
Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) No 1488

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape

Location

Diyarbakır Province
Southeastern Anatolia Region
Turkey

Brief description

The Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is located on an escarpment in the Upper Tigris River Basin, part of the region known as the 'Fertile Crescent', an area of many cultures and civilizations over time. The fortified city and its associated landscape were an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through the Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present. The nominated property includes the impressive Diyarbakır City Walls of 5800m – with its many towers, gates, buttresses and 63 inscriptions from different historical periods; and the fertile Hevsel Gardens that link the city with the Tigris River and supplied the city with food and water. The City Walls, and the evidence of their damage, repair and reinforcement since the Roman period, present a powerful physical and visual testimony of the many periods of the region's history.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (July 2013), paragraph 47, it is also a *cultural landscape*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

25 February 2000

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

30 January 2014

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage and several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 25 to 28 August 2014.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 20 August 2014 requesting clarification on maps, the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, details of the restoration and repair projects, zones for legal protection, ownership details, progress on the management plan, development projects, and visitor management. Additional information was received from the State Party on 20 October 2014 and 17 December 2014. A second letter was sent to the State Party following the ICOMOS Panel meeting on 29 December 2014 regarding the boundaries of the nominated property and the buffer zone, details of the hydraulic and agricultural systems, monitoring indicators, management system and restoration projects for the city walls. Additional information from the State Party was received on 19 February 2015 following these requests. The additional information received from the State Party has been incorporated in this report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 The property

Description

Diyarbakır is located on the eastern side of a slightly sloped wide basalt plateau reaching towards the Tigris River from Karacadağ, which is on average 650m above sea level and 70-80m from the Tigris Valley.

Diyarbakır is a remarkable settlement. Its location and 7000 years of history have been closely related to its proximity to the Tigris (Dicle) River. Structures relating to this long history, and the different religions, societies, states and governments still stand in the city of Diyarbakır. Components of the nominated property include the Amida Mound, the City Walls (including many inscriptions), Hevsel Gardens, Ten-Eyed Bridge, the Tigris River valley and the natural and water resources of the area. Each of these components is briefly discussed below.

Amida Mound

Traces of first settlements in Diyarbakır are seen at Amida Mound, known as İçkale (Inner Castle). The mound and its surrounding area display all the stages of the development of its urban history. To the north, İçkale is established on the rocks known as Fis Kaya. All civilizations that ruled the city used this part as their

control centre and it expanded to its current extent in the Ottoman period. The mound covers an area of approximately 700m² and has four gates, two of which open to the inside of the walls, and two to the outside. The four gates of İçkale are, Oğrun, Saray (Palace), Fetih (Conquest), and Küpeli. İçkale also has 19 towers.

Features within İçkale include the prison, church, courthouse, museum, "Aslani" (lion) fountain, İçkale Mosque (Prophet Suleiman Mosque) and the Arch, located on the entrance of İçkale, from the Artuqid Period and built to give İçkale's entrance a grand view. The 1206-07 dates in the inscription correspond to the reign of Sultan Mahmud of the Artuqids. The İçkale Museum Project started in 2000.

City Walls

The City Walls (Dişkale), also known as the Outer Castle, reached their current extent during the Roman Empire's rule in the 4th century. The length of the Dişkale walls (i.e. Outer Castle Walls) is 5200m. Together with the İçkale walls, the city walls total 5800m. The Dişkale walls are composed of towers and bastions that border the Suriçi District. The bastions that encircle the Dişkale have 82 towers and buttresses in different sizes that support it. The towers have square, circular and polygonal shapes.

The width of the city walls vary between 5-12m. The walls also include the round path (chemin de ronde) that is 2m above the ground. The main materials used to build the Diyarbakır Fortress were the local basalt, limestone (which features inscriptions and mouldings), and brick (used in the curved cover towers). The steep artificial slopes around the Fortress have 'antique quarry' status.

In total, the City Walls have 63 inscriptions on them that reflect the different periods of the city's history. Six of these belong to the Byzantine period, four of them are in Greek and one in Latin, and Syriac inscriptions are located on the Dağ Gate. The rest of the inscriptions belong to the Islamic period.

Natural Resources

Important water resources of the city are the Gözeli Spring, Anzele Spring, Alipinar Spring and İçkale Spring. The Anzele Spring is located in the west part of the City Walls. It provides for the water needs of many mosques in the city, houses and gardens to the Urfa Gate, powers the mills outside of Mardin Gate, and irrigates the Hevsel Gardens.

Due to the topographic and climatic diversity of the Anatolian Peninsula, the nominated cultural landscape has an outstanding habitat and species richness, where wild ancestors of many plants grow (including wheat, barley, lentils, chickpea and peas).

Tigris Valley

The Tigris Valley is located to the east of the city centre of Diyarbakır. The valley is characterised by a wide variety of

habitats such as woodlands, thickets, swamps, marshes, meadows and moorland and agricultural areas.

