

Ref.: № 026/18

19 January 2018

Dr. Mechtild Rössler
Director of the World Heritage Centre

Dear Dr. Mechtild Rössler,

Subject: State of Conservation Report of Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz

As follow up the Decision 41COM7A.57 of the World Heritage Committee, I have the honour to forward for your consideration the Report on the State of Conservation of the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz. The report was prepared by the Principal Department for Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Objects of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Please accept, Dr. Mechtild Rössler, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Alisher Ikramov
Secretary-General

Enclosures: Report on the state of conservation of Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz

cc:

UNESCO Tashkent Office

Permanent Delegation of Uzbekistan to UNESCO

**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF
CONSERVATION REPORTS BY
THE STATES PARTIES**

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz(885)

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

This report was prepared after the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (from 28 to 31 March 2016) (Decision 39 COM 7B.74) and the Decision 40 COM 7B.48(World Heritage Committee meeting in Istanbul, Turkey from 10 to 17 July).

Based on the Mission Report the World Heritage Centre expressed the great concern regarding the changes have been happened in the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz and under the decision of the 40thWorld Heritage Committee meeting in Istanbul (Turkey from 10 to 17 July, 2016), the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz was inscribed in the World HeritageList in Danger.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger Please also provide detailed information on the following:

- a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

[Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]

If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified

- b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.
- c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

1. Notes with extreme concern the findings of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission concerning the drastic and irreversible damage to the Temurid urban planning and to traditional dwelling houses in the core of the medieval town resulting from works undertaken under the ‘State Programme for complex measures for building and reconstruction of Shakhrisyabz city’;

By the resolution No. 31 of the Cabinet of the Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on February 20, 2014, the programme of the comprehensive measures to ensure the implementation

of the Master Plan of Shakhrisyabz was approved. The aim of the programme is to promote the development of the historic, architectural, socio-cultural and tourist potential through the careful preservation and rational organization of the cultural heritage objects located in the historic part of the city for modern use.

The Heritage Impact Assessment of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz was carried out by the national experts. It is planned to develop the mitigation measures and appropriate policies/guidelines, a management plan for the Historic Centre, as well as review the detailed urban planning scheme of the Shakhrisyabz in cooperation with the national and international organizations.

After the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (Decision 39 COM 7B.74) in March 2016, all reconstruction and conservation works were stopped.

In addition, the state-party will submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018

2. Also notes with extreme concern the relocation of some 2,000 residents and the extensive conservation work at and around a number of cultural heritage monuments, including the Ak-Saray Palace, the Dorus-Saodat Complex, the Chor-su Bazaar and the Medieval Baths, partly carried out using inappropriate materials and irreversible techniques, including some reconstruction, which caused significant damage to the authenticity of the property;

The Historic Center undergone the greatest impact, in particularly, the houses located near the monuments. In order to rehabilitate the Historic Center, Principal Department for Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Objects of the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the BoM) together with the historians, architects and restorers will prepare a project for the reconstruction of three traditional houses.

All residents whose houses were demolished during the implementation of the State Programme were provided new apartments. The government offers the following compensation for the citizens: the building land out of the city, the apartments in new constructed houses or the adequate financial recompense. All citizens were provided with the accommodation.

As for the conservation works of the central historical monuments, all recommendations of the monitoring mission were taken into account. In addition, after the report of the mission in 2016, all works in the Historical Center of Shakhrisyabz was stopped and the state-party submit the Heritage Impact Assessment to the World Heritage Centre.

3. Greatly regrets that no information was provided to the World Heritage Centre on this major project before irreversible decisions were taken and work commenced, and understands that, had the project not been halted as requested by the Committee in 2016, the demolition would have been extended to other mahalla districts;

The state-party took into consideration the recommendations of the monitoring mission and stopped all conservation, restoration and other works.

So far, the state-party reported to the World Heritage Center about all major projects by means of the Heritage Impact Assessment. In particularly, the construction of a mausoleum of I.A. Karimov, the First President of Uzbekistan near Hazrat Khizr mosque in Samarkand and received the positive feedback. In addition, the Heritage Impact Assessment of the new State

Projects planned to be implemented in the Historic Centre of Bukhara and Itchan Kala were submitted to the World Heritage Center.

