protection experts has to check and develop special documentation about how to restore and utilize for different purposes property for each case. Investors will have privileged period according to amount of their investment. This new adopted rule will help to attract more financial assistance to abandoned cultural heritage property.

During 2013 and 2014 was important period for conservation of wooden heritage property in Uzbekistan including Bukhara. Special plan of activities to protect damaged by termites was developed and adopted. According to this plan all heritage property of Bukhara that has wooden part in it was treated. This helped to stop termite attacks and prevent from other bugs.

By decree of Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan in Bukhara Special Council was created. This Council whose function is to assist cultural heritage protection has members and specialists from all branches of local authority. Also in 2014 more facilities like using electro cars in historic center or arranging public toilets were created for tourists. It was done in framework of execution of state program approved by Cabinet of Ministers in 2011-12.

There are no major projects planned which may affect the property's OUV.