Hevsel Gardens

The Hevsel Gardens have existed since the establishment of the city. There are several possible explanations for the name of this area – Hevsel (or Efsel). It is a large green link between the city and the Tigris River, and provides a magnificent view of the city and the city walls.

Hevsel Gardens are located in an area from the Mardin Gate within the Tigris Valley and extends to the Ten-Eyed Bridge in the south and Yeni Gate in the east. These Gardens, defined as the green lungs of the city, sustained the fruit and vegetable needs of the city's population until the 1960's. In the Ottoman Period the Hevsel Gardens were covered entirely in Mulberry trees. Today, the Hevsel Gardens cover an area of 4000 decares. 1000-1500 decares of this section is poplar wood and 2500 decares are still used for fruit and vegetable farming. The Hevsel Gardens are also known as a 'hidden bird sanctuary' that hosts approximately 189 bird species.

The many endemic plant and animal species specific to the Tigris River add to the importance of the Gardens.

Ten-Eyed Bridge

The Ten-Eyed Bridge is located 3km south of Diyarbakır, at the outskirts of Kırklar Hill on the southern border of the nominated property. According to inscriptions on the bridge, it was first constructed in the Umayyad period by Architect Ubeyd under the administration of Kadi Ebu'l Hasan Abdülvahid in 1064-1065 in the time of Nizamüdevle Nasr. However, some researchers argue it might have been built earlier.

The bridge was initially named 'Silvan Bridge' as it was located on the Silvan Road, but today it is known as the Ten-Eyed Bridge because of its ten arches.

History and development

The first mention of the city in written sources can be dated to 866 BCE. The name of Diyarbakır was written as 'Amidi' or 'Amida' on a hilt belonging to Adad-Ninari (1310-1281 BCE). According to its west Semitic origin, the name of Amid implies solidity and power. It is thought that the name Amidi belongs to the Subaru (Hurri-Mitanni) Period.

Diyarbakır is referred to as Amida in all subsequent Roman and Byzantine sources. The city began to be referred to as Diyarbakır from the 1900s, and the name was formally changed to Diyarbakır by a Council of Ministers' decision in 1937.

The larger region which is also referred to as Diyarbekr and included many settlements such as Erbil, Erzen, Cizre, Hani, Silvan, Harran, Hasankeyf, Habur, Ceylanpınar, Rakka, Urfa, Siirt, Sinjar, Imadiye, Mardin, Muş, and Nusaybin apart from the current city of Diyarbakır. South-eastern Anatolia is part of the region

known as the 'Fertile Crescent', known for its exceptionally rich natural resources that supported a very vibrant economic life for thousands of years, and a succession of different cultures.

Settlements in the Neolithic Period have been excavated in the area of Diyarbakır (particularly at the site of Çayönü, dated between 9300 BCE and 6300 BCE), demonstrating the transitions to settled life. The findings from other excavations at Diyarbakır relate to the Halaf Culture (6000 to 5400 BCE).

Diyarbakır was an important city in the Roman period. The city expanded in several stages during the Roman period to reach its final extent. The first part (labelled 'Green City' in the nomination dossier) occupied the eastern part of the city and part of the south-west district. The 2nd stage (labelled 'Red City' in the nomination dossier), expanded the city to the west during the period of the Roman Emperor Constantine. A Latin inscription on the North Gate relates to the rebuilding at this time.

Subsequent to the signing of the "Jovianus Treaty" by Jovian and Shapur (Persian), the city became the new metropolis of Roman Mesopotamia with Nisibis abandoned to the Persians. As a result, Diyarbakır became the most advanced city, in contact with western satrapies (Sophéné, Ingiléne, Sophané). The population increased significantly, and the city was extended to the southwest for the people that moved to Diyarbakır from Nisibis. The city walls were again extended to include this new area.

Between 634 and 661, after 5 months of siege that resulted in the fall of Diyarbakır to Islamic forces, the city entered the Islamic Period.

Due to disagreements in the Islamic states, the Umayyad state declared its establishment after passing the Caliphate to the Umayyad. Diyarbakır became the capital of its province in 728 and again became an important centre. However, there was no development activity during the Umayyad period, and no works belonging to the Umayyad have been identified in Diyarbakır.

Various Byzantine incursions occurred during this period; parts of the city walls were destroyed in 899, and were reconstructed to improve the city's defence (as documented by several Abbasid inscriptions). The Ten-Eyed Bridge was damaged by the Byzantine armies, but they were unable to take the city due to the strength of the fortifications.

Marwanid, whose dominance of the region occurred in the late 10th century, established various zoning activities in Amid, and the city walls of Diyarbakır were repaired and raised. In 1056 the towers of Dağ Gate were restored and one of these towers was used as a mosque. During this period, inscriptions were made on the restored towers.

