

Report on the State of Conservation

The Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

(May 2002, in Danger)

ID Number:Ref: (C 211rev)

1. Response from Afghanistan to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 39COM 7A. Corrective measures taken by Afghanistan in reply to the World Heritage Committee's Decision(s):

Afghanistan Government and in special the Ministry of Information and Culture have identified a range of corrective measures in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre aimed to eventually have the site removed from the List in Danger. The measures include the establishment of:

- 1) A monitoring system through regular topographic measurements set-up and long-term monitoring of the Minaret and archaeological site.
- 2) Capacity building programs for national experts developed.
- 3) Topographic and archaeological surveys carried out and core and buffer zones re-defined accordingly.
- 4) A damage assessment report developed for the Minaret and the archaeological remains.
- 5) Protection of the site against illicit excavations ensured.
- 6) Marking of the core zone as World Heritage protected area.
- 7) Consolidation of the minaret structure.
- 8) Emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret.

Progress towards of World Heritage in Danger:

Inclination of the Minaret:

The Ministry of Information and Culture received assistance from UNESCO which produced a technical report with close cooperation with an international architecture conservator, this report indicates that; an increased inclination of 28mm at 54m relative height between 2006 and 2014 is a fact, although the increase is not catastrophically, but nevertheless calls for immediate attention and

action, any further increase of inclination is alarming. Whether the increased inclination is caused by the 2007 flood and is stopped by now, or whether the increased inclination is a still on-going process, cannot be stated today. The author of the 2002, 2006 and 2009 surveys advises to set up a high precision monitoring system as soon as possible. Together with experts in monitoring devices, the author proposes the installation of high precision inclination sensors. Together with the inclination, wind velocity and temperature must be monitored simultaneously to the preparations, the installation and the implementation of the proposed monitoring system; it would be wise to start with the conception of possible consolidation measures. If the monitoring indicates a continuous movement and an increasing inclination, an almost immediate response and readiness for intervention is necessary. Therefore it is recommended to set up a small but effective team of experts in the fields of architecture, structural engineering and geophysics, combined with heritage conservation.

Emergency Assistance Request:

The emergency Assistance request (No. 2015-2736) for the conservation plan of the World Heritage property of Minaret of Jam and Archeological remains was submitted by the government of Afghanistan (MoIC) and approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on 12 March, 2015, for a total amount of USD 73,750. The Ministry of Information & Culture is currently closely working with UNESCO and international expert to jointly prepare a mid - long term intervention plan to ensure stability and protection of the Minaret of Jam and its surrounding environment. This includes key priorities activities, time frame and estimated budget. This plan is to be finalized in early 2016.

Documentation:

The structure and fabric of the minaret should be documented in detail, as a basis on which to make decisions about possible preservation measures. Accurate mapping of the other traces of built heritage in the area should also be undertaken to enable a better understanding of the settlement of Jam and the definition of appropriate 'core' and 'buffer' zones for this World Heritage site.

Architectural preservation:

structural repairs should initially be undertaken on the lower parts of internal brick masonry of the minaret, followed by replacement of timber lintels, treads to stairs, the reinstallation of the wooden elements which existed in the structure of the Minaret to protect the steps and which have been removed by looters and frames to the openings through its height, as well as stabilization of the uppermost sections. Following this, a detailed programme of

preservation should be developed on the basis of the surveys and documentation identified above. Inclination and the damages occurred to the structure of the minaret, it is to be mentioned that the damages of minaret decoration are increasing by the passage of each year. Therefore, the urgent treatment of structure and decoration of the minaret is required. The author proposes to start with the consolidation and conservation of the decorations as soon as possible. Ideally would be to start from top till bottom.

River defense protection:

The south bank of the HariRud should be consolidated with extension of gabions and planting of trees upstream of the minaret. A system of recording the height and flow of both rivers should be instituted to facilitate planning for future seasonal flooding.

Community development:

A footbridge should be constructed over the HariRud to enable year-round access for inhabitants of nearby villages and for future conservation works. Because during the spring and summer time the water level of rivers are high and there is no any another possibility to reach the Minaret.

For security of the Site, the MoIC and the Ministry of Interior have deployed a team of police officers for the protection of cultural property to monitor and safeguard the World Heritage property. They are currently in place at the site to address the issue of illicit traffic.

Project guest house:

The project guest house, built by UNESCO in 2003 and now is property of MoIC, site office of Department of Historical Monuments which needs of repair, most windows have no glass covered with plastic sheets, bathroom and toilets are out of use, blocked sewerage, no water supply no cold no warm water for the toilets and bath, the pump-pit is dry, the roof is locally leaking, So to offer a basic accommodation to experts during the missions working at Jam, it is recommended to do some urgent repairs at the project guest house.

Major Restorations / alterations and new constructions within the protected area and buffer zone envisaged:

For gaining this urgent need, MoIC has set a plan to reach the scope of:

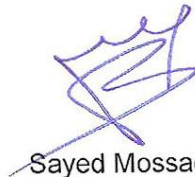
- 1) Set up a high precision monitoring system together with experts in monitoring devices.
- 2) Recommended to set up an effective team of experts in the fields of architecture, structural engineering and geophysics, combined with heritage conservation.

- 3) The structure and fabric of the minaret should be documented in detail, as a basis on which to make decisions about possible preservation measures.
- 4) The south bank of the HariRud should be consolidated with extension of gabion wall and planting of trees upstream of the minaret. A system of recording the height and flow of both rivers should be instituted to facilitate planning for future seasonal flooding.
- 5) A footbridge should be constructed over the HariRud to enable access for future conservation works.
- 6) The urgent treatment of structure and decoration of the minaret is required. Proposes to start with the consolidation and conservation of the decorations as soon as possible.
- 7) To offer a basic accommodation to experts during the missions working at Jam, it is recommended to do some urgent repairs at the project guest house.

Best Regards



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