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# **World Heritage Patrimoine mondial**

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL**

**Forty-first session / Quarante-et-unième session**

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**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the  
World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la  
Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

**MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION**

**Historic Centre of Shakhrysbaz (Uzbekistan) (885)  
Centre historique de Shakhrysbaz (Ouzbékistan) (885)**

**9-12 December 2016**

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**REPORT ON THE JOINT  
WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE / ICOMOS  
REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION TO  
THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF SHAKHRISYABZ,  
UZBEKISTAN**

FROM 9 TO 12 DECEMBER 2016



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Finally, the mission would like to thank the Head and Representative of UNESCO to Uzbekistan, Mrs Krista Pikkat, for her unconditional support during the mission. She generously provided her professional advice and offered interpretation assistance throughout the mission to ensure its smooth running and accurate reporting.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 9 to 12 December 2016, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (Decision **40 COM 7B.48**) assessed the state of conservation of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 and inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2016, and particularly the scope, extent and impact of the work carried out within the World Heritage property as part of the ***State Programme for complex measures for development and reconstruction of Shakhrisyabz City (2014-2016)*** and how this has impact adversely on OUV.

Work on the re-development project was discovered by the March 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (28-31 March 2016). It was halted following the request of the Committee at its 40<sup>th</sup> session 2016.

The mission was requested to make a full assessment of the overall threats to the OUV of the property as a result of the work undertaken as part of the re-development project. The aim was to understand whether or not comprehensive mitigation measures could be defined in collaboration with key local, national and international stakeholders that might allow for the reversal or mitigation of these threats, or whether the OUV of the property has been so substantially damaged that the entire property can no longer manifest the OUV for which it was inscribed.

The mission thus explored the full extent of the project, its impact on the attributes of OUV, and the possibilities for recovering attributes that have been destroyed.

## SCOPE AND EXTENT OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The aim of the Shakhrisyabz part of the State Programme was to improve transportation and drainage infrastructure, to restructure and improve the urban landscape, to conserve and reconstruct cultural heritage sites, and to provide hotel and residential developments within the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz.

Before it was halted, work on the project had:

- Demolished a 2km swathe of the Old City from the Ak-Saray palace in the north to the Dorus-Tilovat Complex in the south, including the whole of the central market area, in all extending to 70 ha;
- Destroyed almost all of one of the historic *mahalla* districts that covered the core of the earliest 7<sup>th</sup> century AD part of the town;
- Obliterated the traditional layout of the centre of the city that reflected planning of the Timurid era and earlier;
- Relocated some 2,000 people to a new site some 4km away from the historic centre;
- Removed between 2 and 2.5 metres of archaeological layers from the site;
- Installed large drains to lower the water table;
- Introduced hard landscaping and non-native trees and shrubs;
- Carried out extensive conservation work, including some re-building, at and around a number of cultural heritage monuments among them the Ak-Saray Palace, the Dorus-Saodat Complex, the Chor-su Bazaar and the Medieval Baths;
- Constructed new craft workshops and associated houses along the edge of the site;
- Removed traffic from the area.

Had the project not been halted, it is understood that the demolitions of houses would have been extended to other *mahalla* districts.

## **IMPACT OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The Mission cannot over-emphasise the negative impact that these interventions have had in terms of built fabric, urban morphology, archaeology and social coherence. The heart of the town has been torn away and what is left are wide open areas of landscaping separated from the remainder of the town by perimeter walls. There is almost nothing left to reflect the traditional urban structure or the way it has developed over at least two millennia in the central part of the town. And there are few people apart from visitors.

The medieval quarters, which at the time of inscription were seen to bear witness to centuries of the town's history, and to reflect town planning practices and the socio-cultural identity of the Timurid era, an important historical period of Shakhriyabz, have been transformed by modern interventions. Some 30% of the historic urban fabric located within the boundaries of the property has been impacted and this has resulted in the loss of a considerable number of old residential houses, which reflected traditional architectural practices specific to Shakhriyabz.

Features of the medieval city centre and its evolution through the centuries have been replaced by large-scale modern interventions which have in effect turned the central area into a theme park for visitors.

And the intensive and thorough conservation projects on most of the major monuments, undertaken in a short period of time, with the use in parts of inappropriate, and irreversible materials and techniques, such as brick cleaning using abrasive tools, have significantly damaged the authenticity of the monuments in terms of their ability to reflect their history and associations. The setting of the monuments has also been drastically changed and they now sit next to large modern parks. This conservation work cannot be said to be in conformity with the principles of international charters and recommendations (such as the Nara Document on Authenticity) or with the philosophy of international conservation.

## **DOCUMENTATION OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

It appears that no detailed systematic documentation, either plans or photographs, exist of the urban areas and buildings that were demolished. No attempt was made to undertake rescue archaeology anywhere and certainly not in the core of the 7<sup>th</sup> century town, an area that had yielded significant archaeological finds during exploration some thirty years ago.

While some plans and documents were provided by the State Party before the mission in November, and some further documentation was presented to the mission as display boards, none of this was sufficient to detail precisely what existed before work commenced, nor to understand the full extent of work carried out, or to understand the scope of the overall planned project.

Although it was claimed that the restoration work on monuments had been carried out on the basis of documentation gained in part from archaeological investigations, no such data was provided to the mission. Indeed no conservation details were provided to show before and after scenarios or to detail the rationale or justification for the work undertaken.

## **APPROVAL FOR THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

From the information provided during the mission, it appears that this major project was approved at the highest level and with support from the National Board of Monuments. It should be noted, however that senior personnel at the Board have changed in the last eighteen months.

## **IMPACT OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ON THE OUV OF THE PROPERTY**

Although a SoOUV has been approved by the Committee and the nomination dossier provides ample details on the importance of the urban areas as well as the monuments, no Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) were undertaken before work commenced, nor were any details presented to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

In the absence of HIAs, the mission carried out its own assessment of the key attributes of OUV of the property and how these have been impacted by the re-development project. This assessment was based on the SoOUV, the Nomination dossier and the ICOMOS evaluation, augmented by published research.

The documentation makes very clear that town was of value as a whole for its 'combination of 'monumental buildings of Temur and Temurids, surrounded by traditional dwelling houses', with 'a special character which is typical only for Shakhrysyabz'. The outcome of this combination 'had no analogues in the whole of Central Asia or the Islamic world'.

Furthermore at the time of inscription, and when the SOUV was approved in 2000, it was noted that 'all the original components of the medieval town including the unique architectural monuments and traditional houses built during the Temurid period were located within the boundaries of the property', and the historic urban fabric of the town was intact, 'despite some insensitive insertions made during the Soviet period'. The monuments and buildings were still considered a testimony to the architecture and city planning of the Temurid period, the historic centre had retained its original appearance, most of the buildings and decorative art had been well preserved in their original state and 'care had been taken in restoration works to ensure the use of traditional materials and techniques'.

The attributes of OUV can clearly be seen to relate to the coherence and survival of Temurid planning, monuments related to Temur and the Temurid period; the survival of traditional domestic buildings in a style specific to Shakhrysyabz, and the combination of Temurid monuments, surrounded by traditional dwelling houses, a feature only found in Shakhrysyabz.

In considering the impact of the project work carried out on these attributes, the mission could only reach the conclusion that all of these attributes had been impacted, most to a major degree and some irreversibly. The major monuments are no longer surrounded by traditional dwelling houses, the Temurid planning no longer survives in a form that can be said to be in any way intact or coherent, large numbers of dwelling houses have been demolished, including those in core of the early medieval town where the street patterns were mostly dense; the early occupation layers have been destroyed; and work on Temurid buildings has not respected their authenticity.

The mission considered that the name of the property, the Historic Centre of Shakhrysyabz, no longer reflects the current urban situation, since the core of the historic town centre has been replaced by a modern one. The key attributes of OUV have been damaged to such a degree, and for the most part irreversibly, that the OUV can no longer be conveyed by the property.



## **POSSIBILITIES FOR RECOVERING ATTRIBUTES THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.**

The State Party was keen to stress the importance of the remaining urban areas. World Heritage status was seen as a support for necessary re-habitation projects and to encourage tourism. Mention was made of replacing some of the houses that had been demolished by modern versions of vernacular traditions. The mission underscored the fact that such interventions could not be seen as replacements for the loss of building fabric that reflected centuries of accumulation.

The mission was not able on the basis of information available to consider in detail possibilities for recovering attributes of OUV. But it is clear that most of the attributes that have been lost cannot be recovered entirely. Temurid monuments are no longer surrounded by traditional dwelling houses and this association cannot be recovered; Temurid urban planning is no longer intact and, although some of the road links could perhaps be recreated, the urban quarters cannot; the survival of traditional domestic buildings in a style specific to Shahrissyabz has been drastically diminished and the missing ones cannot be replaced; and the Temurid monuments have been unsympathetically treated and this work cannot be reversed.

In conclusion, there does not appear to be the possibility to recover sufficient attributes to justify the OUV that existed at the time of inscription. The mission considers that although the opportunities for recovering attributes are very limited that the State Party should be invited to provide further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered. There remains concern though that as to what parameters might be developed for recovery work. Unlike disasters caused by military conflict or natural disasters, the damage inflicted on Shahrissyabz was deliberate. This makes it all the more difficult to understand where the momentum for recovery might come from.

## **MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **MAIN RECOMMENDATION**

**The mission considers that the demolition work carried out in the centre of Shahrissyabz has damaged the key attributes of OUV to such degree that the OUV for which the property was inscribed can no longer be conveyed by the property.**

**Given the degree of irreversibility of much of the work, and the limited potential for recovering the attributes, the mission does not consider that sufficient attributes could be recovered to sustain OUV.**

**Nonetheless, in order to allow the State Party to explore all possible options for the recovery of attributes and whether a modified OUV might be possible on the basis of a major boundary modification, the mission recommends that the State Party be requested to:**

- **Continue to halt any further work in the town**
- **Provide by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS:**
  - **Detailed plans of the town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition;**
  - **Detailed plans of the remaining *mahalla* areas and descriptions of their characteristics;**
  - **Inventories of remaining traditional houses;**
  - **Assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with 1983 drawings of selected houses;**

- Current plans for further improvements and upgrading work on houses and access routes – such as widening and re-paving roads;
- Documentation on work carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription;
- Current Master Plan for the city.

On the basis of this documentation, an assessment could then be made as to whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property based on some of the monuments and some of the remaining urban areas, or whether the property should be de-listed.

As there is a need to reach a resolution on the way forward as quickly as possible, the mission recommends that a decision is taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session.

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

### AK-SARAY PALACE

The mission recommends that:

- investigations should be undertaken as a matter of urgency to understand better the causes of tile decay on the façade of Ak-Saray Place and how this might be addressed;
- Such work should to be given a high priority and should be undertaken before any further interventions are considered;
- Consideration should be given to setting up a multi-disciplinary team to allow input from a range of experts and several disciplines and with the possible involvement of ICOMOS and ICCROM;
- Any potential options for interventions need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a decision is taken and meanwhile no further work should be undertaken.

### MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

The mission also recommends that:

- National legislation and national system on protection of cultural heritage should be reinforced with a specific focus on World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan;
- An appropriate permanent and specialized management structure or administrative agency should be set up with responsibilities for the protection and management of the Historical Centre of Shakhrisyabz as a World Heritage property;
- The Management plan being development needs to be finalised, implemented and harmonised with the City Development Master Plan (2007-2020); the involvement of international experts and the use of experiences and lessons learnt drawn from the worldwide network of World Heritage properties is desirable as is a process of active community engagement to reflect the important role of local residents in the conservation and development of the property;
- Conservation plans need to be developed for each individual monuments setting out all available historical material and an approach to future conservation work.

# 1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

## 1.1 INSCRIPTION HISTORY

The Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz was designated as a “Monument of Significance for the Republic” in 1973. The town was also entered on the List of Historic Towns under Resolution N°339 of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan in 1973. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 on the basis of *criteria (iii) and (iv)*.