In 1085, after a prolonged siege and destruction of the Hevsel Gardens, unable to withstand the hunger, the city gave in to Seljuk. The Seljuk Period in Diyarbakır, between 1085 and 1093, saw further repairs and reconstructions to the walls of Diyarbakır. Towers number 15, 32, 42 (now known as Malik Shah or Nur Tower), and 63 (known as Findik Tower) were constructed during this period. The inscriptions on them confirm this information. Later in the Seljuk period, conflicts resulted in damages to the city walls in 1117-1118. Various repairs and reconstructions occurred and are documented by inscriptions on some of the gates and towers.

The Artuqid period of occupation of Diyarbakır began in 1183. Archaeological excavations in 1961-1962 located the palace, decorated with mosaic and tiles belonging to the period of Artuqid Emperor Malik Salih Nasireddin Mahmoud (1200-1222). During this period, the Arch known as the Artuqid Arch at the castle entrance was built. Much of the work done on the city walls during this period remains today, and there are many inscriptions related to this period. The 'outer walls' were reduced during the Ayyubid Period (1232-1240).

In 1394, Timur surrounded Diyarbakır and was able to enter the city through a hole on the city wall, and demolished many buildings. When Timur left Anatolia in 1403, he gave the city to Artuqid Kara Yöyük Osman Bey. During this period, Diyarbakır was an important camp on the trade route to Aleppo. The Caravans set out from Tabriz, and went to Aleppo through Diyarbakır. For this reason, the Aq Qoyunlu (1401-15) became a state by making Diyarbakır its first capital. As in other periods, the city walls were damaged and repaired at many points during the Aq Qoyunlu period. Silk was grown in the Hevsel Gardens, contributing to the important trade from and through Diyarbakır to Aleppo. There are four inscriptions of Aq Qoyunlu in the city; one of them is on the Grand Mosque, and three of them are on the bastions of Uzun Hassan.

In 1515, after taking Amid, the Ottoman Empire further developed trade, built new public (commercial, religious and cultural) structures and contributed to the renewal of the city. The Ottoman period extended until 1922.

During the Republic Period (1928-1945), there was not enough space inside the city walls and there was settlement at Diyarbakır outside the walls. Nizamettin Efendi, the governor of the period, broke down the walls located at the north and south parts of the Fortress in 1930 on the grounds that they prevented the airing of the city. Other developments include the establishment of a public park in Dağ Gate area, and the western parts of the City Walls, the inner and outer parts of the walls were made into green areas.

Population growth from the 1950s and the start of squatting from the 1960s expanded settlements and structures into a large part of the outer contour of the castle including the archaeological site at the Inner

Castle. Since this time, there has been a physical fragmentation of the settlements and the appearance of multi-storey buildings. In order to prevent damage and destruction, Suriçi was declared 'Urban Site' in 1988.

Since 1990, conflicts in the region and associated migrations to the city have put added pressure on the buildings and infrastructure of the Suriçi District. Faced with unplanned urbanization, squatting and occupation, the Municipality began works to remove illegal settlements, undertook various landscape measures and improved access to the city walls in 2002. From 2002, there has been a project to restore the city walls and to transform the Inner Castle to an Archaeological Museum. A new Conservation Plan was adopted in 2012, and there are plans to improve the tourism facilities.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis compares the Diyarbakır Fortress and Cultural Landscape with selected cultural landscapes, wall structures, castles and citadels from the Medieval, Roman and later periods. The nominated property is compared with: Erbil Citadel (Iraq), Aleppo Citadel (Syria), Damascus Citadel (Syria), Carcassonne Walled City (France) and Berat Castle and City (Albania). Identified comparable wall structures are Istanbul's Historical Peninsula (Turkey), The Great Wall (China) and the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Germany/United Kingdom). The Late Period Castles that the nominated property is compared with are Mazagan (El Jadida) Portugal City (Morocco), Elvas and Fortification (Portugal), İznik Fortress (Turkey), Alanya Fortress (Turkey) and Kayseri Fortress (Turkey). Cultural landscapes that are compared with the nominated property include Istanbul Yedikule Vegetable Gardens (Turkey), Agave Landscape and Ancient Industrial Facilities of Tequila (Mexico), Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary), Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines), Alto Douro Wine Region (Portugal), Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape (Austria) and Wachau Cultural Landscape (Austria).

