

**STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

*(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational
Guidelines*

1. **Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)**
1. **Name of World Heritage property:** **Hill Forts of Rajasthan**
2. **State Party:** **India**
3. **Identification number:** **247rev**
4. **Date of Inscription:** **2013**
5. **Criteria:** **(ii) (iii)**

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

The State Party took into consideration the issues raised in the Decision 39 COM 7B.65 in response to the State of Conservation of the above property in 2015 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>). These issues have been addressed in the response below.

As far the concerns (Para 3 and 5 of the committee decision) raised about Jaisalmer fort in the above decision, the State Party informs that the infrastructure project to prevent seepage water into first mound met with initial resistance from the residents of the fort. However, due to proactive measures taken by the Governmental stakeholders, the residents had cooperated in its execution. About 90% of laying of pipes for sewer, water and other services completed. The service connections will be made thereafter.

With regard to construction within the fort (Para 4 of the committee decision), the State Party informs that the fort was fully occupied by built residential structures well before its protection as monument of National importance under the Ancient Monuments and Sites and Remains Act 1958. However, carrying out any remodification/repairs/reconstruction is violative of provisions of above act. Concerned Authorities are taking legal action against the offenders. The team engaged for preparing the Site Management Plan has also drafted developmental control byelaws taking into consideration of needs of the residents.

The draft copy of the Site Management Plan (Para 6 of the committee decision) is being circulated among all stakeholders for their inputs. A one day workshop is being planned for open discussion among all stakeholders to know their views. Once the inputs received, the draft will be finalised.

The State Party informs that the matter of mining operations around Chittorgarh Fort (Para 9 of the committee decision) is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The relaxation in the mining operations as mentioned are as per the orders of the court, which the State Party is bound to implement. The final decision of the Court will be implemented. However, the Court has ordered a scientific investigation to know the impact of mining on the fort and its structures to arrive at a conclusion.

The state of conservation of the Kumbhalgrah fort, the State Party assures that the long fortification wall, gateways, temples, palaces and other structures are in good state of preservation. Necessary intervention, if necessary, to consolidate the structures are under the purview of the State Party.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

Regarding Jaisalmer Fort:

Expresses its concern that notwithstanding the commitments made at the time of inscription, little progress appears to have been made with major project on infrastructure works at Jaisalmer Fort to prevent seepage of water into the Fort

mound, or with conservation of buildings within the Fort; (Para 3 of Committee Decisions)

Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and not later than 1 December 2015, an updated timetable for the Jaisalmer infrastructure project and to reiterate its commitments to take forward this project; (Para 5 of Committee Decisions)

After taking necessary approvals, implementation of the project for improving infrastructure within the fort area of Jaisalmer was initiated by Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) on 17th January 2013. The project included laying underground pipe-lines for supplying water, removing liquid and solid waste, distributing electricity and conduits for cables among other services.

At the onset, inhabitants of the Fort had considerable amount of apprehension regarding the project and had hindered implementation. To ease all apprehension and maintain transparency, a public contact programme was conducted. Through consistent dialogue, the local people understood the benefits of implementation and consented to a schedule which would not deter business during peak (tourist) season. A part of the project was implemented from April to October in 2014 and withheld during peak season i.e. from October 2014 to March 2015.

Thereafter work resumed and is being executed briskly. As on 31.12.2015, nearly 90% of ducting is complete in all four zones (Refer to Table 01: Overview of implementation; Figure showing Zones (of Jaisalmer Fort) identified by RUIDP). Should all necessary support systems operate as planned, the present pace of execution suggests that the project of laying will be completed in another three working months (as per the submission made by the implementing agency). The task of connecting the individual houses to the network, and utilization of ducting by other service providers like electricity, telephone service providers may take six more months.

Table 01 Overview of implementation; Figure showing Zones (of Jaisalmer Fort) identified by RUIDP on 31.12.2016

Work description	Zone I	Zone II	Zone III	Zone IV	Achieved length	Total work done
	Proposed lengths					
Sewer line(M)	195	527	445	748	1915	1683 (88%)
Water Supply Line	200	511	470	620	1801	1560 (87%)
Underground ducting	320	1040	960	1480	3800	3172 (83%)
Drains	410	960	1035	1038	3443	650 (19%)
Outfall	40	40	30	252	362	343 (95%)

(all figures indicate the length in m) Source: RUIDP, Jaisalmer

Notes with concern that: Illegal building within the Jaisalmer Fort is rampant and could adversely impact on authenticity and integrity of the component, The Management Plan for Jailsamer Fort that was said to be due for completion in 2013 at the time of inscription has not yet been completed; (Para 4 of Committee Decisions)

All unauthorised/illegal construction are dealt as per the provisions of the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (as amended in 2010) and the Rajasthan Municipal Corporation Act 2008. A combination of the aforementioned laws legitimises the removal of any form of constructions deemed illegal (as per the law). Under Sec 19 (1) no new construction is permissible without the permission of Government of India.

The course of action followed in implementing the provision of the aforementioned Acts is first to serve a notice to the offender thereby giving the latter an opportunity to voluntarily abstain from ill-action. Should the offender persist unabatedly, demolition orders are issued by the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India to the District Collector, Jaisalmer District, who is empowered by the Act of 1958 to remove such unauthorised constructions. The latter would with the support of local police, remove the illegal construction and take necessary actions to prevent such incidences in the future.

Having said that, Jaisalmer is a living-fort and the habitation pre-dates its protection as a monument of National importance under Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (as amended in 2010). The space within the fortification was fully utilised to construct temples and residential dwellings.