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF SHAKHRISYABZ

This statement of OUV was adopted retrospectively at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (St Petersburg, 2012).

### **Brief synthesis**

The Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz, located on the Silk Roads in southern Uzbekistan, is over 2000 years old and was the cultural and political centre of the Kesh region in the 14th and 15th century.

A collection of exceptional monuments and ancient quarters can be found within the medieval walls, parts of which still remain. The Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz bears witness to the city's secular development and to centuries of its history, and particularly to the period of its apogee, under the empire of Temur, in the 15th century. Construction of elements continued in Shakhrisyabz throughout different time periods, lending a unique character to the place by the succession of different architectural styles. Despite the inroads of time, the remaining vestiges are still impressive in the harmony and strength of styles, an enriching addition to the architectural heritage of Central Asia and the Islamic world.

The Ak-Sarai Palace construction began in 1380, the year following Temur's conquest of Khorezm, whose artisans were deported to work on the palace and provide its rich decoration. Although Samarkand may boast a great many Temurid monuments, not one can rival the Ak-Sarai Palace in Shakhrisyabz. The foundations of its immense gate have been preserved: this architectural masterpiece is outstanding in its dimensions and bold design.

The Dorus Saodat is a vast complex which was destined as a place of burial for the ruling family and contained, in addition to the tombs themselves, a prayer hall, a mosque, and accommodation for the religious community and pilgrims. The main façade was faced with white marble. The tomb of Temur, also of white marble, is a masterpiece of the architecture of this period and it is also one of the finest memorials to be found in Central Asia.

The covered Chor-su bazaar was built at the cross-roads of two main streets, in the form of an octagon with a central cupola, with no particular decoration but with an eye to the exterior effect of bold architecture. The baths, rebuilt on the site of the 15th century baths and still in use today, are heated by an elaborate network of underground conduits.

Shakhrisyabz contains not only outstanding monuments dating from the period of the Temurids, but also mosques, mausoleums, and entire quarters of ancient houses. In

addition to these monuments, the town also offers a variety of interesting constructions of a more modern period, including the Mirhamid, Chubin, Kunduzar, and Kunchibar mosques. Period houses reflect a more popular architectural style, with rooms typically laid out around a courtyard with veranda.

**Criterion (iii):** Shakhriyabz contains many fine monuments, and in particular those from the Timurid period, which was of great cultural and political significance in medieval Central Asia.

**Criterion (iv):** The buildings of Shakhriyabz, notably the Ak-Sarai Palace and the Tomb of Timur, are outstanding examples of a style which had a profound influence on the architecture of this region.

### **Integrity**

All the original components of the medieval town including the unique architectural monuments and traditional houses built during the Timurid period are located within the boundaries of the property which is defined by the alignment of the city walls. The historic urban fabric of the town is intact, despite some insensitive insertions made during the Soviet period.

The main factor affecting the physical integrity of monuments is the rising ground water level. Therefore a drainage system is required around the historical area.

### **Authenticity**

The monuments and buildings of Shakhriyabz are a testimony to the architecture and city planning of the Timurid period. The historic centre has retained its original appearance. Most of the buildings and decorative art have been well preserved and are in their original state and care has been taken in restoration works to ensure the use of traditional materials and techniques.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz was designated as a "Monument of Significance for the Republic" in 1973. The town was entered on the List of Historic Towns under Resolution N°339 of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan in 1973.

The relevant legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides sufficient protection for the property and regulates the new urban developments in the historical centre. The property is managed by the Regional Inspection for Protection and Utilization of Cultural Heritage Sites under the Ministry of Culture and Sports with participation of regional authorities.

Monitoring of the monuments is being carried out once or twice a year by the Tashkent State Institute of Architecture and Construction. The main monuments are in good conditions and the income from leased spaces provides the funds for the management of the property. Extra funds would be required from the state for restoration projects such as that of the city walls.

It is necessary to develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan in order to ensure the long-term safeguarding of the property.

## **1.3 EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

### **24 COM 2000**

In 2000, at the time of the inscription on the World Heritage List, the State Party assured the World Heritage Committee that plans had been made to elaborate a

comprehensive conservation and management plan in order to strengthen the conservation process at this property.

## 28 COM 2004

In 2004, the World Heritage Committee, in Decision **28 COM 15B.68**, requested the State Party to report on the progress made in the elaboration of the management plan for examination by the Committee in 2005.

## 29 COM 2005 AND 30 COM 2006

In 2005 and 2006, the World Heritage Committee once again requested the State Party to develop a comprehensive management Plan specifically targeted at the situation in Shakhriyabz, clearly based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as recognized by the Committee and in accordance with the principles set out in the Operational Guidelines. This would need to include a description of the physical attributes that it aims to conserve, specific activities to protect these attributes and provisions for monitoring their state of conservation, as well as details on how the management system operates in relation to decision-making structure, budgeting, monitoring, specific conservation/restoration projects, etc.

In 2006, the Board of Monuments agreed to develop a Site Management Plan based on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, reflected in the following three main attributes:

- a) The major monuments group, which demonstrates Temurid architecture's influence on the architecture of Central Asia;
- b) The historic centre, which has retained its original, unique features of Central Asian town-planning;
- c) The traditional historic quarters or *mahallas* of the town that offer visitors first-hand contact with a community rich in hospitality and craftsmanship.

In February 2007, based on the above, the Uzbekistan National Commission for UNESCO submitted a report entitled "Management Plan for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Historical Centre of Shakhriyabz." In this report, the State Party presented a framework for the Management Plan and emphasized the Outstanding Universal Value of both the monuments and the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz. It also reviewed the condition of the property.

This framework of the Management Plan was seen as the first step in a strategy to preserve the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz. Once approved by the relevant governmental parties of Uzbekistan, the Management Plan would form the basis for the *Shakhriyabz City Development Master Plan till 2050*. All subsequent projects within the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz should then be undertaken in accordance with the new Management Plan. The proposed timeframe for the development and implementation of the Management Plan was said to be 2007-2020 with 2007-2015 for the first stage of preliminary research, design development, organizational activities, and emergency restoration works; and 2016-2020 for the second stage of the execution of the plan.

## 39 COM 2015

Following a UNESCO Tashkent fact-finding mission of June 2014, the State Party was requested to provide further information on the State Programme of Tourism Development and Reconstruction at the property and was informed of the examination of the state of conservation of the property at the 39th session of the Committee (2015).

In March 2015, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report and this provided some information on the programme of construction and reconstruction measures of Shakhrisyabz City; Urban development and infrastructural improvement. The complexity of the works envisaged in the submitted plans, the scope of the architectural and infrastructural improvements, the proposed major expansion of tourism and the limited timeframe caused great concern to the World Heritage Committee. It was noted that the overall impact of the projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the extent of urban transformation which could undermine the integrity and authenticity of Shakhrisyabz, had not been subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs).

In Decision **39 COM 7B.74** (Bonn, 2015), the Committee expressed its concern at the overall impact of the proposed extensive urban transformation projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property which could undermine its integrity and authenticity and requested the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, as a matter of urgency, detailed plans and documentation of all works envisaged under the State Programme of Tourism Development and Reconstruction for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The State Party was also requested to carry out HIAs, in conformity with the *ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties* (2011). The Committee urged the State Party to halt or not to commence any works until the above assessments and reviews have been carried out.

Furthermore, in view of the potential threats and lack of a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the property, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property to assess the latter's general state of conservation, review its current management and planning system and to advise the authorities on the issues identified.

#### 40 COM 2016

At the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan, the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission visited the property from 28 to 31 March 2016. The Mission observed that the State Party has not complied with the requests of the Committee in Decision **39 COM 7B.74**. Indeed, the Mission discovered that major interventions had already been carried out, involving the demolition of buildings in some 70 ha of the centre of the medieval quarters (30% of the urban fabric located within the boundaries of the property), which at the time of inscription was considered to bear witness to centuries of the city's history and to reflect town planning practices and the socio-cultural identity of an important historical period for Shakhrisyabz.

The mission discovered that old residential areas, historic urban layers and buildings from the 20th century had been demolished and replaced with tourist kiosks and a modern 'theme park'. This process had involved alterations to the network of old streets, the removal of traditional vegetation and green areas, the replacement of traditional water management systems, and the destruction of some period houses which reflected a traditional architectural layout around a courtyard with a veranda (*mahallas*). These interventions have brought about irreversible changes to the original appearance of the historic centre of Shakhrisyabz, the setting of the architectural monuments and the overall historical town planning and traditional houses. This impact was clearly observed on the PowerPoint slides shown to the Committee, where the scale of the destruction and reconstruction is clearly visible, along with the altered appearance of the historic centre.

The serious negative interventions noted by the Mission were summarized in the 2016 Mission Report and in the working documents for the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee which noted that none of the works carried out so far had been subject to HIAs, nor had any information been provided to the World Heritage Centre before irreversible action was taken, as required by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The Committee, taking into consideration:

- that the ongoing tourism development and reconstruction projects had had direct impacts on the historic urban fabric of property;
- that these projects had also seriously impacted the property's authenticity and integrity;
- and that there was currently no comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan in place for the property,

**decided to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger**, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as a first step to allow for a thorough assessment of the extent to which the OUV of the property has been impacted.

This evaluation would also allow determination as to:

- whether comprehensive mitigation measures can be defined to reverse the threats to the property's OUV, in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders;
- or whether the works carried out have irreversibly damaged the attributes that sustain the OUV, and notably the property's authenticity and integrity, to such an extent that their impacts cannot be mitigated and **that the property should be considered for removal from the World Heritage List**.

The World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM also recommended that the State Party invite a joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to further investigate these questions.

The Minister of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan sent a letter to the Director of the World Heritage Centre on 5 July 2016 confirming that all reconstruction works carried out within the 2014-2016 State Programme has been halted in April 2016 and welcoming the Reactive Monitoring mission proposed by the WHC and the Advisory Bodies.

At the invitation of the Minister of Culture and Sports Affairs of Uzbekistan, the joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz took place from 9 to 12 December 2016. The Mission was composed of the following members:

- Mr Feng Jing, Chief of the Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris)
- Mrs Susan Denyer, World Heritage Advisor, ICOMOS International

As detailed in the Terms of Reference provided in Annex II, the Mission aimed to identify precise threats to the OUV of the property, in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders and to determine whether corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) could be defined, or whether the works undertaken so far have so irreversibly damaged the attributes that sustain the OUV of the property notably its authenticity and integrity, that the property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed and should therefore be considered for possible deletion from the World Heritage List at a later session of the Committee.

## 2 LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz was designated as a “Monument of Significance for the Republic” in 1973. The town was inscribed on the List of Historic Towns under Resolution N°339 of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan in 1973.

Laws, Governmental Decisions, Norms and Rules for City Planning and other regulations relate to the protection and utilization of monuments, as well as special governmental programmes in Uzbekistan, such as:

- a) The Law on Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Properties, 2001;
- b) The Law on Architecture and City-building, 1995;
- c) The Instructions on Rules of Recording, Safeguarding, Maintaining, Utilization and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1986;
- d) The Instructions on Organization of Protective Zones for Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1986;
- e) The Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on City planning;
- f) Norms and Rules for City planning. Planning of the Development and Construction on the territories of Cities and Villages (Chapter XII. Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage Sites during Construction in the Settlements).
- g) Decree № 200 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan On the additional measures for further improvement of the safeguarding of the material, cultural and archaeological heritage (Code of Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2014, № 30, p. 372);
- h) The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan On protection and use of archaeological heritage (Collection of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2009, № 42, article 448);
- i) The Shakhrisyabz city development Master Plan. Approved by the Cabinet of Republic of Uzbekistan in 2009, 7 January;

It is noted that the Nomination dossier asserts that the preservation of the historical plan, traditional network of streets, and height of buildings were protected at the time of inscription, while the adopted Statement of OUV states that the ‘relevant legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides sufficient protection for the property and regulates the new urban developments in the historical centre’.