ICOMOS considers that while this comparative analysis is very far reaching and not all the comparisons are strongly relevant, it nevertheless demonstrates the distinctive qualities of the Diyarbakır Fortress and Cultural Landscape. Although some of the compared properties such as Aleppo in Syria, Berat Castle in Albania, and the Mazagan Garrison City in Morocco have some similarities with the nominated property, the strong visual presence of the walls, the physical and visual link with the Hevsel Gardens, the Castle landscape and the inscriptions on the walls and towers make this area different from these other cultural properties.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The Diyarbakır Fortress and Cultural Landscape is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The nominated property is an example of a frontier, border city that has been important over millennia and has survived due to its strategic location at the frontier between the East and the West, mainly due to the availability of the navigable river, the fertile valley, abundance of water and garden crops.
- The Fortress reflects different civilizations in terms of construction techniques, materials and geographical planning.
- The nominated property, located on the crossroads connecting Mesopotamia and Anatolia, and connecting Mesopotamia to northern countries through Anatolia, became a point on which the cultures in this region met and merged.
- Diyarbakır Fortress is a rare structure that can reflect the multi-layered cultures of Mesopotamia.
- Diyarbakır Fortress, with its strong structure, inscriptions and gates is a beautiful and strong example with respect to architecture, construction technique, masonry and decoration, not just for Antique period between the Hurrians and the Byzantium but for the Middle Age civilizations between the Byzantium and the Ottomans.
- The nominated property is one of the most successful examples of methods for combining water resources, fortresses and cities in this region's civilizations, and is an important example for Mesopotamia.

ICOMOS considers that this justification is appropriate.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

Apart from the section demolished in 1930, the City Walls are intact and generally in a good state of conservation. In addition to the main components of the nominated property proposed by the State Party – the Hevsel Gardens, Diyarbakır City Walls and the İçkale – there are other attributes within the boundaries of the property such as the Tigris River Valley, the Ten-Eyed Bridge, water and other natural resources that contribute to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of this property. The inclusion of these elements within the property boundary is supported by ICOMOS.

There are controls in place for buildings and settlements within and around the boundary of the nominated property. Hundreds of illegal structures have recently been removed and the State Party has undertaken to conduct further archaeological excavations in order to

better document the architectural remains in the lower open area. Nevertheless, ICOMOS notes that at the edge of the desert plate which closes the horizon of the nominated property there are many high-rise constructions, including two mosques, the Dicle University (of Tigris) and brickworks. While these are all located outside the buffer zone, they impact on the visual setting of the property.

Over the past half century there have been some restoration interventions to the city walls, some of which are not of good quality. ICOMOS notes that in sections where grey cement was used there has been some deterioration of the stones. Furthermore, ICOMOS notes that these restorations have not been adequately documented. Overall, approximately 1/5 of the wall has been restored and the State Party has indicated that 43 million Euros has been obtained for the restoration of the 66 towers. It is of the highest importance for the integrity and authenticity of the nominated property that this work be carefully planned and documented.

The Hevsel Gardens have four terraces or sections which are all part of the nominated property, namely, the high terrace (zone of the mills), the intermediate terrace (zone of mulberry trees), the low terrace (zone of the poplars) and bed of the Tigris River. The integrity of the Hevsel Gardens is impacted by the unauthorised settlements and businesses established at the bottom of the citadel, by blocked drains, and water quality issues. The bed of the Tigris River is today reduced because of the dams that divert water upstream. The Ten-Eyed Bridge was restored in 2008.

ICOMOS recognises the significance of the hydraulic and agricultural systems as important contributory features in the history of the Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens although a greater level of documentation of these could be undertaken in order to support the integrity of the property and for future planning (e.g. for determining the location of needed new pathways). This is an aspect of further detail that could enhance the understanding of the nominated property and its values.

ICOMOS considers that the integrity of the nominated property is adequate, but is vulnerable due to various development pressures in the city centre and surrounding the nominated property, and some poorly executed conservation works to the City Walls in the past.

Authenticity

Although Diyarbakir Fortress no longer performs its function as a defensive structure, it has survived for many centuries and still clearly encircles the innermost core of the historic city. It is therefore still possible to read the importance of these walls, and to recognise their materials, form and design. The City Walls, including small details of damage and repair over the centuries are very

important attributes to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

A substantial part of the 5.8km-long ring consisting of bastion walls, gates and towers of the old city remain, and justify the arguments put forward by the State Party about their authenticity. The Hevsel Gardens have also maintained their historical and functional links to the city.

ICOMOS notes that while these elements and links are clear, the lack of documentation of restoration work is an issue for determining and maintaining the authenticity of the restored sections.

ICOMOS considers that while there are some areas that need further attention, the requirements for integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property was nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v), but the State Party subsequently revised the proposal to consider only criteria (ii), (iv) and (v).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the location of the nominated property - on the crossroads connecting Mesopotamia and Anatolia, and connecting Mesopotamia to the northern countries through Anatolia – enabled it to become a point where the cultures in this region met and merged. Diyarbakir has been a military and/or cultural capital of different civilizations in different periods at this strategic transition point between the West and the East. All of these different civilizations affected the culture and beliefs of each other, traces of which can be witnessed today through the tangible and intangible components of the cultural landscape. The State Party also suggests that artistic progress and interactions that took place in time can be seen in the various inscriptions found on the towers and gates.

