

Name of World Heritage property	State Party	ID number
<b><i>Historic town of Zabid</i></b>	<b><i>Republic of Yemen</i></b>	<b>C 611</b>

STATE PARTY'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE  
HISTORIC TOWN OF ZABID– INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN  
DANGER

GOPHCY– March 2016

**DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 39TH  
SESSION (BOON, 2015), CONCERNING THE HISTORIC TOWN OF ZABID**

Decision : 39 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,
2. **Recalling Decision** 38 COM 7A.13 adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. **Commends** the State Party for the preparation of the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015;
4. **Also commends** the state Party for the efforts that have occurred in relation to physical preservation and community engagement in Zabid, notwithstanding the difficult security situation;
5. **Welcomes** the continuing support of the German Agency for international Cooperation (GIZ) and the support of the World Heritage Category 2 Center (ARC-WH) in Bahrain;
6. **Noting the urgent** need for further resources to support regeneration and conservation projects, encourages the State Party to continue its work in promoting the need for international support;
7. **Reiterates its request** to the State party to provide to the World Heritage Center details of clearer boundaries of the property and the buffer zone and other technical requirements as requested and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal by 1 February 2016 for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
8. **Requests the World** Heritage Center and the advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the "National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020 " to be developed during 2015,
9. **Also requests** the State party submit to the World Heritage Center by 1 February 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the revised implementation plan and programme, for the Urgent Action Plan' and for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the World Heritage committee at its 40th session in 2016;
10. **Decides to retain** the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen ) on the list of World Heritage in Danger.

## 1. Executive summary of the report

Since 2011 Yemen under intense unrest, which led to outbreak of armed conflict ended to agreement of national dialogue conference under regional and international auspices.

Before ending of the national dialogue conference, early in 2015 broke out the newest armed conflict, it led to more deterioration of the security, political and economic situation in the country.

Safety and socio-economic states have collapsed, at that time suffer and welter dominated in Yemen.

Up to now, more than 60 heritage sites, (monuments, archaeological sites and cities) have been damaged.

Despite of scarce resources and lack funds GOPHCY has conducted some of emergency activities in coordination and support from UNESCO Doha technical studies and documenting of the most possible accessible sites affected during this war.

In coordination with UNESCO Doha and ICCROM Athar, three workshops have been elaborated in Amman, Cairo and Tunis, in which some of Yemeni experts participated the objective was, to raise the capabilities of team from GOAM and GOPHCY to first aid intervention during the crises and conflicts.

UNESCO Doha in coordination with UNESCO in Paris, held an experts meeting, who worked in Yemen, the aim was to discuss the states of Yemeni heritage during this arm conflict, the outcome were emergency matrix to implement some urgent actions, to help protection the Yemeni heritage, but this matrix is still ink on paper yet.

In 2014, GOPHCY with financial and technical support of GIZ to prepared a draft of the ***National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments*** (2016 -2020), thanks to the GIZ. Nonetheless, because of the ongoing war and arm intervention of the coalition forces, state has been unable to implement the Action plan for 2015. The circumstances, political, economic and acute shortage of resources, it has been postponed until situation allowed Support of World Heritage center, as well from the global concerned community, for promotion, revision according to the results of the promotion, prepare technical proposals and fundraising activities, in line with the financial and institutional capacities. It is the crucial supportive requirement for preservation of Yemeni built culture heritage.

The state Party notwithstanding the difficult security situation is trying in all its available means to carry out some actions relation to physical preservation and community engagement in Zabid. Assistance from WHC have been applied, since 2014 when the request approved and adopted (Zabid noIA2014-2664), unfortunately up to now no action taken although, GOPHCY had signed the contract with UNESCO Doha, last year, as will the other commitment with local

expert in the country are prepared and ready to start the work, we appreciate your support to advance this subject , we believe it is the right time to implement this activities.

The state party is insisted to have it deserved assistance, adopted by the committee, to be able to start implementing the activates, it is hard time in Yemen, it is time to support any activates concern Yemeni world heritage protection.

Calling, for urgent international combing is essential demand, to support the protection of cultural heritage in Yemen.

**GOPHCY** core expert team , could carry out the necessary studies and documentation ambulatory activities ,if we could overcome the current lacks the resources particularly the finance lack.

**State party** need of urgent support to finance the work of processing in preparing the technical and financial proposals for postwar plan. Eager to more support in the field of training and rehabilitation during this period.

The state party like to acknowledge ICCROM Sharjah and UNESCO Doha for their exerted effort in supporting the Yemeni competencies teams and experts in the field of urgent intervention to preserve the heritage during conflicts.

Moreover, the state party , ask to pay more attention to set of large training programme, for GOPHCY staff in different field of heritage protection, as long as international experts are unable to visit Yemen in this time.

We urgently suggested to think of an international Conference for promotion of world cultural heritage, which exposed destruction ,to raise awareness to support the implementation of the necessary protection processes and maintenance.

Our thanks and appreciation to the German government on the permanent support to Yemen in heritage protection, and its willingness to continue this support.

We thank UNESCO Doha and ICCROM Athar for the support hoping to be continuing in the generous and timely manner ,prompt without bureaucratic delays, Mainly in these difficult conditions experienced in Yemen.

Our thanks and appreciation to the Director General of UNESCO Dr.Irina Bokova for her support and solidarity ,as well to all the expertise ,who are in solidarity of Yemeni heritage.

## **2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, paragraph by paragraph**

2.1 The preparation of the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015, was the great step for better management and preservation of culture heritage in Yemen ,but current status and instability due to the war is the main reason of lacking of resources, that prevented the implementation of any action concerning the National Strategy during 2015. The state party is waiting for WHC and other related concerned international organization to assist in revision of the draft

strategy according to the current development due to the war, as well as assistance for promotion and, to prepare financial proposals.

2.2 The state Party notwithstanding the difficult security situation is trying in all its available means to carry out some actions relation to physical preservation and community engagement in Zabid. Assistance from WHC have been applied, since 2014 when the request approved and adopted (Zabid noIA2014-2664) ,unfortunately up to now no action taken although, GOPHCY had signed the contract with UNESCO Doha, last year, as will the other commitment with local expert in the country are prepared and ready to start the work, we appreciate your support to advance this subject , we believe it is the right time to implement this activities.

2.3 Due to the current status of the country, because of the war and conflict the support of the German Agency for international Cooperation (GIZ) and the support of the World Heritage Category 2 Center (ARC-WH) in Bahrain have stopped.

2.4 In this current conflict situation of the country, **the state party** is requesting the WHC and all other concerned international organization to play its role and commitments for further resources to support regeneration and conservation projects, we are in urgent need of assistance in preparing financial proposals for promoting the need for international support.

2.5 The state party have provided the World Heritage Center details of proposed boundaries of the old town of Zabid in 2013 via the UNESCO national committee. Which was identified based on Zabid conservation plan approved in the same year. For your consideration, we attached a Map of the Zones , boundaries of the property, for your comments.

2.6 The state party still waiting for the World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the National Strategy, since we have provided them with the draft of the Strategy, which been attached with the last year report. We appreciate if you could assist to speed up the process.

2.7 We consider that, it is urgently important , to get the possible consultation and support of the World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of emergency and corrective measures with a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired State of conservation rot the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party**

N/A

**4. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the protected area (core zone and buffer zone and/or corridors) that might be envisaged.**

N/A

**5. Public access to the state of conservation report**

State Party ,doesn't mind to upload the report for public access.

**Signature Of The Authority**