

# UZBEKISTAN

## Ichan Kala



© UNESCO

### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1990

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Ministry of Cultural Affairs  
30, Navoi Street  
700129 Tashkent  
Uzbekistan  
Tel: + 998 71 144 5820  
Fax: + 998 71 144 3894  
E-mail: meros2002@mail.ru

### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C iii, iv, v

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:  
“Ichan Kala, in the city of Khiva, limited by fortress walls has been inscribed on the World Heritage List as an outstanding example of city-building art of the 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, which has preserved all the features of a Central Asian medieval city.”  
In the Ichan Kala nucleus zone, 51 monuments of outstanding national and international value, of which many palaces, mosques, madrasahs, mausoleums, caravanserais and bath-houses, form a unique architectural uniformity that came to this day practically unchanged.

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The “borders of Ichan Kala are not subject to reconsideration.”

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The “valuable features of each monument and/or object have been saved and have not suffered losses.”
- “Regularly carried-out measures” have preserved the integrity of the monuments and objects, and “have not affected the authenticity of the site.”

### II.4 Management

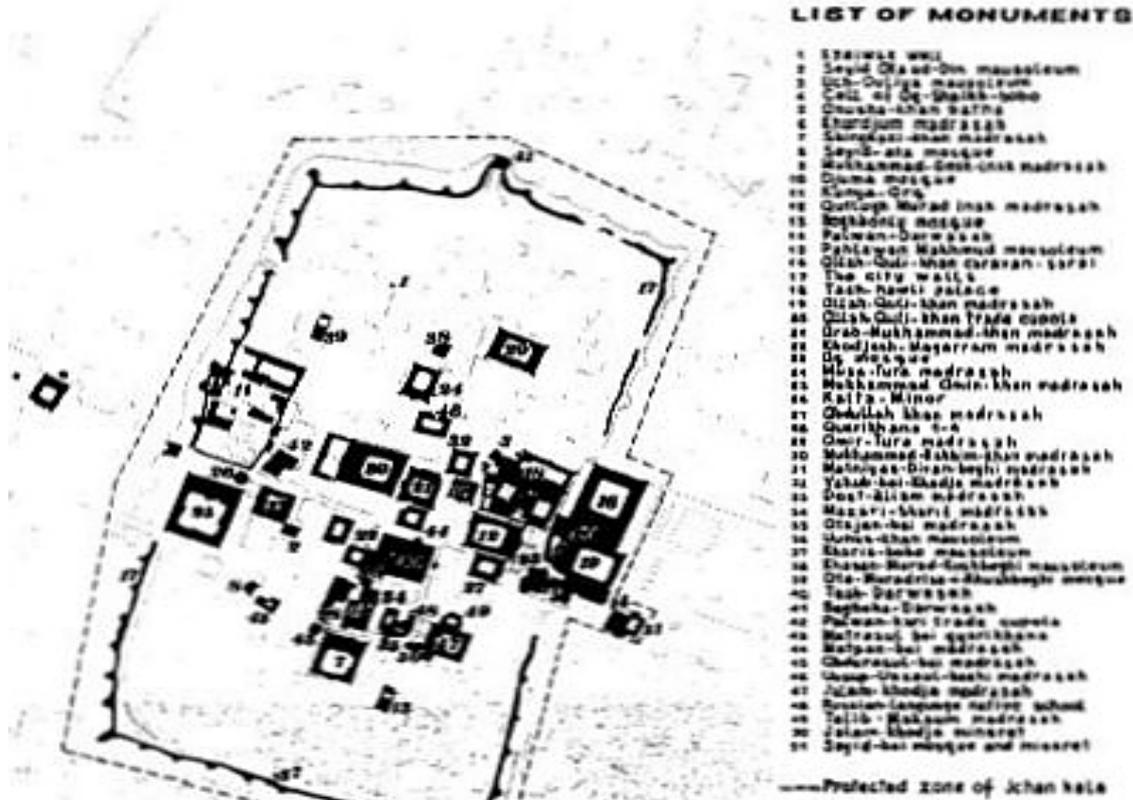
#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Relevant national laws and regulations concerning the WH property include: (i) The Law on Protection and Exploitation of Cultural Heritage Properties, 2001; (ii) The Law on Architecture and City-building, 1995; (iii) The Instructions on Rules of Recording, Safeguarding, Maintaining, Utilisation and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1986; (iv) The Instructions on Organization of Buffer Zones for Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1986.
- The protection and conservation of Ichan Kala is jointly managed by the “Administration of the State Historic and Architectural museum and reserve of Ichan Kala” on a local level and the Principal Board on Protection of Cultural Monuments of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs on a national level. Regular regional inspections to the World Cultural Heritage ensure its protection and proper use.
- “The main principle [of scientific restoration] is the preservation of authenticity through the use of traditional construction materials, designs, elements and architectural decoration.”