ICOMOS considers that while this property is located in a regional context well-known for its layering of histories and cultures, and that some attributes of the nominated property provide evidence of these stages (such as the inscriptions), the cultural landscape as a whole does not strongly demonstrate the interchanges envisioned by this criterion. Accordingly, ICOMOS considers that the reasons provided by the State Party in relation to this criterion are more appropriately considered according to other cultural criteria (as discussed below).

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage (s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Diyarbakır Fortress, with its structures, inscriptions and gates – is a beautiful and strong example with respect to its architecture, construction techniques, masonry and inscriptions/decorations through many historical periods, from the Roman period to today.

ICOMOS considers that the justification provided for this criterion is appropriate, and that much of the material provided by the State Party in relation to the consideration of criteria (ii) and (v) is more appropriately and convincingly considered according to this criterion. The nominated cultural landscape offers a rare and impressive example, particularly in relation to the extensive City Walls (and their numerous features) and their continuing relationship with the Hevsel Gardens and the Tigris River.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (v): *be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the most significant natural elements that factored in the location decision of the Diyarbakır Fortress are the shield shaped Karacadağ volcanic cone and basalt plateau, the Hevsel Gardens and the Tigris River. These elements enabled the creation and development of the nominated property throughout history and make the Fortress and its surrounding cultural landscape significant within the context of Mesopotamia.

ICOMOS considers that while the natural resources and landforms of the nominated property and its setting have shaped its history and are therefore important contributory attributes to the cultural landscape, they do not sufficiently demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value according to this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (iv), and that while very vulnerable, the requirements for integrity and authenticity have been met.

Description of the attributes

The potential Outstanding Universal Value of the Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is expressed through the Amid Mound (also known as the İçkale or Inner Castle), Diyarbakır City Walls (known as the Dışkale or Outer Castle), including its towers, gates and inscriptions, the Hevsel Gardens, the Tigris River and Valley, and the Ten-Eyed Bridge. The ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is considered to be contributory, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the nominated property.

4 Factors affecting the property

According to the State Party, the Diyarbakır Fortress and Cultural Landscape occurs within a seismic zone, and some built elements are vulnerable to fire. The property has suffered from deterioration from climatic and natural processes, lack of maintenance, misuse, illegal structures and informal occupation, traffic, graffiti and lack of public awareness.

Despite the prohibitions in place, unauthorised structures and activities occur around the Tigris Valley and Hevsel Gardens. These pose various threats to the nominated property, and have a negative impact on the purposes and values of these areas.

As noted above, the restoration work over the last 50 years on the City Walls is of variable quality, some of which has had detrimental impacts on the conservation of the stonework. Recent work has been a source of strong debate and was formally halted in January 2015 during the evaluation of this nomination in order to reconsider the conservation planning and methods. ICOMOS considers that exceptional care and attention to detail is required, as the stones are an extraordinary witness of the histories of this region, including in their small details of past damage and repair, and evidence of fittings, etc.

Diyarbakır does not have a current Tourism Master Plan, although the State Party intends to prepare a detailed study as part of the Management Plan. The growing interest in the area has resulted in a rise in new hotel developments, so the lack of an effective plan is acknowledged by the State Party as a threat.

The Buffer Zone is also affected by some factors. The old city (Suriçi) is affected by population pressures, urban sprawl and new development (including some unauthorized developments). There are approximately 1500 buildings which have more than 2 storeys in Suriçi.

For the Buffer Zone around the outside of the nominated property, one of the biggest problems is the new housing area built on Kirkklar Hill. There are many high-rise buildings which are already built, and the project is continuing, although the Municipality has now established some height controls in this area. There are two licensed

sand quarries in the buffer zone which will close in 2017 and will not be renewed. The State Party has plans to re-use the quarried areas for fish farming and fruit growing.

The nominated property has 6,330 inhabitants and about 84,848 inhabitants live in the buffer zone, a total of 91,178 inhabitants overall.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are various issues arising from the current population pressures such as unregulated occupation and uses, poor past conservation work on the City Walls, damage to the buildings of Suriçi, urban development inside and outside the City Walls, traffic, and tourism development.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The nominated property covers an area of about 520.76 ha and has two buffer zones. Diyarbakır Suriçi District is defined as the first buffer zone measuring 132.20 ha. The second buffer zone, surrounding the outside of the nominated property measures was proposed by the State Party for an area of 1289.69ha. The boundaries of the property and the buffer zones have been adjusted by the State Party through the dialogue with ICOMOS during the evaluation period. As a result, the spring of Anzélé has been included in the property boundary (rather than the buffer zone). ICOMOS supports these changes to the property boundary and buffer zones on the grounds that they more appropriately enclose the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, as well as indicating the area needed for protection of the setting of the nominated property.