4. Notes that no Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), no detailed systematic documentation, and no rescue archaeology was carried out before the major interventions began;

The Heritage Impact Assessment was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre before the starting the implementation of the State Programme. However, BoM, Shakhriyabz Inspection and Tashkent Architectural Building Institute regularly monitor, check the state of conservation and technical condition of the monuments.

The archaeological research of the historical center of Shakhriyabz was conducted from 1963 to 1966 led by M.E. Masson. An archaeological and topographic expedition to Kesh was organized. This expeditions usually studied the topography the central cities of the Karshi oasis. In the 80s of the last century, this expeditions worked in the upper reaches of Kashkadarya. As a result of the research, the archaeological sites were marked in the maps.

The archaeological research around the complex Durut-tillovat were implemented by Dresvyanskaya G.Yu., Lunina S.B., Sulstonov Kh.S. and Usmanov Z.I.

In connection with the anniversary of Amir Temur in 1996, the reconstruction works were fulfilled in the center of Shakhriyabz, in particular, Amir Temur square was to build up. Preliminary, the archaeological excavations around the building area were carried.

The expedition led by A.A. Ramkulov discovered the southern part of the Dorus-Saadat architectural complex.

In 2002, the archaeological excavations implemented by the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the city centre.

In connection with the 670th anniversary of Amir Temur in 2006, archaeological excavations implemented in the eastern part of Aksaray. The main purpose of the excavations was to study the cultural layers of Amir Temur and Temurids times (XIII-XIV).

In 2014-2015, the archaeological investigations were conducted in the historical center of Shakhriyabz. As a result, the remains of the baths of the first half of the XIV century were discovered. Now the bathhouse's remains is conserved.

5. Takes note with concern of the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that, as the monumental buildings have now been disengaged from their urban surroundings, the heart of the Temurid town planning has been lost and, as the traditional dwelling houses in the core of the medieval town have been destroyed, the key attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been damaged to such an extent, and for the most part irreversibly, that the property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed;

It is planned to make some changes to the Master Plan of the historical center of Shakhriyabz to ensure the harmonization of cultural heritage sites. Lighting devices incompatible with the historical appearance of the city will be dismantled, playgrounds and attractions will be moved beyond the historical center of Shakhriyabz, the walls that separate the center from the houses will be removed.

6. Also takes note with concern of the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that recovering sufficient attributes to justify the OUV identified at the time of inscription seems impossible at this stage, but considers nevertheless that the State Party should explore all possible options for

the recovery of attributes and examine whether a significant boundary modification could be envisaged based on any recoverable attributes, in line with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines;

Currently, the strengthening of the national legislation and regulations on the protection of cultural heritage with a focus on the World Heritage Properties of Uzbekistan as well as the approval of the normative acts on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

To improve the protection system of the cultural heritage, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 200, dated July 21, 2014 "On additional measures to improve the protection and utilization of the cultural and archaeological heritage" was adopted. In accordance with this resolution, the structure and position of the BoM was improved and the special department for UNESCO and Archeology was established. That is, the sufficient human and financial resources is provided.

The state-party will direct an inquiry to the World Heritage Center to send a joint monitoring mission of the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS to Uzbekistan in order to identify the real threats of the OUV, in cooperation with key national and international organizations, to identify remedial measures and desired conservation actions for the Historic center of Shakhrisyabz.

7. Requests therefore that the State Party halt any further work at Shakhrisyabz and provide to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered, for review by ICOMOS, including:

- a) Detailed plans of the town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition,
- b) Detailed plans of the remaining mahalla areas and descriptions of their characteristics,
- c) Inventories of remaining traditional houses,
- d) Assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with the 1983 drawings of selected houses,
- e) Current plans for further improvements and upgrade work on houses and access routes, such as the widening and re-paving of roads,
- f) Documentation on work carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription,
- g) A current Master Plan for the city;

Almost all requested documents, maps, schemes were submitted to the World Heritage Center.

In addition, BoM jointly with the UNESCO Tashkent Office, the Samarkand State Architectural Institute (SamGASI) and the Shakhrisyabz Regional Inspection conducted the field survey in June 2017. The field survey methodology was based on the previous survey carried out in the historical center of Bukhara, Ichan-Kala and Samarkand.

The aim of the survey was to estimate the number of houses, their condition and building material, the using of the traditional style and techniques, number of people, families, the existence of the engineer communications like sewerage system, central heating, gas and water system, etc., as well as find out how many traditional houses were preserved and their general condition.