It is only in the recent past that there are efforts to modify/reconstruct/repair the old structures to create more floor space. These acts are illegal if the same was done without the permission of the Government of India. In all, 289 notices were issued for violations for illegal constructions (including within the fort and in the buffer zone) since 2010 and followed by 19 demolition orders. Criminal proceedings against 49 such offenders were also initiated by filing a FIR with Police.

Further to address the issue of repairs of existing residential buildings, the team appointed to prepare the Site Management Plan has initiated a dialogue with the residents. Through a series of stakeholder meeting, the residents realise the importance of practicing restrains as issues affecting the fort simultaneously impact their health, safety and livelihood.

The Site Management Plan, now in a draft stage, proposes strategies to ease the conflict between development needs and heritage protection. It provides a framework for protection, management and maintenance of cultural resources through a set of byelaws for local architecture, street-alignment, open spaces and other elements. The byelaws required to be approved by the Government of India.

At this point, the draft recommendations have been circulated to other stakeholders through the State Government of Rajasthan. Upon receipt of comments/feedback the Archaeological Survey of India would be drafting a final document and circulating to all relevant stakeholders for endorsement. Till this endorsement, all routine work in the form of conservation of structures and monitoring site (especially illegal construction) will continue as per provisions of the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (as amended in 2010) and the Rajasthan Municipal Corporation Act 2008.

Urges the State Party to complete the Management Plan for Jailsamer Fort, along with the planned sub-plans for visitor management, risk preparedness and livelihood generation for the local population, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies; (Para 6 of Committee Decisions)

The process of drafting a site management plan for protection and management of the Fort at Jaisalmer had commenced after the inscription of the Property. This plan

focuses on all aspects of site protection and management apart from those highlighted by the ICOMOS. From 2013 to November 2015, a team was formed to initiate the preliminary survey based on which the Archaeological Survey of India with the State Government of Rajasthan would draft the final document. This team specialized in fields of conservation, social management (including visitor management) and disaster management, was commissioned to conduct an initial assessment and establish a dialogue with the locals. The latter is a critical step for Jaisalmer as successful implementation depends on participation of the local people.

At this juncture, a draft document has been forwarded to the State Government of Rajasthan for feedback. This process is expected to be completed by early to mid 2016 and thereon a detailed plan would be framed for implementation. Further it was decided to hold a one day workshop at Jaipur on the draft management plan in the last week of February/first week of March 2016 to get the inputs from all stakeholders to finalise the draft.

At this point, based on earlier known conditions and observations made by the team, a number of projects have been initiated while routine work such as maintenance of protected structures continues as per schedule. Some of the important works initiated include the infrastructure improvement (planned by RUIDP), maintenance of traditional building facades, monitoring of illegal construction, regularization of commercial establishments, maintenance of cleanliness etc.

Regarding Chittorgarh:

Also expresses its concern that control on mining in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort, in place at the time of inscription, appears to have been relaxed; (Para 7 of Committee Decisions)

Also requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, and no later than 1 December 2015, details of the current arrangement of mining in the setting of the Chittorgarh Fort; (Para 8 of Committee Decisions)

The issue pertaining to control of mining around Chittaurgarh fort is sub-judice and is with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the highest court of the land. It is only upon receipt of verdict can the State Party provide complete final status to the World Heritage Centre. However, the Court is apprised of the fact that fort is inscribed in the World Heritage List and is concerned with the impact of mining on the Property. After hearing both petitioners, the Court passed an Interim Order on 29th July 2013 based on findings of a scientific investigation conducted by the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI). According to the verdict, no mining would be allowed within 1KM radii from the fortification. The area bound between the aforementioned no-mining zone and up to 2 KM from the fortification only manual quarrying of limestone or shale is permitted. The use of Heavy Earthmoving Mining Machines has been allowed in areas beyond 2 KM and within 10 KM radii of the fortification, temporarily. Blasting, in any form and magnitude is strictly prohibited. The Department of Mines, Government of Rajasthan and District Collector, Chittorgarh apart from the Archaeological Survey of India would be monitoring compliance to the temporary order till the final verdict is received. Decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India will be binding and its implication will be studied by the State Party before accepting/executing the verdict.

Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed report of the consolidation measures undertaken and foreseen for the Kumbhalgarh Fort; (Query 9 of Committee Decisions)

Attention is drawn to Chapter 4.a Kumbhalgarh under the Chapter 4 - Present State of Conservation and Factors Affecting the property and Appendix VII Status Report of the Nomination Dossier. These two chapters clearly spell out the efforts taken over the decades by the State Party in consolidating the structures in all the six hill forts, including Kumbhalgarh. Some works detailed there in for taking up in the 2014-15, are under planning stage. They will be duly taken up.

The State Party assures that the condition of the fort is good and the structures within are well consolidated in the past efforts. Photographs placed below depict the State of conservation of significant structures at Kumbhalgarh fort.



Badal Mahal, (above) Bavan Devri Jain temple (below)





Jain Temple (above) Fortification, (below)





Siva temple and Badal Mahal (above) Fortification around Badal Mahal (below)





Fortifications (Above) Nilkant Mahadeva Temple (below)





Vedi temple (above) Pitaliyadev Temple (below)





Part of fortification and temples (above) Paintings in Badal Mahal (below)



In addition to above action taken by the State Party, the above issues were also discussed in the meetings of State Level Fort Apex Advisory Committee. These issues were discussed in the earlier meeting on 12.6.2015 and in the recent meeting on 12.1.2016. The concerned authorities have been requested to take tangible action on these issues.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

No other conservation issues has been identified by the State Party which may affect or have impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

No major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

The State Party has no objection in uploading the full text of this State of Conservation Report.

6. Signature of the Authority

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