

FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY  
THE STATES PARTIES  
(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

**Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan (602))**

**1. Executive Summary of the report**

The historic centre of Bukhara is a significant city of science, culture and education. Bukhara is a well preserved city on the Silk Road in Central Asia with outstanding religious monuments, traditional houses in narrow streets and water channels which retain its unique historic medieval character. Bukhara's cultural heritage provides a link to the region's rich past while also offering future possible benefits for its residents and visitors. Arts and crafts activities as well as ecotourism are well recognized and positioned to become developed. The dynamic historic centre of Bukhara is full of life, enjoyable for its community and visitors, yet it must be better interpreted, preserved and enhanced so that its values can be understood by all, so that tourists may return home and share the knowledge they have learned. The state of conservation report contains the recent restoration and conservation work which has been carried out in the last year.

At the 39th session, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Uzbekistan to invite a joint World Heritage Centre (WHC) / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the Historic Centre of Bukhara (25 to 29 March 2016) World Heritage property. The objective of the monitoring mission was to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and review its current management effectiveness, planning system, progress made with the completion of the Management Plan, and other conservation issues which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

In January 2016, following the decision of the World Heritage Centre on the Historic Centre of Bukhara (37COM7 B.68), Principal Department for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Objects of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan has finished the proposed document of the Minor Modification of boundaries and new buffer zone of the Historic Centre of Bukhara and sent to the World Heritage Centre for consideration. The boundaries and new buffer zone were approved.

Taking into account the World Heritage Committee Decisions which repeatedly requests Uzbekistan to develop a management plans (35COM7B.79, 37COM7B.68, 39COM7B.72), UNESCO Office in Tashkent together with the Principal Department for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Objects, Interregional Bukhara and Navoi Inspection for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Objects, as well as national and international experts organized three national workshops (2013, 2014 and 2015) within the framework of the UNESCO Office in Tashkent regular programme "Implementation of the World Heritage Convention" and International Assistance project "MAPAUZ: Management Plans of World Heritage Properties in Uzbekistan" on heritage management.

216 cultural heritages were located in the Historic centre. Among them, 173 sites have cadastre documents and register: 27 madrassahs, 44 mosques, 12 caravansarais, 52 historical houses and other objects. In 2016, the Interregional Bukhara and Navoi Inspection repaired and maintained 12 objects of the cultural heritage on the amount of 14,425mln sums (USD 4580).

From December 2015 to May 2016, more than 100 sites were inventoried by the local specialists where the defective documents and photo albums were prepared.

In this year, 4 sites situated in the Historical centre were restored by using national and local funds (2.0 billion sums≈USD 634920.64). Moreover, 10 sites were restored depending on sponsorship and charitable donations.

## **2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee**

According to Decision **39 COM 7B.72** the World Heritage Committee requested:

*2.1 The World Heritage Committee expresses its concern with the slow progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular the lack of progress with the completion of the Management Plan, including an adequate governance system, as well as the lack of coordinated conservation plan and adequate guidance for the conservation and restoration activities carried out as part of the State Program and requests the State Party to address these issues, through:*

As above mentioned, the series of training on the development of the Management Plan have been carried out for the last three years. During these workshops, a methodology (see Annex 1) and an action plan for the development of the Management Plan of the World Heritage properties: the Historic Centre of Bukhara were adopted and approved by the authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, following the methodology, three workshops were organized for the preparation of the Management Plan. It counted with the active participation of the local stakeholders, such as the representatives of the hokimiyat, mahallas, inspection, Uzbektourism, local and international experts. It is planned to complete the Management Plan at the beginning of the 2017.

During the consulting meeting devoted to implementation of the HUL, it was agreed to develop a UNESCO publication about Illustrated Conservation Guidelines for the protection of architectural features of the Historic Centre of Bukhara. This document could serve as a pilot project that could be reproduced for the other World Heritage Properties.

*2.2 Encourages the State Party to apply the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL, 2011) as a useful tool to help manage development within the property and to seek International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

On 19<sup>th</sup>-22 October 2016, the first meeting of the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project with the support of the World Heritage Centre “Application of the UNESCO Recommendation

on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties of the Historic Centre of Bukhara and Samarkand, Uzbekistan” took place in Bukhara. The Historic Urban Landscape Approach with some illustrative examples was introduced to the stakeholders. The attendants were the heads of the regional inspections, the staff of the inspection of Bukhara, two international experts, local authorities, specialists from the Master Plan, mahalla representatives and two local experts. An introduction about conservation guidelines was presented and discussed. The List of Recommendation was developed during the consultation meeting (see Annex 2).

*2.3 The State Party should invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and review its current management and planning system.*

From 25 to 29 March 2016, the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the Historic Centre of Bukhara took place. During the mission, the overall state of conservation of the property was considered, and the progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Reactive Monitoring Mission was reviewed.

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

In 2015, the nominated area of the Historic centre of Bukhara was 200 ha and buffer zone was 275. As a result of the joint work of the regional architects, Interregional Bukhara and Navoi Inspection and UNESCO Tashkent Office, the nominated area expanded by 16 ha, and nowadays it is 216 ha. Buffer zone increased by 64 ha and now includes 339 ha. The additional area covers *five historical objects*: Samanids mausoleum and haus (pool), Chashma Ayub mausoleum, Talipoch gate and walls remains.

### **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.**

The major restoration or reconstruction works are not planned within the nominated area.

### **5. This report can be uploaded for public access in the World Heritage Centre’s State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).**

Mr. Akbar Mukhamedov,

Head of Interregional Bukhara and Navoi Inspection of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan

#### List of Annexes:

Annex 1 Management Plan methodology

Annex 2 Recommendation made during the HUL consulting meeting



**Tashkent  
Office**



**Ministry of Education, Culture and  
Science of the Netherlands**

## “Implementation of the UNESCO recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape of World Heritage Properties in Samarkand and Bukhara, Uzbekistan”

18-21 October 2016

Samarkand and Bukhara, Uzbekistan

### Recommendations

The participants made the following recommendations:

1. Supplement the legislative framework in the field of preservation of cultural heritage through developing laws, regulations and provisions for the existing laws (for sites inscribed in the World Heritage List);
2. Finance, subsidize (through low interest loans, tax credits, etc.) the owners of traditional houses to preserve and maintain the historic appearance of the traditional housing stock;
3. Restore and continuously maintain historic irrigation and drainage systems (collectors). These works are expected to be financed from private funds and attracted funds from international organizations;
4. Develop building codes for historic areas/neighborhoods of cities of Uzbekistan;
5. Restore the traditional dendrology in historic cities: plane trees, mulberry, elm (gudzhum), etc.;
6. Promote the improvement of tourist infrastructure; have more cultural heritage sites as objects of travel. Special attention should be paid to the various types of tourism, including pilgrimage;
7. Develop recommendations for the conservation of cultural heritage (in the form of visual guidelines, with the support of UNESCO)

# Methodology