The first buffer zone contains the historic city of Diyarbakır Suriçi District with many historical buildings – including 125 monuments and 382 houses with heritage value. It contributes to the visual integrity of the nominated property and is therefore vulnerable to pressures of inappropriate development.

The second buffer zone surrounds the outside of the nominated property and has been extended by the State Party through dialogue with ICOMOS to include additional areas to the north and east of the nominated property in order to protect the views to and from the property.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the boundary of the nominated property and the boundaries of the two buffer zones (as revised by the State Party during the evaluation process) are appropriate.

Ownership

The Diyarbakır City Walls and Towers are owned by the General Directorate of National Estate of the Ministry of Finance. However, the usage right of the towers and bastions belongs to the Ministry of Tourism. The areas

surrounding of the City Walls is under the authorization of Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality.

The properties and land of Hevsel Gardens belong to the Housing Development Administration, to the Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, Waqfs (Foundation) and to private owners. The properties within the buffer zone belong to the General Directorate of Foundations, Provincial Special Administration, Financial Treasury, and Housing Development Administration, Ministry of National Education, Turkish Armed Forces as regards the central executive units whilst Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, Sur District Municipality and Yenişehir District Municipality are responsible for the local units. In addition, there are properties belonging to Dicle University, Turkish Electricity Distribution Corporation, Non-Governmental Organisations, associations, foundations and private persons.

Protection

The historical City Walls and Towers are protected through designation as an “Urban Site” in accordance with the decision of Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation and the Law No. 2863 on Code of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties. Amida Mound in the Inner Castle is designated as a “1st degree Archaeological Site”, requiring permission from the Diyarbakır Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation before any new construction or physical intervention. Special provisions for the historical City Walls, towers and wall gates are provided in the Suriçi Urban Site Conservation Plan; and permission from the responsible municipality is required before any new constructions or physical interventions occur in the settlements outside of the City Walls and in Hevsel Gardens. All archaeological studies and excavations in these areas are monitored and controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakır Museum Directorate.

The Law No. 2872 of Environmental Law controls and administers the agricultural activities in the Tigris Valley and Hevsel Gardens. Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate and State Hydraulic Works are also the responsible institutions. Moreover, the Soil Conservation Board, which is included in decisions about Hevsel Gardens and Tigris Valley, conducts its works in accordance with the “Application Regulations on Soil Conservation and Land Use Law”.

In relation to the buffer zone, protection is provided through permit mechanisms administered by the Diyarbakır Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation before any new construction or physical intervention for registered assets in Historical Suriçi District. All archaeological studies or excavations carried out in Buffer Zone are monitored and controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakır Museum Directorate.

Within the buffer zones, legal permission is required from the responsible municipality before any new constructions and/or physical interventions are carried out. These should be given in accordance with the provisions of Conservation Plan in Suriçi District, although the town planning regulations are advisory provisions for private owners, and the coordination with the management of the proposed World Heritage property is not evident.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that while there is legal protection in place for the key attributes of the nominated property, the coordination of these provisions and the protection of the buffer zone should be strengthened.

Conservation

Although the nominated property has been affected by wars and increasing development pressure, especially from the 20th century, Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is generally in a satisfactory state of conservation.

Before 2008, the Ten-Eyed Bridge was used for vehicular traffic, affecting its structure. In 2008, the Metropolitan Municipality's Transportation Coordination Centre (UKOME) decided to close the bridge to vehicular traffic and it is now only used by pedestrians. The latest restoration works were completed in 2009 and the bridge is in good condition.

As noted above, the variable quality of the restoration works conducted on the city walls, towers and gates have impacted on the overall state of conservation. The gates and walls have also been damaged from motor vehicle accidents and use of the bastions as car parking areas. In response, the Transportation Master Plan and Conservation Plan prepared and approved by the Metropolitan Municipality, plans to use the areas surrounding of the walls as a ring road and to impose restrictions on traffic flow within Suriçi. Moreover, as much as possible, a green belt is being created between the city walls and the streets.

Some parts of the walls are covered with graffiti as well as electric poles and connecting cables close to the bastions and towers, causing some visual impacts. The problems of neglect of the towers are being dealt with through the Function Determination Study for Diyarbakır Historic Wall Towers.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers the general state of conservation of the nominated property and buffer zone to be adequate, although many of the plans established by the State Party have yet to be fully implemented and there are aspects requiring improvement.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is divided into two major management components, namely, the Diyarbakır Fortress and the Hevsel Gardens. In order to develop suitable policies for these, seven implementation zones have been established – three of these concern the Diyarbakır Fortress, and the remaining four zones are associated with the Hevsel Gardens:

- MA1 – Diyarbakır Fortress and City Walls
- MA2 – İçkale (Inner Castle)
- MA3 – Diyarbakır City Walls Protection Band
- MA4 – Hevsel Gardens
- NA5 – Hevsel Gardens Impact Zone
- MA6 – Ben ü Sen
- MA7 – Tigris River Public Shore Usage

The Buffer Zone inside the city walls (Suriçi) has three planning zones based on conservation issues, and the ability to directly affect the condition/views to the City Walls. The Buffer Zone encircling the nominated property is divided into nine zones based on the area's social and economic functions.

