

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

• Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

1262

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2008

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
The Monastery of Saint Thaddeus	39.092 / 44.544	29.85	310.98	340.83	
The village (Saint Thaddeus Ensemble)	39.092 / 44.544	8.3	310.98	319.28	
Chapel 5 (Sandokht) (Saint Thaddeus Ensemble)	39.092 / 44.544	1.97	310.98	312.95	
The main church (Monastery of Saint Stepanos Ensemble)	38.979 / 45.473	72.05	312.79	384.84	
Darresham Chapel (Saint Stepanos Ensemble)	38.99 / 45.452	10.84	312.79	323.63	
Chupan Chapel (Saint Stepanos Ensemble)	38.975 / 45.573	1.17	4	5.17	
The main chapel (Dzordzor)	39.188 / 44.476	0.78	27.23	28.01	
The Baran village (Dzordzor)	39.188 / 44.476	4.25	27.23	31.48	
Total (ha)		129.21	1616.98	1746.19	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran	31/01/2006	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO)

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organization
 Avedian Sherly
 St Maria Abbey, 19, Mirza Kouchak Khan Ave.,
 Jomhuri Ave., Tehran
 Iran (Islamic Republic of) avediansher@yahoo.com 98
 21 66 76 08 79 98 21 66 76 08 79

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

National Laws

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The Armenian monasteries of Iran have borne continuous testimony, since the origins of Christianity and certainly since the 7th century, to Armenian culture in its relations and contact with the Persian and later the Iranian civilisations. They bear testimony to a very large and refined panorama of architectural and decorative content associated with Armenian culture, in interaction with other regional cultures: Byzantine, Orthodox, Assyrian, Persian and Muslim. The monasteries have survived some 2,000 years of destruction, both of human origin and as a result of natural disasters. They have been rebuilt several times in a spirit in keeping with Armenian cultural traditions. Today they are the only important vestiges of Armenian culture in this region. Saint-Thaddeus, the presumed location of the tomb of the apostle of Jesus Christ, St. Thaddeus, has always been a place of high spiritual value for Christians and other inhabitants in the region. It is still today a living place of pilgrimage for the Armenian Church. Criterion (ii): The Armenian monasteries of Iran illustrate the Outstanding Universal Value of Armenian architectural and decorative traditions. They bear testimony to very important cultural interchanges with the other regional cultures, in particular Byzantine, Orthodox and Persian. Criterion (iii): Situated at the south-eastern limits of the main zone of Armenian culture, the monasteries were a major centre for its diffusion in the region. Today they are the last regional testimony of this culture in a satisfactory state of integrity and authenticity.

Criterion (vi): The monastic ensembles are the place of pilgrimage of the apostle St. Thaddeus, which bears an outstanding living testimony to Armenian religious traditions down the centuries.

The State Party has made a remarkable long-term effort regarding the restoration and conservation of the Armenian monastic ensembles in Iran. Their integrity and authenticity are satisfactory, and this includes the Chapel of Dzordzor, which (because of a dam construction project) was moved and then rebuilt with an evident concern to retain authenticity. The legal protection in place is adequate. The monastic ensemble is currently in a good state of conservation. The management plan provides the necessary guarantees for the long-term conservation of the property and the expression of its Outstanding Universal Value.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(ii)(iii)(vi)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

(ii): The Armenian monasteries of Iran illustrate the Outstanding Universal Value of Armenian architectural and decorative traditions. They bear testimony to very important

cultural interchanges with the other regional cultures. (iii):
Situating at the south-eastern limits of the main zone of
Armenian culture, the monasteries were a major centre for its
diffusion in the region. Criterion (vi): The monastic ensembles
are the place of pilgrimage of the apostle St. Thaddeus,

**2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should
be revised**

N/A

**2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or
recommendations related to Statement of
Outstanding Universal Value**

N/A

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

N/A

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

Name	Impact				Origin
3.1	Buildings and Development				
3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure					
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure				
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure					
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure					
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric				
3.7.2 Relative humidity					
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage				
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses					
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage					
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community					
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation					
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside Outside

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure				
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure				
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric				
3.7.2	Relative humidity	localised	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity static

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

n/a

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **known** by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

n/a

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The Law of 3 November 1930 institutes the National Heritage List.

The main monuments of the property are protected by this law:

- St. Thaddeus, 1956, no. 405.
- St. Stepanos, 1956, no. 429.
- Chapel of Dzordzor, 2002, no. 6157.
- Chupan Chapel, 2002, no. 7743.
- Church of Darresham, 2005, no. 12444.

Other laws complete the provisions of the natural heritage law, and reinforce the conditions of its application:

- Law of the National Town Construction and Architecture Committee.
- Urban property law.
- Law on purchase of properties, buildings and archaeological sites.

General prevention laws (Islamic law, Law of Islamic Punishments) help ensure the physical integrity of national monuments, e.g. by prohibiting nearby excavations.

The Act on Religious Councils (29-04-1986) governs the relations of the State Party with the Armenian community of Iran.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain


4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

n/a

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Title	Status	Available	Date	Link to source
Management Plan	In Force	Available	01/02/2007	

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional /

provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property but it could be improved

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is **only partially** being implemented

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists but **few of the activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Poor
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Poor

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No local communities are resident in or living near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

N/A

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

This property had not been inscribed during last PR.

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	40%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	30%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	10%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	10%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	10%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	0%

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

It has been no International Assistance for this property so far.

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

N/A

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	80%
Part-time	20%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	80%
Seasonal	20%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Poor
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Poor
Education	Poor
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Poor
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	High
Promotion	High
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	High
Education	High
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Low
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

N/A

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local partners** but there is no active outreach to national or international agencies

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

N/a

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

N/A

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Excellent
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

There is **excellent presentation and interpretation** of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Adequate
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Excellent
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

N/A

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Major Increase (100%+)
Three years ago	Major Increase (100%+)
Four years ago	Static
Five years ago	Static

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Transportation services
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World

Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

No fees are collected

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

Since the World Heritage Property is a church there is no fee collected from visitors.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated** programme of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Not applicable
Local / Municipal authorities	Excellent
Local communities	Excellent
Researchers	Poor
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Poor
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **complete**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

N/A

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

N/a

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.2	Relative humidity					

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.3 Management System / Management Plan						
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
4.3.6	Few of the work plan activities implemented	preservation, and tourism management	2008-2013	ICHHTO, municipality	N/A	
4.4 Financial and Human Resources						
4.4.13	Promotion	Local community and Armenian minority will be more involved in Human Resource management and seeking financial aids.	2008-2013	ICHHTO	N/A	
4.5 Scientific Studies and Research Projects						
4.5.3	No active outreach of research results to national or international agencies	It is planned to work with universities regarding the necessary researches for conservation.	2010-2020	ICHHTO	N/A	

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

N/A

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	No impact
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Very positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	No impact
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Not applicable
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
External experts

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

no

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

N/A

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Very poor

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Monitoring and reporting

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

Automatically generated in online version

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

N/A