#### Present State of Conservation

- Between 1981-1997, important restoration work and infrastructure redevelopment was carried out in Ichan Kala. Scientific missions to over ten architectural complexes undertook the following restoration measures: (i) conservation of fortress walls and gates; (ii) conservation of wooden carved doors and columns, restoration of majolica facings and ceramic tiles; (iii) restoration of painted decorations; (iv) construction of drains from burned square bricks.
- Traditional monuments were adapted to modern needs without breaking their internal and external authenticity. In this spirit, hotels, restaurants, tourist information centres and other modern facilities have successfully been inserted into the city landscape.
- During the same period, research on design and restoration of traditional apartment houses on four city streets was undertaken and implemented. An ethnography museum is planned to be installed in one of these restored houses.

## ICHAN KALA OF KHIVA



Location of the principal monuments of Ichan Kala

### Staffing and Training Needs

- Research on the condition & protection of cultural monuments carried out under the annual thematic actions of the 'Principal Board on Protection of Cultural Monuments bodies'.
- No information provided on staffing & training needs.

### Financial Situation

- "All donated funds totalling 359.1 million so'm (US\$1.795 million) were directed on the realization of research, design, conservation, restoration and development of monuments and their environment."

### Access to IT

- No information provided.

### Visitor Management

- "Inclusion of Ichan Kala into the World Heritage List has increased the interest for visiting the place not only among tourists, but also among the local population."
- About 300,000 people visited the WH Property in 2000, 13,000 of which were foreign tourists.

- The number of local & foreign tourists doubled "as a result of the work carried-out on monuments" and "infrastructure of services, formation of workshops for national foremen and handicraftsmen".
- Tourist facilities include: a tourist bureau, information leaflets, exhibitions, lectures, hotels, restaurants, souvenir shops & a trade centre.

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Vandalism, theft and destruction of cultural monuments by local populations
- Rising damp and salt attack due to the drying up of the Aral Sea and extensive land tenure
- Extensive ground leakages, producing a floating water table resulting in leans and settlement of foundations.

## Counteractive Plans

- The Principal Board on Protection of Cultural Monuments has brought the issue of soil salinity up to a national level, and is now “taking preventive measures against soil salinity and underground waters on the basis of rational land tenure.”
- To improve the stability of monuments situated in low-lying areas, the Principal Board on Protection of Cultural Monuments has implemented a large drainage system for each affected monument.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- State inspections on the protection and use of cultural monuments are carried out by the ‘Principal Board on Protection of Cultural Monuments’ on each separate structure through regular systematic visual surveys.
- In case of detection of any changes in design, architecture or town-planning, the implementation of counteractive measures is undertaken by specialized agencies under the supervision of State inspectors.
- \* A regional inspector in each region is responsible for monitoring the conservation of monuments and sites.

### Monitoring Indicators

- There are no precise monitoring indicators, but after every regional/national monitoring mission, a report is handed out to the Principal Board which takes the appropriate measures.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- The WH property has not undergone any significant changes that could alter its original value. The current regulations for the protection and restoration of cultural monuments are considered adequate.
- The improvement of the ecological situation of Ichan Kala resulting mainly from the drying up of the Aral sea requires assistance at an international level. At present, states in Central Asia and various international fund are involved in the preservation of the Aral sea and of its environment.

### \* State of Conservation Reports

1997 WHC-CONF.207/2 The Secretariat has received reports that major refacing and rebuilding of historic monuments and replacement of traditional architectural elements with inappropriate modern materials are being carried out at both Bukhara and Itchan Kala, this despite arrangements between UNESCO and the concerned authorities on the use of traditional materials for purposes of restoration. These works, being conducted for the 2500 Jubilee celebrations, are altering the appearance of the two sites and affecting the value of the properties. The Secretariat and ICOMOS will report on the reactive assessment mission to Bukhara and Itchan Kala during the session. The Bureau decided it would examine information provided at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

1997 WHC-CONF.208//8Brev The Bureau was informed by the Secretariat, ICOMOS and ICCROM of reports that major refacing and rebuilding of historic monuments and replacement of traditional architectural elements with inappropriate modern materials are being carried out at both Bukhara and Itchan Kala, as well as in Samarkand. The Bureau was informed that ICOMOS had been requested by the Secretariat to carry out a reactive assessment mission and that this would take place in early 1998. The Bureau decided to consider the findings of the ICOMOS mission at its twenty-second session in June/July 1998, and take appropriate action thereupon.

1998 WHC-CONF.201/3B After having decided that it would consider the findings of the ICOMOS mission at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session in, the Bureau decided it might recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

1998 WHC-CONF.203/4 The Bureau took note of the report presented by ICOMOS and expressed concern over the development projects within the two sites, and urged the State Party to give special attention to the upgrading of street surfacing and furniture in the vicinity of the major monuments, to the control over nonlisted buildings in the historic centres, and in the case of Bukhara, to the clearance of blocked cisterns and channels so as to lower the water table.