The Management Plan for the property consists of 6 themes that focus on restructuring economic activities, conservation processes (for tangible and intangible heritage), planning activities, administrative improvements and risk management.

The nominated property will be managed by a Site Management Directorate that is led by a site manager, appointed by the Municipality. Supervision of the implementation of the Management Plan will be done by the Supervision Unit. The Site Manager will be supported by the Advisory Board and the Coordination and Supervision Board. The Advisory Board will be charged with reviewing the plan and making suggestions on the revision of the mid-term strategy and revision of the Management Plan every 5 years. The Coordination and Supervision Board has the authority to make decisions about site management and is responsible for the implementation of the Management Plan in relation to Regulations established in 2005 in accordance with the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties Law. The Coordination and Supervision Board is supported by the Education Board – responsible for training of personnel; and the Science Board – responsible for all scientific activities arising from the Management Plan.

ICOMOS notes that the management system is not yet fully operating and that numerous organisations are involved in the protection and management of the nominated property; the overall functioning of the management system is complex and is not entirely clear. The management of the buffer zones (particularly in relation to the Suriçi District) is not yet well coordinated

with the management of the nominated property. For these reasons, ICOMOS considers the management of the nominated property to be adequate once it is fully implemented, but could be improved.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

There are many plans already in place for Diyarbakır. In addition to the management plan, the most important other plans include the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) Action Plan, Suriçi Urban Site Conservation Plan and Diyarbakır-Bismil 1/25,000 scaled Environmental Plan. These plans largely focus on the conservation and rehabilitation of historic structures in Suriçi, infrastructure improvements, and protection of the agricultural areas and the environment.

Tourism numbers are not particularly high. There are three Tourism Information Offices built by Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality and Diyarbakır Governorship in Diyarbakır Historic Suriçi. A further Tourism Information Office will be opened in the Inner Castle within the nominated property after the restoration project. Tourism materials are available from the Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Tourism Information Offices in Kurdish, Turkish, English and Arabic, and there are five kiosks with tourism information located within Suriçi. Virtual tours are available, and a mobile app is available in a number of languages for the Gazi Street Rehabilitation Project. Tourism materials present the heritage of the city walls and the historic city centre.

Involvement of the local communities

Recent increases in population in Diyarbakır create challenges for community involvement, and many of the pressures on the nominated property result from these pressures and/or neglect to the attributes of the nominated property. The State Party is working to address these through the involvement of the local population. School children in particular are being taught about the importance of their city's heritage and the situation is starting to show signs of improvement.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property could be adequate when fully in place, and could be further improved through strengthening the coordination of the management arrangements for the nominated property and the buffer zones, and through continued efforts to engage with local communities to support the conservation and appropriate development of the nominated property.

6 Monitoring

The State Party has outlined indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the nominated property. These include monitoring of illegal excavations, fire, inventory of archaeological materials recovered during

site works, the overall cleanliness of the Hevsel Gardens, and the physical condition of the Diyarbakır Fortress and City walls (including structural problems, climatic effects, and control of damage). The periodicity of monitoring is provided, as well as record keeping responsibilities.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring indicators are useful, but need to be expanded to also include impacts of diversion dams on the Tigris River.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the monitoring indicators are generally adequate but could be further augmented to cover the full range of likely factors that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its state of conservation.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS considers that the Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape demonstrates Outstanding Universal Value in relation to criterion (iv). The City Walls, and the evidence of their damage, repair and reinforcement demonstrate the many periods of the region's history, and present a powerful physical and visual testimony. The requirements for authenticity and integrity have been met, although they are considered very vulnerable due to current human-induced pressures, past conservation work on the City Walls of variable quality, damage to the buildings of Suriçi, and urban development, and because the property boundary has not included the city centre of Suriçi. While there is adequate legal protection in place for the key attributes of the nominated property, the protection of the buffer zones needs to be strengthened, and coordination of the provisions for legal protection should be improved. There are many pressures affecting this property, and continued work to address these is needed. An adequate management system has been outlined, but is not yet in place and should be further improved, particularly in relation to the coordination of the activities of the many involved organisations for both the nominated property and the two buffer zones.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the nomination of Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape, Turkey, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