The mission nevertheless had serious concern that the protective laws are not having the desired effect in protecting the property and its buffer zone from inappropriate development.

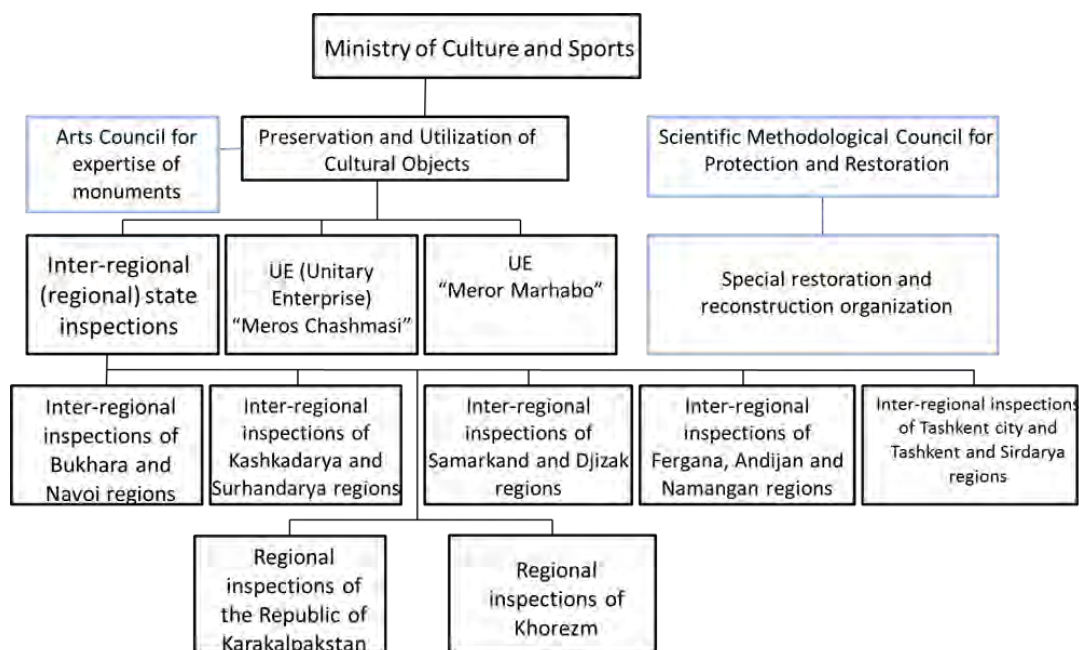
### 2.2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The operating bodies with powers of control and management are:

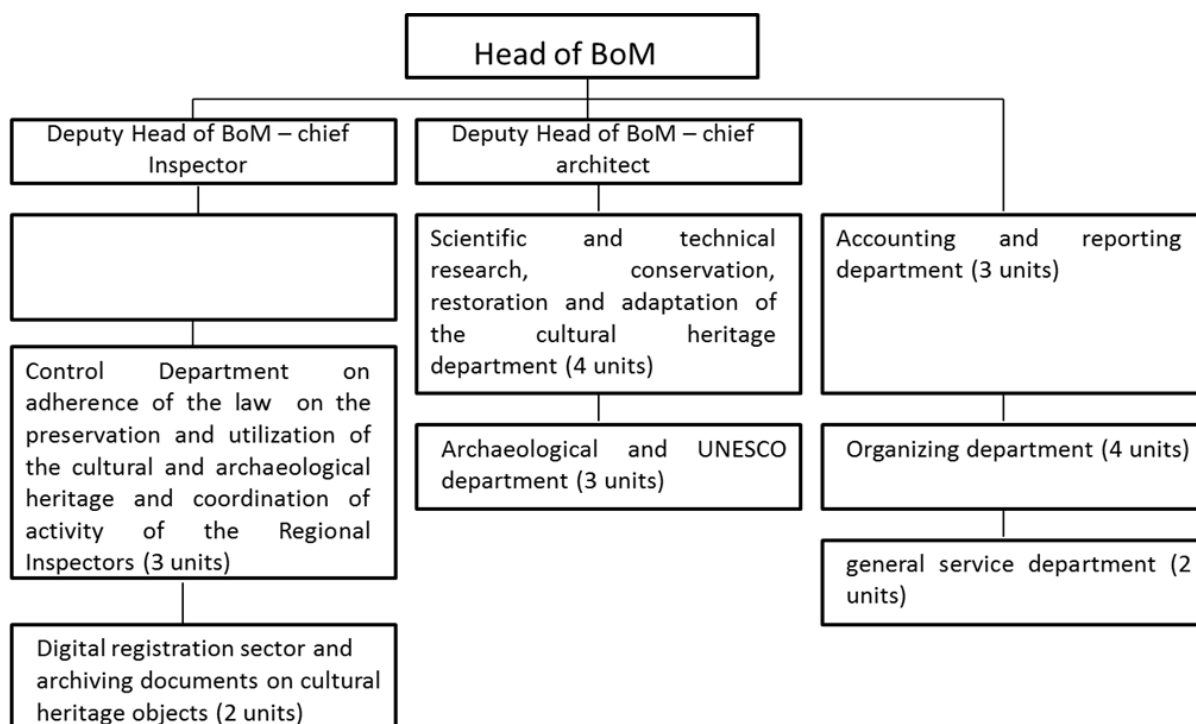
- 1) The Parliament (Oliy Majlis);
- 2) The Governmental Commission for the coordination of issues on the safeguarding and use of the cultural and archaeological heritage;



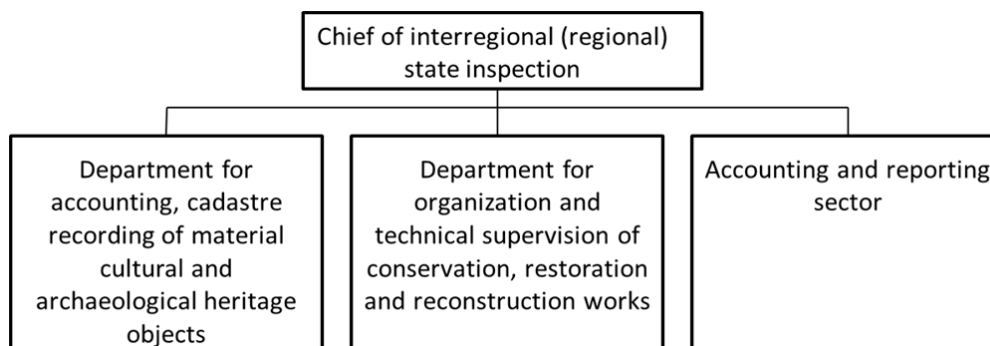
3) The Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



4) The Principal Scientific and Production Board for Safeguarding and Use of the Cultural Heritage Objects (BoM), under the Ministry for Culture and Sports Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;



- 5) The Interregional (Kashkadarya and Surhandarya regions) State inspection of the Principal Scientific and Production Board for Safeguarding and Use of the Cultural Heritage Objects under the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (The staff of the Inspection is limited to 10 persons for the entirety of both the Kashkadarya and Surhandarya regions.)



- 6) The Municipalities of Shahrissyabz City and Kashkadarya Region.

The system for the preservation and use of cultural monuments is vertically organized and all its components are under the control of central government bodies.

There is a Shakhriyabz Inspection of the Principal Scientific and Production Department for the protection and utilization of the cultural heritage objects under the Ministry of Culture and Sports, which is in charge of the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz and works together with the local authorities at daily basis.

## 2.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Work on the development of a comprehensive conservation and management plan to be integrated into the Shakhriyabz City Master Plan has started and consultation meetings involving stakeholders have been organised. The first consultation meeting organized by UNESCO Office in Tashkent was held in October 2015; the second, supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, was conducted in April 2016, and a third one was held in September 2016. A training workshop on the preparation of the Management Plan, supported by UNESCO, is planned for 2016.

The mission noted that although there is a clear management framework in place, the number of experts involved in heritage protection and preservation is limited. The capacity of the overall management structure appears also to be limited to the registration and organization of heritage objects and the supervision of conservation, restoration and reconstruction works of such objects. There is no appropriate permanent and specialized management structure or administrative agency which is responsible for the protection and management of the Historical Centre of Shakhriyabz as a World Heritage property.

### 3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES AND THREATS

#### 3.1 MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

##### MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

At present, there is no special body/agency/unit with trained permanent staff responsible for the protection and management of the property. If it existed, such a body could for instance coordinate all activities on site, provide regular maintenance, carry out research, ensure the monitoring and the gathering of data about the property, communicate with different stakeholders, and foster the involvement of local communities.

While there is a town planning regulation, it does not always consider the legalized special requirements for land use within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, or take into account the heritage values in the wider setting of the property.

Previous missions have noted that professional staff in urban planning, implementation, supervision, craftsmanship have limited knowledge about World Heritage, and that there is a lack of coordination between different stakeholders. Since 2013, to tackle these issues, training has been provided at the national level on heritage management and World Heritage-related aspects.

##### MANAGEMENT PLAN

Since the inscription of the property, the World Heritage Committee has been requesting the State Party to elaborate and implement a comprehensive conservation and management plan. The Mission noted that this process is still at the stage of training potential participants and holding consultations with stakeholders in order to define a vision for the development of the Management Plan.

Although it was foreseen to have a final version of the Management Plan in place by December 2016, this was not presented to the mission.

In conclusion, the mission considers that the weaknesses of the management system, and particularly the absence of a discrete management focus at the property and a management plan, have contributed significantly to the threats now facing the property.

#### 3.2 NATURE AND EXTENT OF THREATS TO THE PROPERTY

The Historical Centre of Shakhrysyabz is an organic historic urban landscape. The town, set within a fertile valley surrounded by mountains from which flow plentiful streams of water for irrigation, has developed over the past 2,700 years. Between inscription in 2000 and 2015, the main factor identified as affecting the property was the lack of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

This situation was transformed in 2015 when the World Heritage Committee was made aware of the “*Programme for complex measures for development and reconstruction of Shakhrysyabz City*”, which planned to totally re-develop the central part of the medieval city. Although the Committee at its 39<sup>th</sup> session in Bonn in decision **39 COM 7B.74** urged the State Party to halt all work, when the RMM visited in March 2016 they

discovered that a major part of the programme had already been carried out and the central part of the city had been destroyed. This work was carried out as part of a 'Project of detailed planning of Historical Centre of Shahrissyabz' based on the Programme in 2014 as a part of the city development Master Plan.

The March 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission report described the damage that the experts witnessed: It stated that the *"implementation of this project had brought about irreversible changes to the historic centre of the property, the setting of its architectural monuments and the overall historical town planning structure and layers. About 30% of the entire urban fabric located within the boundaries of the property (~70 of the 240 ha) has been reconstructed by creating a new boulevard/pedestrian green zone, carrying out territory improvement works and completing new constructions. These projects have been carried out in an area that represents the substantial part of the World Heritage property's core historic centre"*.

The December 2016 mission had the opportunity to consider in more detail precisely what work had been carried out and how this had impacted on the attributes of OUV. It thus set out to understand in a logical sequence:

- The OUV and attributes of the property at the time of inscription
- The OUV and attributes as set out in the SoOUV, 2012
- Work carried out on the *Programme for complex measures for development and reconstruction of Shakhrysyabz City*
- The justification for the work
- How the work undertaken has impacted on the attributes of OUV and on authenticity and integrity
- Other vulnerabilities of or threats to attributes of OUV
- What possibilities exist for recovering attributes that have been lost

These are considered in turn.