All dwellings (more then 2000) were surveyed, but the data process of the received information is under development. All information will be added in GIS data base. The information about

856 dwellings (40 % from the total number of dwellings) was analyzed and based on it the following thematic maps were made.

The information about dwellings situated in the north-western part of the historic centre was added to the GIS data base.

The majority of houses, 31% were built in 1960-70. These are ordinary standard houses that were constructed in each region of the republic.

Some houses, according to the householders were built in the XIX or early XX century, until the 40-ies. Their number is 3%. However, in these houses, only mehmkhon (with carved beams and paintings on the walls) was preserved, the rest of the blocks were rebuilt or reconstructed and they practically lost all important elements, that is the structure of a traditional house, decoration, etc. Only small elements were preserved. The structure of the Shakhrisabz dwelling, today, represents several separately standing or adjoining blocks, which are grouped around the courtyard.

The rest of the houses were built in 1970-1980, it is- 15%, 14% in 1980-1990, 7% in 1990-2000, 7% in 2000-2010 and new dwellings 1% built in 2010-2017.

There were three traditional houses, which represented historical and cultural value, built in the late XIX century, by the method – synch (the wooden frame was filled with unbaked bricks). This design is resistant to earthquakes, but short-lived construction. Unfortunately, for more than 100 years of exploitation, these houses were preserved by the beginning of the 2000s in poor condition. The measurements and documentation of these houses was made, some architectural details with the historical value were preserved. Currently, after the scientific research and development of the reconstruction and restoration project of three traditional houses with the historical value the project will be submitted to the World Heritage Center for review and approval.

8. Decides that on the basis of this documentation, a decision will be made at its 42nd session in 2018 on whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property including only some of the monuments and the remaining urban areas, or whether the property has deteriorated to such an extent that it has lost the attributes of the OUV defined at the time of inscription and should therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the Operational Guidelines, be deleted from the World Heritage List;

The state-party, provided almost all required information to the World Heritage Center and ready to collaborate and work with the Centre in order to leave the Historical Center of Shakhrisabz in the World Heritage List.

9. Urges the State Party to address all other recommendations of the December 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, notably regarding protection, management and tile decay on the facade of Ak-Saray Palace;

In order to preserve the Ak-Saray majolica laid on the floor (an area of 180 m²), in 2012-2014, the special construction made from glass was developed together with prof. Max Schweitler, one of the best restorers (France).

As for wall majolica, the special method of conservation was developed in the laboratory named after Amir Temur located at the Museum in Shakhrisabz. The conservation area is 1/3 of the total area. If the results will be positive, the developed method will be used for the rest part of the Ak-Saray.

10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to provide to the Committee at its 42nd session a report concerning the clarification of the processes associated with the Periodic Reporting and Reactive Monitoring system with regard to this property;

The periodic reporting on the state of conservation of the historical objects located within the nominated area is conducted quarterly and sent to BoM.

The monitoring of the historical sites in conjunction with specialists from Tashkent Architectural Building Institute is conducted monthly. Since 1995, the seismic beacons to observe deformation and structural state have been installed on the dome of Chor-su, Dorus-Saodat, Malik Ajdar, Abdushukur Ogalik and Kunduzak. The beacons showed, that these monuments are stable and there are no significant changes and threats.

Also, since 1995, Ak-Saray is being constantly monitored. The study of the general state of conservation with the usage of the highly sensitive seismic instruments has been used for the survey the anthropogenic effects and dynamic characteristics of the structure. The 3D dynamic characteristics of the Ak-Saray showed that the building in the satisfying condition and did not change significantly.

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

The State of Conservation report will be submitted by the state-party to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2018.

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

[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

The general treats as earthquake, vegetation, temperature differences, salinity, humidity, erosion, etc. are common for the Shakhriyabz and other regions of Uzbekistan. These problems are negatively impact of cultural heritage, but under controlling of the relevant bodies.

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.

It is planned to make some changes to the Master Plan of the historical center of Shakhriyabz to ensure the harmonization of cultural heritage sites. Lighting devices incompatible with the historical appearance of the city will be dismantled, playgrounds and attractions will be moved beyond the historical center of Shakhriyabz, the walls that separate the center from the houses will be removed.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

The full report could be uploaded for public access.

6. Signature of the Authority