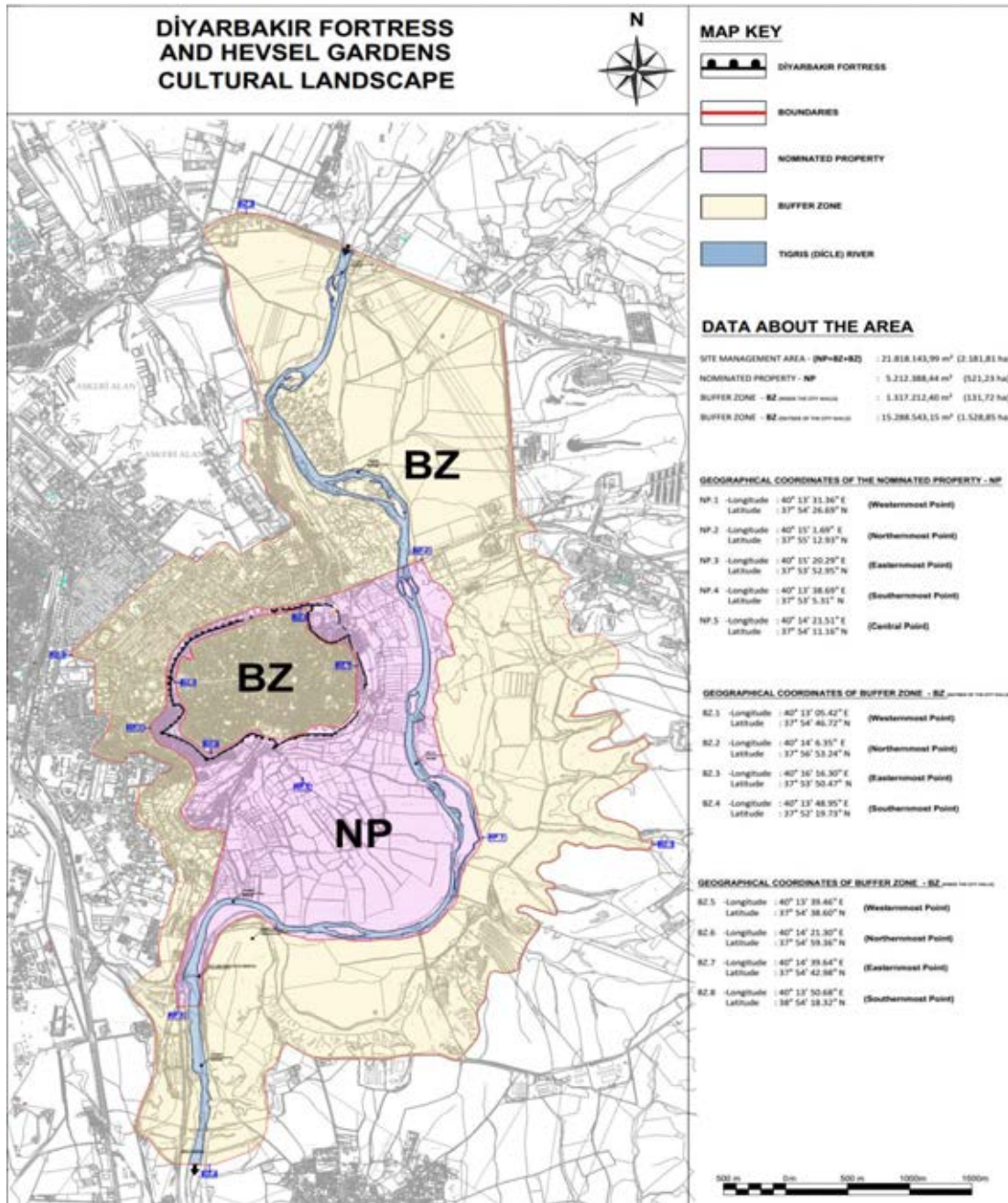
- Strengthen the legal protection of the buffer zone, through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in Suriçi District to protect the urban fabric and strengthening mechanisms for consideration of heritage impacts in development approvals processes;

- Reinforce the coordination of the legal protection for the nominated property and the two buffer zones.
- Fully implement the proposed management system, including the management structures and advisory mechanisms and provisions for community involvement.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- Improving the presentation of the property;
- Improving the scientific basis and procedures for planning the restoration and maintenance of the City Walls, including documentation of the walls and the work undertaken;
- Improving the management of vegetation and water drainage near the walls, taking care to record archaeological evidence in these areas when new works occur;
- Further improving the study and documentation of the Hevsel Gardens, and the agricultural and water management systems that support the continuing use and significance of the nominated property;
- Improving the monitoring indicators;
- Conducting a detailed Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* for future development projects to allow the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property to be recognised at an early stage; and submitting all proposals for development projects to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens



BenuSen Tower



Keçi Tower



Hevsel Gardens



Ten-Eyed Bridge