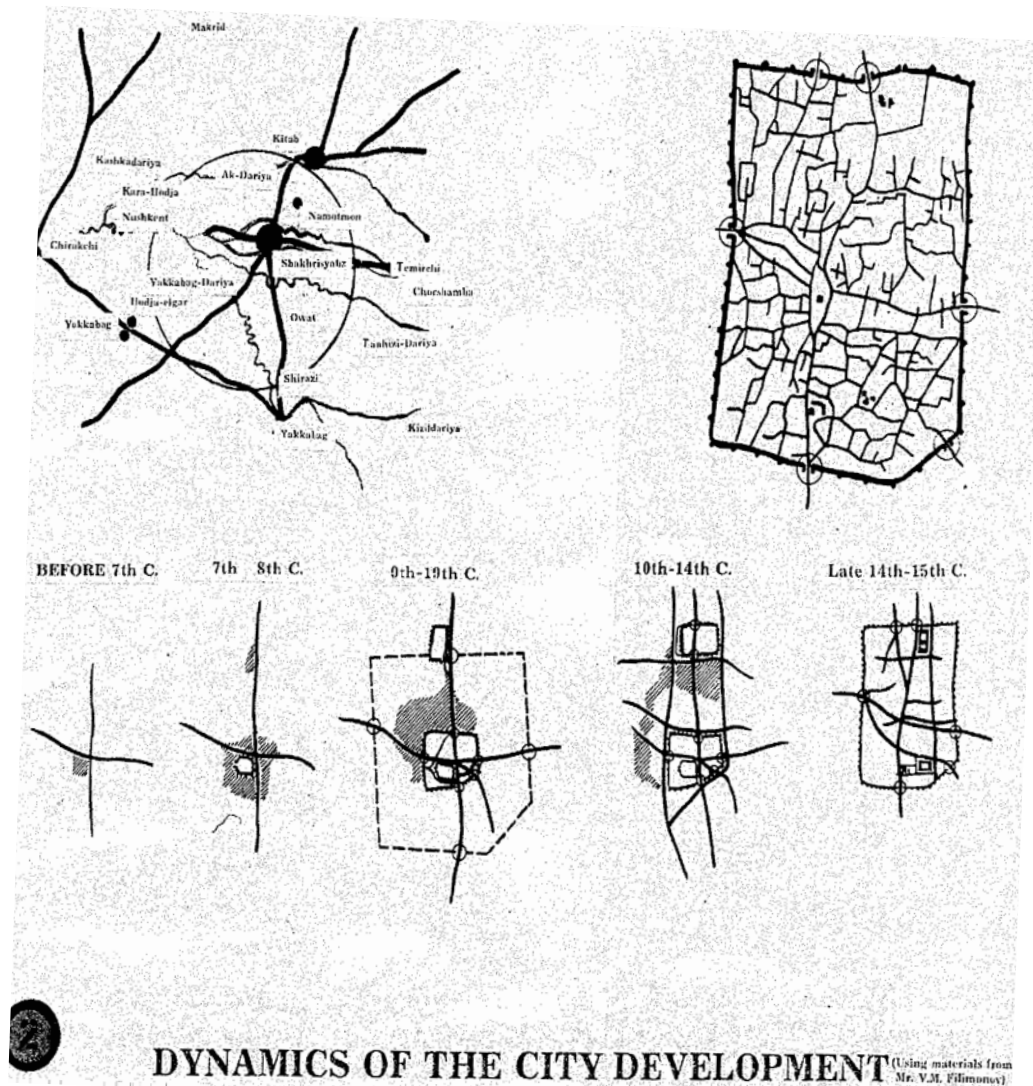
## THE OUV AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE PROPERTY AT THE TIME OF INSCRIPTION

First, it is important to stress that what was nominated and inscribed was the historic city of Shakhrysyabz, not just its monuments.

In the absence of a Management plan that might have articulated adequate details on history, geography and the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, the mission drew material from the SoOUV, the Nomination dossier and the ICOMOS evaluation as well as from published sources to put together these details.

The city is said to have been founded around 2,700 years ago and was known as Kesh until modern times. It was part of the Akhemenid Empire, then the Sogdian Empire before becoming part of the Temurid Empire.

The nomination dossier reports the results of archaeological excavations in the south-east of the city where remains of settlements dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries AD were found and where the ground level of this part of the city was reported to be 2-2.5 metres higher than elsewhere; a citadel dating from the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries is marked on a map in the nomination dossier. This earlier settlement was gradually enlarged, developing in a similar way to Samarkand and Bukhara.



The form of the town as inscribed reflects the planning and construction undertaken during the period of its apogee in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when it was part of the Temurid Empire.

Shahkrisyabz was the centre of Barlas province where Temur was born and the second most important town of the Temurid Empire. It was enlarged and transformed into a fortress town protected by defensive walls with regular towers, parts of which survive to the north and east, and was a centre of scientists, artists and eminent religious scholars, whose influence spread far beyond the empire. It has been called by Arab historians *Kubbatul ulm val adab* (the cupola of knowledge and nobleness).

Temur lavished attention on the town's buildings which became a centre of Temurid architecture. Palaces, mosques, madrasahs, caravanserai and bridges were built that were impressive in scale, architectural quality and decoration, especially the Ak-Saray summer palace, the largest and grandest of his creations. The massive portal of the Ak Saray Palace which reached a height of 70 metres survives, as does the Dorat-Saodat complex which include family vaults of the Timurids, the Dorat Tilavat which includes the Blue Dome mosque, the Chorsu market and the bath house. Exceptionally Timur maintained the medieval network of streets in the south-east of the city and constructed the Dorat Tilavat mosque on the foundations of the 11-12<sup>th</sup> century mosque

The town had a rectangular form and was clearly carefully planned being divided into four main quarters by two roads meeting at its centre and leading to four gates at the points of the compass. The central crossroads was the site of the Chorsu market with a domed market hall. The north western quarter was occupied by noblemen and clergy and the north-eastern part by a government complex which included the Ak-Saray palace.



*Shakhristabz in the last decades of the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>1</sup>.*

Following Temur's reign, due to economic and other circumstances the town only developed slowly this preserving most of its assets from the Temurid period. Over the following centuries, the four main mahallas were subdivided and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there were 52 whose governance was based on collectivism and self-government. Each of these had specialised activities and their buildings reflected particular characteristics. Seven mahallas now cover the town but the names of the

<sup>1</sup> Arapov A. V. Architecture of Uzbekistan (9th-15th centuries) //The Artistic Culture of Central Asia and Azerbaijan in the 9th–15th Centuries. Vol. IV. Architecture—Tashkent: IICAS, 2013, P. 213.

many old quarters are still recalled. The present day mahallas are also associated with specialist occupations such as jewellers, embroiderers, and lawyers.

At the time of inscription, what survived was the form of the Temurid city with its traditional mahallas; parts of the main Temurid monuments and the tightly packed vernacular buildings reflecting the particular mahalla characteristics that made up the majority of the town and which were said to be particularly dense and 'chaotic' in the south-east, around the Dorat-Saodat and Dorat Tilavat, an area identified as the centre of the early medieval town.

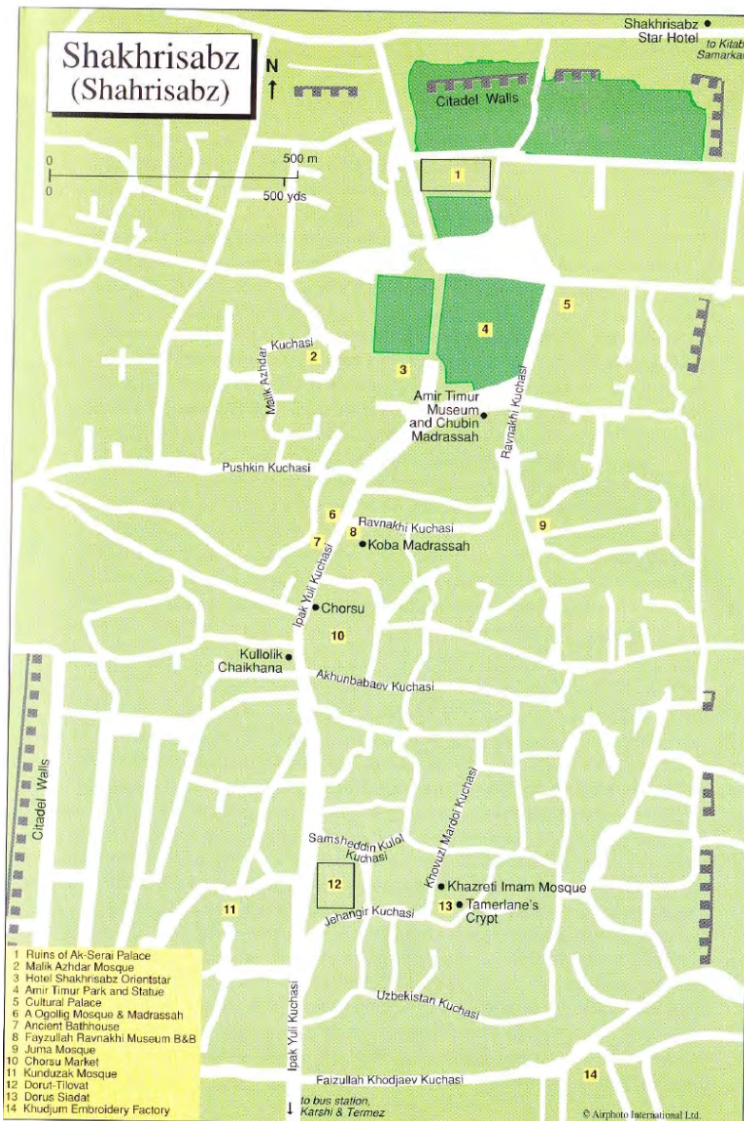
The above outlines the key characteristics of what was identified at the time of inscription. That these were related to the OUV that was proposed by the State Party and accepted by the Committee is also made very clear in the nomination dossier. The nomination does not just focus on the Temurid monuments but states that for the city as a whole 'they are no analogues in the whole of Central Asia or the Islamic world' and stresses that the town reflects Temurid architecture and town planning and that the 'monumental buildings of Temur and Temurids, surrounded by traditional dwelling houses, have special character which is typical only for Shakhrisyabz.

A clear division of [the] Temurid city on administrative-political, cultural and dwelling parts is observed in [the] present planning structure' which preserves the four main quarters and until recently the two main roads intersecting at right angles in the central market area.

The urban buildings of Shakhrisyabz, were 'seen as more important as a group than they are individually'. 'Centuries of traditions are expressed in the mahalla style dwellings many constructed in Temur's time', the dwellings have 'preserved the rational principles of centuries-old traditions' that are expressed as 'mahalla dwellings quarters of special scales'; they; 'encompass traditional technology and the school of folk creativity are evident in their structures'; while the form of the 'ancient dwelling houses' is seen as a 'special typological group in architecture of traditional Uzbek dwelling'; with a distinctive form 'characterized by the location of rooms along the perimeter of the yard connected with a small avia'; and guest rooms with painted ceilings although in general the 'decoration is rather modest'.

Likewise the protection, conservation and planning processes were then said to relate not only to the Temurid monuments but to encompass the need for the 'safeguarding of [the] historical centre, that preserves centuries old appearance of Shakhrisyabz' which was recommended for protection as a historical-architectural reserve. The importance of 'new constructions preserving the traditional network of streets' was highlighted.





*Sketch plan of the old city in 2010*

## THE OUV AND ATTRIBUTES AS SET OUT IN THE STATEMENT OF OUV, 2012

The retrospective Statement of OUV, approved by the Committee in 2012 sets out clearly the way the property's Outstanding Universal Value is reflected in three main attributes:

- The major monuments group, which demonstrates the influence of Temurid architecture on the architecture of Central Asia;
- The historic centre, which has retained its original, unique features of Central Asian town-planning;
- The traditional historic quarters or mahallas of the town, which offer visitors first-hand contact with a community rich in hospitality and crafts.

The text mentions the importance of the 'entire quarters of ancient houses', the way the historic centre reflects the 'city's secular development and to centuries of its history, and particularly to the period of its apogee, under the empire of Temur, in the 15th century', and its 'unique character' and 'harmony' reflecting a succession of different architectural styles.



