
Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) No 602 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party
Uzbekistan

Name of property
Historic Centre of Bukhara

Location
Bukhara Region

Inscription
1993

Brief description
Bukhara, which is situated on the Silk Route, is more than 2,000 years old. It is the most complete example of a medieval city in Central Asia, with an urban fabric that has remained largely intact. Monuments of particular interest include the famous tomb of Ismail Samani, a masterpiece of 10th-century Muslim architecture, and a large number of 17th-century madrasas.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
11 March 2016

2 Issues raised

Background

The property was inscribed in 1993. No issues appear to have been raised about the boundary and buffer zone at that time. The property area is 200 ha, with a buffer zone of 275 ha.

In 2011, as part of the process of the Retrospective Inventory, mapping of the property boundary and buffer zone was submitted. However, in 2013, the World Heritage Committee noted progress in the development of a GIS database as part of the Management Plan; this documentation work identified some issues with the property boundary and buffer zone (Decision 37 COM 7B.68).

Several issues were identified.

- A number of important attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are not included within the property boundary or the buffer zone, some of which had been listed as part of the inscribed property (the Ismaili Samani and Chasma Ayub Mausoleums). These also include a historic

area of traditional houses in the southeast, another historic settlement in the northeast and the original fort wall in the southwest. In some places, the boundary is not well-aligned with property boundaries, cutting across the parcels.

- The property boundary and buffer zone were not sufficiently protected through legal instruments.
- In some places, the buffer zone was very narrow, providing inadequate protection to the property from potential development pressures.

These issues were reiterated in 2015 (Decision 39 COM 7B.72), and it was recommended that the State Party review and clarify the property boundary and buffer zone in consultation with all stakeholders. This work was conducted as part of the continuing work on the Integrated Management Plan in October 2015.

The proposed modification of the property boundary is based on the work undertaken, and agreed by stakeholders and got approval by the local authorities. The Integrated Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Bukhara should be completed at the end of 2016.

Modification

Based on the detailed field survey conducted by the UNESCO Tashkent Office in 2013, work was undertaken in October 2015 by the State Party to clarify the property boundary and buffer zone. The proposed revisions will enlarge the property to 216 ha and its buffer zone to 339 ha, with an overall area of 555 ha.

The purposes of these proposed revisions are: to ensure that all attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are included in the property boundary; to ensure that all boundaries align with property boundaries; and to increase the buffer zone to more adequately protect the setting of the inscribed property.

The proposed revised property boundary incorporates the mausoleums of Samanids and Chashma Ayub, remains of the ancient walls and town gate (Talipocho Gate) located in the north-west, and some significant traditional residential areas.

The Samanid mausoleum is one of the most significant early monuments of the Islamic architecture in Central Asia and is a place of Muslim pilgrimage. The Chashma Ayub mausoleum ('Saint Job's spring') is of architectural significance and is associated with a legend that gives its waters medicinal qualities.

Together, the proposed revised property boundary and buffer zone, Integrated Management Plan and city development Master Plan are intended to ensure the retention of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property through strengthened protection and coordinated management of the living urban landscape and its diverse attributes.

The State Inspection on Protection of Cultural Heritage for Bukhara and Navoi Regions manages the World Heritage property. Legal protection for the proposed revised property boundary and buffer zone is provided by Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage Properties", No. 269-II, August 20, 2001; the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures for the further Improvement of the protection and utilization of Cultural Heritage Properties" 269 of July 29, 2002; and the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to improve protection and usage of the cultural and archaeological heritage" No. 200, July 21, 2014.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications to the property boundary and buffer zone will correct identified issues and strengthen the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

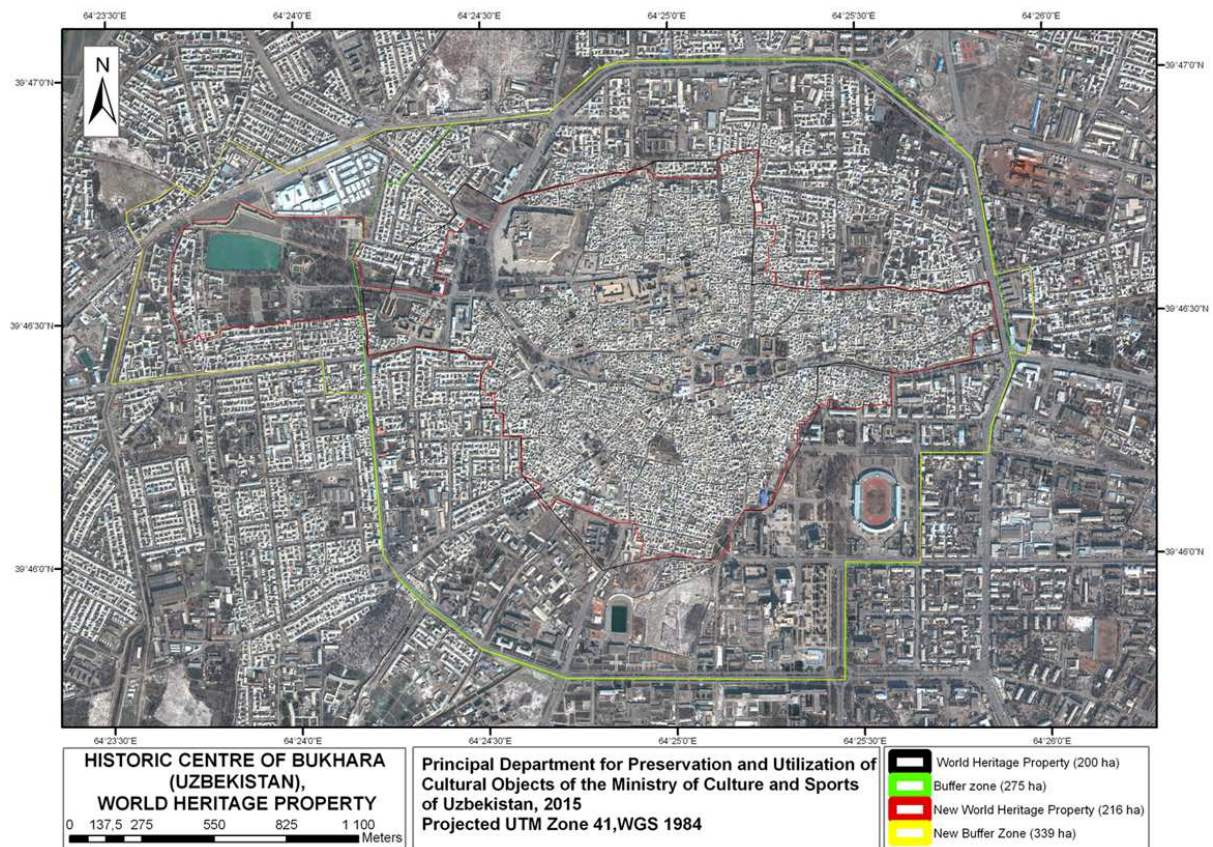
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Historic Centre of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, **be approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Historic Centre of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- Establishing urban planning regulations for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
- Integrating the boundaries of the World Heritage property and buffer zone into the state system of land and town-planning cadastre, in the Master Plan for Bukhara city;
- Submitting to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS for consideration the management plan when it has been finalized.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and the buffer zone