Integrity is seen to relate to 'all the original components of the medieval town including the unique architectural monuments and traditional houses built during the Temurid period' and the intactness of the historic 'urban fabric of the town', despite some insensitive insertions made during the Soviet period.

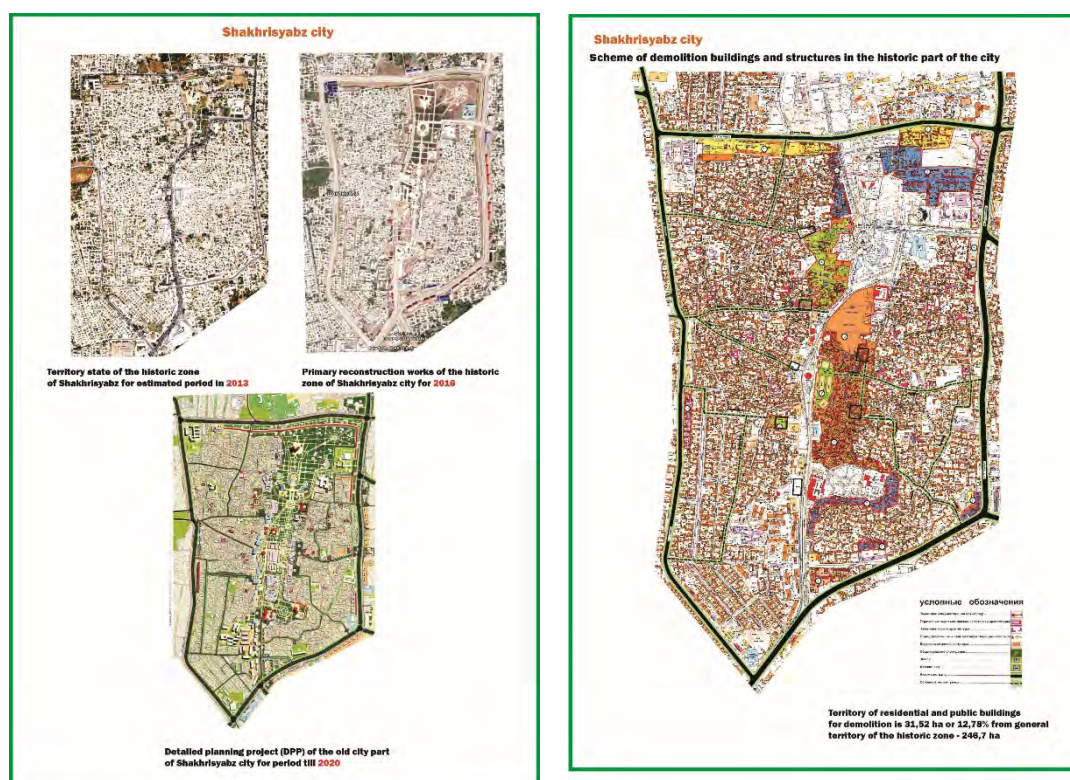
Authenticity is related to the way the monuments and buildings are a 'testimony to the architecture and city planning of the Temurid period' and the way the historic centre has 'retained its original appearance'.

## WORK CARRIED OUT ON THE PROGRAMME FOR COMPLEX MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF SHAKHRISYABZ CITY

The main work undertaken so far has been to clear a huge swathe of the central part of the city in line with the main north-south road. This extends from Ak-Saray palace in the north down to Dorat Tilowat in the south, a distance of some 2km. It covers the whole of the central market area and in the south extends eastwards to Dorat Saodat.

In place of urban buildings a 'boulevard' has been created with green landscaping lit by street lamps.

This work was undertaken at great speed with the whole project being undertaken in about 12 months. As far as could be ascertained, little or no archaeological investigation, rescue archology or recording of buildings was undertaken.



*See full-size maps in Annex VI*

All buildings in the area have been demolished and the ground level reduced by up to 2.5 metres in parts. (See photos below.)



*Lowering the ground level in 2014-5*

The whole of the raised archaeological levels in the south-east of the city (where the archaeological investigations mentioned above revealed details of the 7-8<sup>th</sup> century town) has been removed. This was not only the oldest part of the town but had the densest set of dwellings connected by narrow alleys. The whole of this early part of the city has now disappeared.

Large underground drains have been installed. Some of the structures that are part of Dorat Tilawat have been underpinned.



*Underpinning structures after lowering of ground level in 2015*

To the east and west, walls has been built in front of the remaining traditional houses effectively blocking traditional routes including the main east west route through the market. The north south road has become a paved pedestrian area.



New buildings for craftspeople or tourist facilities have been constructed in traditional style along the eastern and western edges.

The main area has been landscaped with concrete or marble paving and planted with exotic species of trees and shrubs instead of local vegetation. The boulevard, which stands out due to its contemporary design and its large, open spaces, features a large-scale modern illumination system, numerous fountains and wooden pavilions, as well as a newly reconstructed *sardoba* (underground water reservoir) erected over recently found archaeological ruins, which has been turned into a modern café – add also decoration.





*New craft workshops with flats above, 2016*

In effect the heart of the ancient city has been replaced by a public park. The Zargalic mahalla was most affected. This includes much of the south-east of the town and thus the most ancient part. 2,000 people have been relocated. Around 350 people have also been moved from Qoziguzar mahalla. All the families whose houses have been demolished have been relocated about 3-4 km away where they have been given land and materials with which to build new houses.

What has been implemented was the first phase of the Programme. Further phases envisage the re-building of houses in the mahallas. Preliminary work has been undertaken along some of the roads; this has included road widening and installing new services. Clearly there is a need to upgrade houses with adequate services and to allow reasonable access to emergency services. Wholesale destruction and rebuilding is not the only option.

#### MAJOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Another aspect of the Re-Development Project was the conservation and rebuilding of monuments.

Several major projects have been undertaken without any details being provided to the World Heritage Centre for Review by the Advisory Bodies as requested by paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. These include restoration work at all the main monuments of Ak-Saray palace, Dorat Tilavat, Dorat Saovat, the Chorso market building, the bath-house and the city walls. In all cases major work has been undertaken on the fabric and surrounding areas and it is not at all clear on what basis some of these interventions have been justified. And the intensive and thorough conservation projects on most of the major monuments, undertaken in a short period of time, with the use in parts of inappropriate, and irreversible materials and techniques, such as brick cleaning using abrasive tools, have significantly damaged the authenticity of the monuments in terms of their ability to reflect their history and associations.

The setting of the monuments has also been drastically changed and they now sit next to large modern parks.

This conservation work cannot be said to be in conformity with the principles of international charters and recommendations (such as the Nara Document) or with the philosophy of international conservation. The interventions to the fabric dominate the appearance of the monuments and impact adversely on their authenticity.

Such major interventions should have been reported to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory bodies before work is undertaken.

The Mission considered that there is much room for improvement with regard to the conservation approaches applied to the major historical buildings, complexes and excavated archaeological remains, especially concerning the use of authentic materials and techniques and the reliance on scientific research. Conservation plans need to be developed for each individual monument setting out all available historical material and an approach to future conservation work.

#### JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROGRAMME FOR COMPLEX MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF SHAKHRISYABZ CITY

Two main reasons were put forward to justify the actions undertaken as part of the Programme, which are by any standards drastic and precipitous. The first reason was to address the raised water table which was having an adverse impact on some of the monuments, thorough draining water to streams north and south of the town. The second reason was to provide more buildings for craftspeople which could help revive the craft community in the area thorough building shops where tourists can buy traditional crafts. Further ancillary reasons where the need to remove illegal buildings in the crowded market area and some Soviet era buildings along the north south road.

The problems of salts impacting adversely on monuments in parts of Central Asia is not new. Although irrigation has been practiced for at least a thousand years and perhaps longer, to support food crops, the intensification of irrigation in the Soviet era to support cotton growing has result in higher water tables and an increase in residual salt deposits in the ground<sup>2</sup>. This massive project may have helped the major monuments, although the final impact has still to be measured

The modern drainage system installed within the property is a very important measure to control the ground water table and its quality, ensures the better preservation of individual monuments and improves the lives of local people. But its implementation without proper understanding and preservation of historical traditional water management systems has an impact not only on tangible, but also on intangible values of the property such as ancient, traditional energy saving techniques. Also it was not the only way to address this problem.

The new buildings that have been provided for craftspeople consist of shops on the ground floor and flats above. Some but not all of these have been filled at ground floor level but it was understood that families were reluctant to leave their houses and move into the flats and some have rented them out to tourists.

#### IMPACTS OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF OUV AND ON THE AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY

The demolition of the urban fabric, the destruction of archaeological layers, and the dislocation of the urban planning in Shakhrisyabz has had a major and in parts completely irreversible impact on the tangible attributes of OUV. It has also removed the social and economic heart of the town. The centre of Shakhrisyabz no longer feels like a town: it has become a park with vast flat urban landscaping linking Temur's monumental buildings which now sit completely isolated form the urban landscape to which they were related. It is now almost impossible for a visitor to orient themselves in relation to the remains of the Temurid town.

In specific terms what has been lost by the development are almost the whole of one of the six *mahallas*, the most dense one in terms of the way houses were arranged,

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<sup>2</sup> Soil Salinization in Central Asia, Eurasian Center for Food Security, September 2016; and 1 September 2016, S. Akiner, R. U. Cooke and R. A. French, Salt Damage to Islamic Monuments in Uzbekistan, The Geographical Journal Vol. 158, No. 3 (Nov., 1992), pp. 257-272.

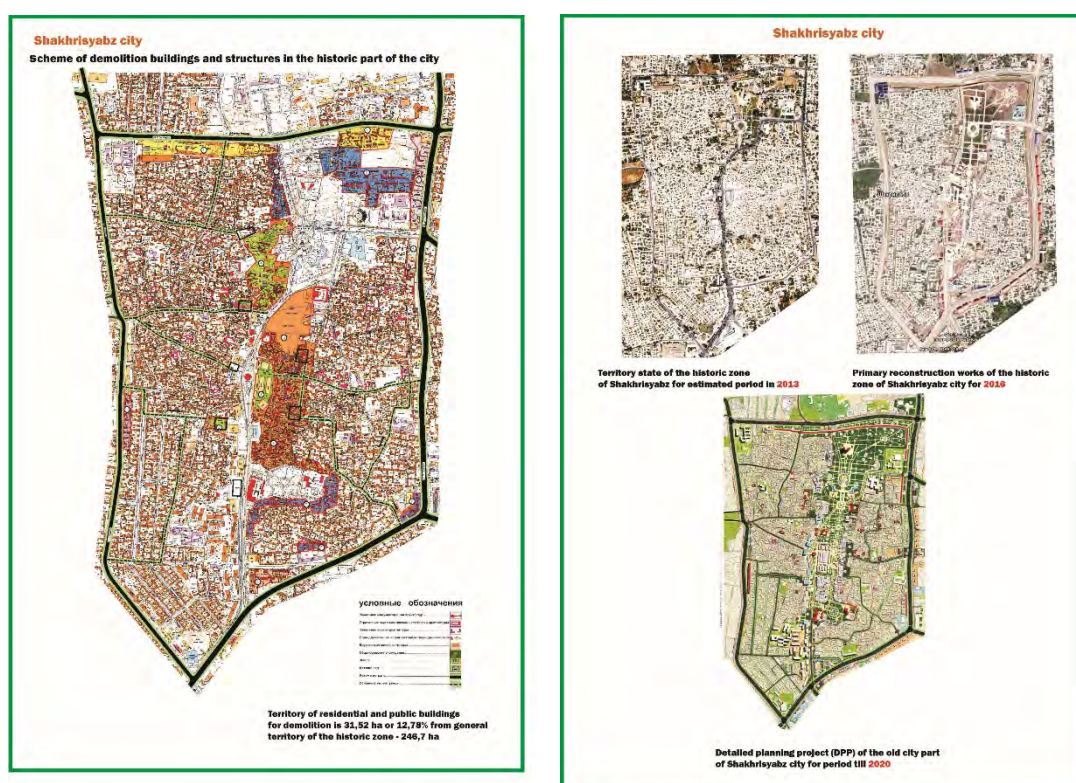
the most historic one as the south-eastern quarter was the location of the earlier town which persisted between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, and the one with the greatest depth of archaeological layers.

The central area of the property can no longer be said to contain any attributes that contribute to OUV. It no longer has any historic domestic buildings, evidence of 14<sup>th</sup> century urban planning or archaeological evidence of earlier settlements.

Moreover the demolition work has damaged the integrity of the whole property in cutting a slice through the centre, and removing its ability to convey the idea of the planning and layout of a Timurid town. The key arteries of the town, the two main roads that intersected at the market area, have been severed and their purpose removed.

And the intensive and thorough conservation projects on most of the major monuments, undertaken in a short period of time, with the use in parts of inappropriate, and irreversible materials and techniques, have significantly damaged the authenticity of the monuments.

The maps and satellite images below (and in Annexes VI and VII) clearly show the scale of the interventions touching the fabric of the Historical City.



See full-size maps in Annex VI





*See full-size images in Annex VII*

The destruction caused by the major project has led directly to the property facing the following threats, as set out in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines:

- iii) serious deterioration of town-planning coherence,*
- v) significant loss of historical authenticity,*
- vi) important loss of cultural significance*

The property thus faces ascertained Danger.

#### OTHER VULNERABILITIES OR THREATS TO ATTRIBUTES OF OUV

The mission noted the following other areas where conservation methods and measures are a cause for concern.

##### CONSERVATION ISSUES: AK-SARAY PALACE TILES

The State Party representatives highlighted the difficult conservation issues facing the tiled façade of the Ak-Saray Palace portal. It was stated that approximately 30% of the tiles have dropped off in the past thirty years, mainly on the side that faces the weather. It is not clear how many of these tiles have been saved.

It was reported to the mission that options for replacing some of the tiles with new ones were being considered in order to frame the key elements of the tile patterns so that the next generation could still see the main outline of the design.



Some work has been undertaken to try and stabilize loose areas. The reasons for this apparent accelerated rate of decay are not clear. Large scale interventions have been undertaken at the rear of the portal to reinforce and stabilise the exposed brick and whether this has contributed to a drying out of the bedding or sub-structure for the tiles is not clear.

The mission considered that further investigations need to be undertaken to understand better the causes of this problem and how the façade might be monitored and protected. Such work needs to be given a high priority and must be undertaken before any further interventions are considered. The mission considers that a multi-disciplinary team should be assembled, to allow input from a range of experts from other areas and several disciplines who might have experienced similar problems in order that a range of options might be explored. The process should involve assembling as much data as possible to document changes to the façade over time. The involvement of both ICOMOS and ICCROM in this process should be considered.

Potential options for interventions need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is taken.



## CONSERVATION ISSUES: REMAINING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

Given the importance of the traditional vernacular buildings to the city and the distinctive local style that they express, it was disappointing to learn that very little documentation had been undertaken. Although a survey of 1983 was shown to the mission, first of all this only covered a handful of buildings, but secondly no-one could provide information as to where the recorded buildings were and whether they still survived. Two old photos of distinctive façades were on display boards prepared for the mission but again there was no clarity as to whether these buildings still existed or where they were (or are).

The mission was taken to visit buildings in the north-west of the town. Some of these were apparently protected, while other supporting buildings were not. It was emphasised that most of the remaining buildings date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century rather than from Timurid times with the implication that this meant the houses were not that important.

Several roads have been widened to allow vehicular access, leading to the demolition of structures and it was stated that in order to introduce adequate services, some houses will need to be reconstructed.

In order to understand how much has survived and what needs to be restored and conserved, it is essential that surveys are undertaken to provide an overview of the mahallas as well as an inventory of individual structures. Based on such documentation it would then be possible to understand the distinctiveness of the plans, and the potential to sustain vernacular traditions not just in a few individual houses but across the surviving parts of the historic city.

The property is also faced with other potential threats related to the following:

- Absence of an appropriate agency/unit with professional staff, responsible for protection, maintenance and management of the property as an organic whole, present on site on a day-to-day basis;
- Lack of a conservation and management plan for the Historical Centre of Shakhrysyabz, and lack of effective tools (especially an administrative agency/unit) for its implementation and coordination activities;
- Lack of adequate scientific research, documentation and conservation;
- Lack of coordination/harmonisation of national legislation with the World Heritage Convention;
- Weakness of the state system for heritage preservation with a focus on World Heritage properties management and conservation;
- Lack of trained human resources in general;
- Lack of regular financial resources, as well as widespread traditional practice of allocating large amounts of funds to the improvement of heritage sites around anniversary dates;
- Low awareness of the Convention, the World Heritage property and its values;
- Lack of understanding of the townscape characteristics relevant to the OUV of the property;
- Tourism development programmes and Master Plan for Shakhrysyabz city development (2007-2020) not coordinated with the protection of the World Heritage property, its conservation or management.

### 3.3 WHAT POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR RECOVERING ATTRIBUTES THAT HAVE BEEN LOST

The overarching concern of the Mission is that the name, description and OUV of the property no longer reflect the current urban situation, since the historic centre of the property has been replaced by a modern one.

Nonetheless what survives are six of the seven mahallas and the major monuments although the relationship between them has been severely severed.

The State Party was keen to stress the importance of the remaining urban areas. World Heritage status was seen as a support for necessary re-habitation projects and to encourage tourism. Mention was made of replacing some of the houses that had been demolished by modern versions of vernacular traditions. The mission underscored the fact that such interventions could not be seen as replacements for the loss of building fabric that reflected centuries of accumulation.

The mission was not able on the basis of information available to consider in detail possibilities for recovering attributes of OUV. But it is clear that most of the attributes that have been lost cannot be recovered entirely. Temurid monuments are no longer surrounded by traditional dwelling houses and this association cannot be recovered; Temurid urban planning is no longer intact and, although some of the road links could perhaps be recreated, the urban quarters cannot; the survival of traditional domestic buildings in a style specific to Shahrissyabz has been drastically diminished and the missing ones cannot be replaced; and the Temurid monuments have been unsympathetically treated and this work cannot be reversed.

In conclusion, the mission considers that the demolition work carried out in the centre of Shakhrysyabz has damaged the key attributes of OUV to such degree that the OUV for which the property was inscribed can no longer be conveyed by the property and that given the degree of irreversibility of much of the work, and the limited potential for recovering the attributes, the mission does not consider that sufficient attributes could be recovered to sustain OUV.

Although the mission considers that the opportunities for recovering attributes are very limited, the State Party should be invited to provide further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered. There remains concern though as to what parameters might be developed for recovery work. Unlike disasters caused by military conflict or natural disasters, the damage inflicted on Shakhrysyabz was deliberate. This makes it all the more difficult to understand where the momentum for recovery might come from.

Nonetheless, in order to allow the State Party to explore all possible options for the recovery of attributes and whether a modified OUV might be possible on the basis of a major boundary modification, the mission recommends that the State Party be requested to:

- Continue to halt any further work in the town
- Provide to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS:
  - Detailed plans of the town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition;
  - Detailed plans of the remaining *mahalla* areas and descriptions of their characteristics;
  - Inventories of remaining traditional houses;
  - Assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with 1983 drawings of selected houses;

- Current plans for further improvements and upgrading work on houses and access routes – such as widening and re-paving roads;
- Documentation on work carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription;
- Current Master Plan for the city.

On the basis of this documentation, an assessment could then be made as to whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property based on some of the monuments and some of the remaining urban areas, or whether the property should be de-listed.

### 3.4 DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST REPORT TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

No further work was carried out on the Re-Development Programme.

### 3.5 THREATS, DAMAGE AND LOSS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND/OR AUTHENTICITY

These have been outlined in details in section 3 above.

## 4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

### 4.1 STATUS OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF OUV

This has been summarised above as follows:

The mission considers that the demolition work carried out in the centre of Shakhrysyabz has damaged the key attributes of OUV to such degree that the OUV for which the property was inscribed can no longer be conveyed by the property and that given the degree of irreversibility of much of the work, and the limited potential for recovering the attributes, the mission does not consider that sufficient attributes could be recovered to sustain OUV.

Although the mission considers that the opportunities for recovering attributes are very limited, the State Party should be invited to provide further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered.

### 4.2 MEASURES TAKEN AND PLANNED TO PROTECT THE OUV OF THE PROPERTY FURTHER TO PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

During the mission, the State Party representatives expressed a high interest in the preservation of the property and assured the Mission that:

- further development of the Master Plan projects and of the Programme will be halted;
- a procedure to request HIAs for all programmes and projects planned for implementation within boundaries of the property and its buffer zone will be established shortly;
- the World Heritage Committee will be informed in advance, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, about all further major projects and actions planned within the property's boundaries and buffer zone.

The Principal Scientific Board for Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Monuments also informed the Mission of the following:

- A training workshop on the preparation of the Management Plan, supported by UNESCO, is planned in 2016. It will provide an opportunity to take a constructive step towards elaboration of the integrated conservation Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Shakhrysyabz;
- To enhance the protection of the property, boundary clarification proposals concerning the buffer zone are being prepared. At present, these proposals are being legalised at national level and will then be submitted to World Heritage Committee for consideration and approval;

- New amendments have been prepared to the Law on Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Properties (2001), reinforcing heritage protection and conservation, harmonising and coordinating legislation with World Heritage Convention. These amendments are in the process of considerations and adoption;
- The process to establish a State Heritage Conservation Centre, which will provide scientific research and professional expertise in the field of heritage protection and conservation on the permanent basis, has been launched.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE STATE PARTY

From 9 to 12 December 2016, the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (Decision **40 COM 7B.48**) assessed the state of conservation of the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 and inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2016, and particularly the scope, extent and impact of the work carried out within the World Heritage property as part of the ***State Programme for complex measures for development and reconstruction of Shakhriyabz City (2014-2016)*** and how this has impact adversely on OUV.

Work on the re-development project was discovered by the March 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (28-31 March 2016). It was halted following the request of the Committee at its 30<sup>th</sup> session 2016.

The mission was requested to make a full assessment of the overall threats to the OUV of the property as a result of the work undertaken as part of the re-development project. The aim was to understand whether or not comprehensive mitigation measures could be defined in collaboration with key local, national and international stakeholders that might allow for the reversal or mitigation of these threats, or whether the OUV of the property has been so substantially damaged that the entire property can no longer manifest the OUV for which it was inscribed.

The mission thus explored the full extent of the project, its impact on the attributes of OUV, and the possibilities for recovering attributes that have been destroyed.

#### SCOPE AND EXTENT OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The aim of the Shakhriyabz part of the State Programme was to improve transportation and drainage infrastructure, to restructure and improve the urban landscape, to conserve and reconstruct cultural heritage sites, and to provide hotel and residential developments within the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz.

Before it was halted, work on the project had:

- Demolished a 2km swathe of the Old City from the Ak-Saray palace in the north to the Dorus-Tilovat Complex in the south, including the whole of the central market area, in all extending to 70 ha;
- Destroyed almost all of one of the historic *mahalla* districts that covered the core of the earliest 7<sup>th</sup> century AD part of the town;
- Obliterated the traditional layout of the centre of the city that reflected planning of the Timurid era and earlier;
- Relocated some 2,000 people to a new site some 4km away from the historic centre;
- Removed between 2 and 2.5 metres of archaeological layers from the site;
- Installed large drains to lower the water table;
- Introduced hard landscaping and non-native trees and shrubs;
- Carried out extensive conservation work, including some rebuilding, at and around a number of cultural heritage monuments including the Ak-Saray Palace, Dorus-Saodat Complex, Chor-su Bazaar and the Medieval Baths;
- Constructed new craft workshops and associated houses along the edge of the site;
- Removed traffic from the area.

Had the project not been halted, it is understood that the demolitions of houses would have been extended to other *mahalla* districts.

## IMPACT OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Mission cannot over-emphasise the negative impact that these interventions have had in terms of built fabric, urban morphology, archaeology and social coherence. The heart of the town has been torn away and what is left are wide open areas of landscaping separated from the remainder of the town by perimeter walls. There is almost nothing left to reflect the traditional urban structure or the way it has developed over at least two millennia in the central part of the town. And there are few people apart from visitors.

The medieval quarters, which at the time of inscription were seen to bear witness to centuries of the town's history, and to reflect town planning practices and the socio-cultural identity of the Timurid era, an important historical period of Shakhriyabz, have been transformed by modern interventions. Some 30% of the historic urban fabric located within the boundaries of the property has been impacted and this has resulted in the loss of a considerable number of old residential houses, which reflected traditional architectural practices specific to Shakhriyabz.

Features of the medieval city centre and its evolution through the centuries have been replaced by large-scale modern interventions which have in effect turned the central area into a theme park for visitors.

And the intensive and thorough conservation projects on most of the major monuments, undertaken in a short period of time, with the use in parts of inappropriate, and irreversible materials and techniques, such as brick cleaning using abrasive tools, have significantly damaged the authenticity of the monuments in terms of their ability to reflect their history and associations. The setting of the monuments has also been drastically changed and they now sit next to large modern parks. This conservation work cannot be said to be in conformity with the principles of international charters and recommendations (such as the Nara Document) or with the philosophy of international conservation.

## DOCUMENTATION OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

It appears that no detailed systematic documentation, either plans or photographs, exist of the urban areas and buildings that were demolished. No attempt was made to undertake rescue archaeology anywhere and certainly not in the core of the 7<sup>th</sup> century town, an area that had yielded significant archaeological finds during exploration some thirty years ago.

While some plans and documents were provided by the State Party before the mission in November, and some further documentation was presented to the mission as display boards, none of this was sufficient to detail precisely what existed before work commenced, nor to understand the full extent of work carried out, or to understand the scope of the overall planned project.

Although it was claimed that the restoration work on monuments had been carried out on the basis of documentation gained in part from archaeological investigations, no such data was provided to the mission. Indeed no conservation details were provided to show before and after scenarios or to detail the rationale or justification for the work undertaken.

## APPROVAL FOR THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

From the information provided during the mission, it appears that this major project was approved at the highest level and with support from the National Board of

Monuments. It should be noted, however that senior personnel at the Board have changed in the last eighteen months.

#### IMPACT OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ON THE OUV OF THE PROPERTY

Although a SoOUV has been approved by the Committee and the nomination dossier provides ample details on the importance of the urban areas as well as the monuments, no Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) were undertaken before work commenced, nor were any details presented to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

In the absence of HIAs, the mission carried out its own assessment of the key attributes of OUV of the property and how these have been impacted by the re-development project. This assessment was based on the SoOUV, the Nomination dossier and the ICOMOS evaluation, augmented by published research.

The documentation makes very clear that town was of value as a whole for its 'combination of 'monumental buildings of Timur and Timurids, surrounded by traditional dwelling houses', with 'a special character which is typical only for Shakhriyabz'. The outcome of this combination 'had no analogues in the whole of Central Asia or the Islamic world'.

Furthermore at the time of inscription, and when the SOUV was approved in 2000, it was noted that 'all the original components of the medieval town including the unique architectural monuments and traditional houses built during the Temurid period were located within the boundaries of the property', and the historic urban fabric of the town was intact, 'despite some insensitive insertions made during the Soviet period'. The monuments and buildings were still considered a testimony to the architecture and city planning of the Temurid period, the historic centre had retained its original appearance, most of the buildings and decorative art had been well preserved in their original state and 'care had been taken in restoration works to ensure the use of traditional materials and techniques'.

The attributes of OUV can clearly be seen to relate to the coherence and survival of Temurid planning, monuments related to Temur and the Temurid period; the survival of traditional domestic buildings in a style specific to Shakhriyabz, and the combination of Temurid monuments, surrounded by traditional dwelling houses, a feature only found in Shakhriyabz.

In considering the impact of the project work carried out on these attributes, the mission could only reach the conclusion that all of these attributes had been impacted, most to a major degree and some irreversibly. The major monuments are no longer surrounded by traditional dwelling houses, the Temurid planning no longer survives in a form that can be said to be in any way intact or coherent, large numbers of dwelling houses have been demolished, including those in core of the early medieval town where the street patterns were most dense; the early occupation layers have been destroyed; and work on Temurid buildings has not respected their authenticity.

The mission considered that the name of the property, the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz, no longer reflects the current urban situation, since the core of the historic town centre has been replaced by a modern one. The key attributes of OUV have been damaged to such a degree, and for the most part irreversibly, that the OUV can no longer be conveyed by the property.



## POSSIBILITIES FOR RECOVERING ATTRIBUTES THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

The State Party was keen to stress the importance of the remaining urban areas. World Heritage status was seen as a support for necessary re-habitation projects and to encourage tourism. Mention was made of replacing some of the houses that had been demolished by modern versions of vernacular traditions. The mission underscored the fact that such interventions could not be seen as replacements for the loss of building fabric that reflected centuries of accumulation.

The mission was not able on the basis of information available to consider in detail possibilities for recovering attributes of OUV. But it is clear that most of the attributes that have been lost cannot be recovered entirely. Temurid monuments are no longer surrounded by traditional dwelling houses and this association cannot be recovered; Temurid urban planning is no longer intact and, although some of the road links could perhaps be recreated, the urban quarters cannot; the survival of traditional domestic buildings in a style specific to Shahrissyabz has been drastically diminished and the missing ones cannot be replaced; and the Temurid monuments have been unsympathetically treated and this work cannot be reversed.

In conclusion, there does not appear to be the possibility to recover sufficient attributes to justify the OUV that existed at the time of inscription. The mission considers that although the opportunities for recovering attributes are very limited that the State Party should be invited to provide further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered. There remains concern though that as to what parameters might be developed for recovery work. Unlike disasters caused by military conflict or natural disasters, the damage inflicted on Shahrissyabz was deliberate. This makes it all the more difficult to understand where the momentum for recovery might come from.

## 5.2 MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

### MAIN RECOMMENDATION

**The mission considers that the demolition work carried out in the centre of Shahrissyabz has damaged the key attributes of OUV to such degree that the OUV for which the property was inscribed can no longer be conveyed by the property.**

**Given the degree of irreversibility of much of the work, and the limited potential for recovering the attributes, the mission does not consider that sufficient attributes could be recovered to sustain OUV.**

**Nonetheless, in order to allow the State Party to explore all possible options for the recovery of attributes and whether a modified OUV might be possible on the basis of a major boundary modification, the mission recommends that the State Party be requested to:**

- **Continue to halt any further work in the town**
- **Provide by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS:**
  - **Detailed plans of the town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition;**
  - **Detailed plans of the remaining *mahalla* areas and descriptions of their characteristics;**
  - **Inventories of remaining traditional houses;**
  - **Assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with 1983 drawings of selected houses;**

- Current plans for further improvements and upgrading work on houses and access routes – such as widening and re-paving roads;
- Documentation on work carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription;
- Current Master Plan for the city.

On the basis of this documentation, an assessment could then be made as to whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property based on some of the monuments and some of the remaining urban areas, or whether the property should be de-listed.

As there is a need to reach a resolution on the way forward as quickly as possible, the mission recommends that a decision is taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session.

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

### AK-SARAY PALACE

The mission recommends that:

- investigations should be undertaken as a matter of urgency to understand better the causes of tile decay on the façade of Ak-Saray Place and how this might be addressed;
- Such work should to be given a high priority and should be undertaken before any further interventions are considered;
- Consideration should be given to setting up a multi-disciplinary team to allow input from a range of experts and several disciplines and with the possible involvement of ICOMOS and ICCROM;
- Any potential options for interventions need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a decision is taken and meanwhile no further work should be undertaken.

## MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

The mission also recommends that:

- National legislation and national system on protection of cultural heritage should be reinforced with a specific focus on World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan;
- An appropriate permanent and specialized management structure or administrative agency should be set up with responsibilities for the protection and management of the Historical Centre of Shakhrisabz as a World Heritage property;
- The Management plan being development needs to be finalised, implemented and harmonised with the City Development Master Plan (2007-2020); the involvement of international experts and the use of experiences and lessons learnt drawn from the worldwide network of World Heritage properties is desirable as is a process of active community engagement to reflect the important role of local residents in the conservation and development of the property;
- Conservation plans need to be developed for each individual monuments setting out all available historical material and an approach to future conservation work.

## 6 ANNEXES

<b>Annex I</b>	Decision <b>40 COM 7B.48</b>
<b>Annex II</b>	Terms of Reference of the Mission
<b>Annex III</b>	Final Programme
<b>Annex IV</b>	Composition of Mission Team
<b>Annex V</b>	List of Persons Met
<b>Annex VI</b>	Maps
<b>Annex VII</b>	Photos and Satellite Images

## ANNEX I

### Decision 40 COM 7B.48 (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Regrets that the State Party has not responded to the concerns, recommendations and requests formulated in previous Committee Decisions; that it has not provided detailed plans and documentation or Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) of the “State Programme for complex measures for building and reconstruction of Shakhrisyabz city”; and that it has failed to halt works until the necessary assessments and reviews have been carried out;
4. Takes note with deep concern of the report provided by the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, which observed that major interventions had been carried out to date in the framework of the State Programme, including the demolition and re-building activities that have brought about irreversible changes to the original appearance of large area within the historic centre of Shakhrisyabz, the setting of the architectural monuments and the overall historical town planning structure and layers;
5. Also expresses its deep concern that the State Party has not complied with the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision **39 COM 7B.74**, and that the aforementioned interventions already represent a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably its integrity and authenticity, in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. **Decides to inscribe the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
7. Urges the State Party to immediately suspend all tourism development and reconstruction projects within the property and in the adjacent areas, and requests, as a matter of priority, the State Party to:
  - a) Immediately halt all demolition of traditional housing areas, pending the development of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), the elaboration and finalisation of appropriate conservation policies/guidelines and of the Management Plan, and the detailed review of large-scale urban planning schemes for Shakhrisyabz,
  - b) Provide detailed documentation of the demolition and other works undertaken under the “Tourism Development and Reconstruction” projects,
  - c) Reinforce national laws and regulations on the protection of cultural heritage, with a specific focus on World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, and adopt bylaws/regulations to support the implementation of the *Convention* at national level,
  - d) Reinforce the heritage protection and management system by establishing a special agency responsible for the protection and management of World Heritage property, and providing it with adequate human and financial resources;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite, as a matter of urgency, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to identify the

precise threats to the OUV of the property, in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders, and to determine whether corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) can be defined, or whether the works undertaken so far have so irreversibly damaged the attributes that sustain the OUV of the property, notably its authenticity and integrity, that the property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed and should therefore be considered for possible deletion from the World Heritage List at a later session;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017.

## ANNEX II

### **Terms of Reference for the Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz World Heritage property, Uzbekistan 9 -12 December 2016**

At its 40th session, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Uzbekistan to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz World Heritage property, Uzbekistan, (Decision **40 COM 7B.48**).

The objective of the Reactive Monitoring mission was set out in that decision. It is 'to identify the precise threats to the OUV of the property, in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders, and to determine whether corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) can be defined, or whether the works undertaken so far have so irreversibly damaged the attributes that sustain the OUV of the property, notably its authenticity and integrity, that the property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed and should therefore be considered for possible deletion from the World Heritage List at a later session'.

The mission will be led by Mr Feng Jing, representing the World Heritage Centre, and Susan Denyer (United Kingdom), representing ICOMOS.

In the context of consultations with the Uzbek authorities at national, provincial and municipal levels, the mission should undertake the following:

- 1) Assess the extent of the demolition that has taken place in the historic centre under the "Tourism Development and Reconstruction" project with respect to the authenticity and integrity of the attributes of the historic centre and thus the OUV of the overall property;
- 2) Also assess the state of conservation of the remaining urban fabric in the historic centre and reconstruction projects at major monuments;
- 3) Consider the planning and documentation for the demolition project, how the project was authorised, how approvals were made and what documentation exists;
- 4) Review further planned tourism development projects;
- 5) Also review overall large-scale urban planning policies and programmes for the property and its wider setting;
- 6) Gain an understanding of how national laws and regulations for the protection of cultural heritage are applied to World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan with respect to major projects;
- 7) Discuss whether improvements might need to be adopted to support the implementation of the Convention at national and local levels;
- 8) Review the management system at the property, together with the available resources for its implementation, and assess progress with the development of a management plan.

The State Party should facilitate necessary field visits to key locations. In order to enable preparation for the mission, it would be appreciated if the following documentation could be provided to the World Heritage Centre (copied to ICOMOS) as soon as possible and preferably no later than 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016:

- 1) Detailed documentation of the demolition and other works undertaken under the “Tourism Development and Reconstruction” projects;
- 2) Details of planned major urban development programmes within the property and its wider setting.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessments and discussions with the State Party representatives and stakeholders, the mission will develop recommendations for the Government of Uzbekistan and the World Heritage Committee on the precise threats to the OUV of the property, whether Corrective Measures and a Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) can be defined, or whether the works undertaken so far have so irreversibly damaged the attributes that sustain the OUV of the property.

It should be noted that recommendations will be provided within the mission report (see below), and not during the mission.

The mission will prepare a concise report on the findings and recommendations within six weeks following the site visits, following the standard format for World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring missions.

## ANNEX III

### Final Programme

#### Joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Shakhriyabz

##### 9 December, Friday

02:50 am		Arrival in Samarkand by Aeroflot flight SU-6979 from Saint-Petersburg
03:30 am		Departure to Shakhriyabz by car
06:00 am		Arrival in Shakhriyabz, accommodation at the “Shakhriyabz Yulduzi” Hotel
11:30-13:00		Meeting at the Shakhriyabz Municipality with Minister of Culture (Debriefing of mission objectives)
13:00-14:00		Lunch
14:00-17:00		Field visit to the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz (monuments)
17:00-19:30		Meeting with State Inspection on Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Shakhriyabz District (Master Plan and Governor of Qeshi Province)
19:30-22:00		Dinner

##### 10 December, Saturday

09:30-12:30		Field visits to Ak Sarai, Mahallas
13:00-14:00		Lunch
14:30-16:30		Field Visit to the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz (Mahallas)
16:30-18:30		Meeting with representatives of Mahallas in the Historic Centre of Shakhriyabz (Community-Based Site Management)
19:00-20:00		Dinner

##### 11 December, Sunday

09:00-12:00		Departure for Samarkand by car
12:00		Arrival in Samarkand, accommodation in the “Registan Plaza” Hotel
12:30-13:30		Lunch
14:00-16:30		Wrap-up meeting with the Minister of Culture and Sports



<b>17:00-18:00</b>		<b>Visit to the Hazrat-Hizr Mosque</b> (Heritage Impact Assessment Report)
<b>18:00-18:30</b>		<b>Meeting with State Inspection on Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Samarkand Region</b>
<b>18:30-20:00</b>		<b>Dinner</b>

**12 December, Monday**

<b>04:20 am</b>		<b>Departure by Aeroflot flight SU-6980      Samarkand – Saint-Petersburg</b>
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## ANNEX IV

### **The Mission Team**

The mission team was composed of the following members:

- Dr. Feng Jing, Chief, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris);
- Mrs. Susan Denyer (United Kingdom), World Heritage Advisor of ICOMOS, representing ICOMOS International.

## ANNEX V

### **List of Persons Met during the Mission**

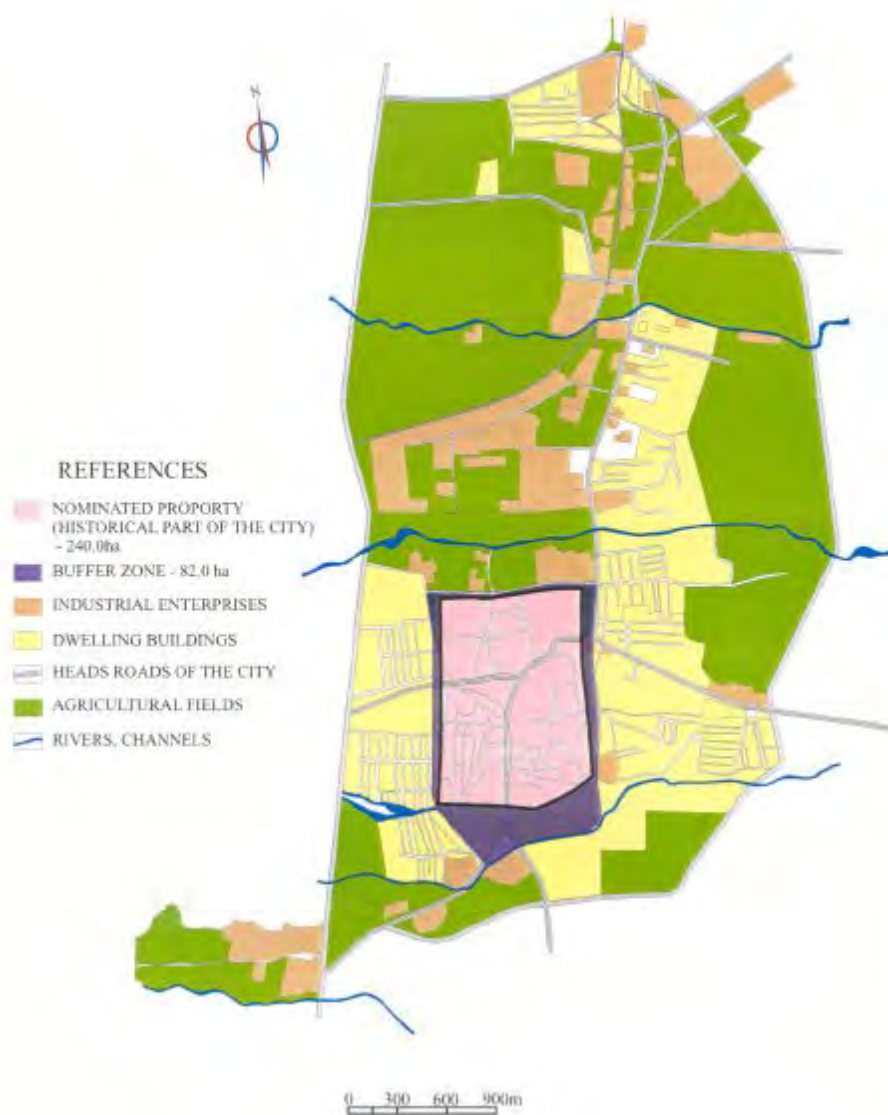
Shakhrisyabz, 9-12 December 2016

- 1) H.E. Mr Bakhodir M. Akhmedov, Minister of Culture;
- 2) H. E. Mr Azamat Tahtaev, Deputy Minister of Architecture and Construction;
- 3) H. E. Mr Akmal Nur, President of Academy of Sciences;
- 4) Mr Shukhrat Zairov, Head of the Principal Department for the Preservation and Utilization of Cultural Objects of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan
- 5) Mr Alisher Ikamonov, Secretary-General of Uzbek National Commission for UNESCO
- 6) Mr Fahriddin Norov, Hakim (Mayor) of Shakhrisyabz region
- 7) Mrs, Chief of the Master Plan for Shakhrisyabz, State Commission of Architecture and Construction
- 8) Mr Zafar Muxammadiev, Main architect of Shakhrisyabz region
- 9) Mr Bohodir Mamatov, Head of Mahalla Foundation
- 10) Mrs Krista Pikka, Director, UNESCO Tashkent Office

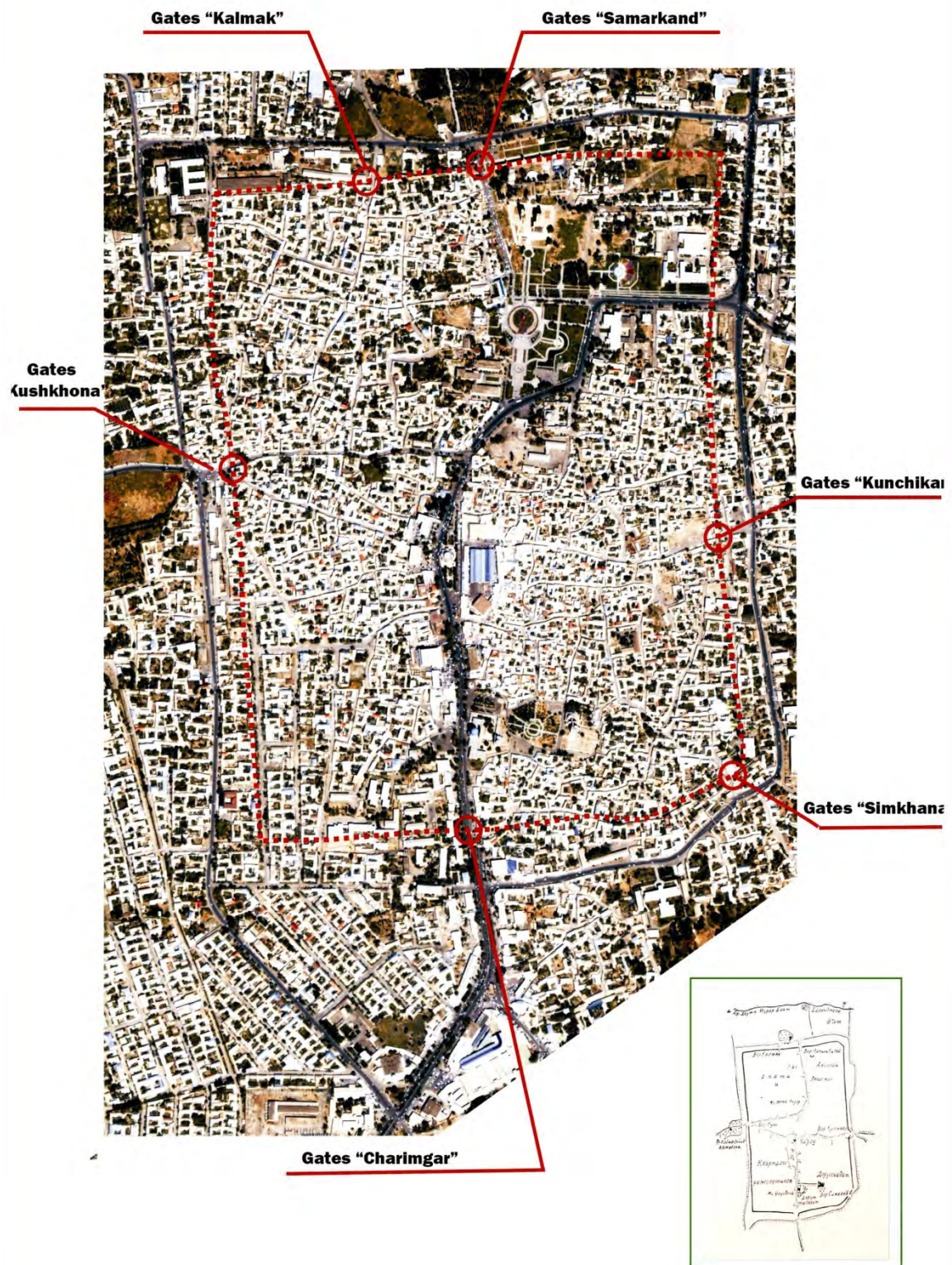
## ANNEX VI

### Maps

THE SCHEMATIC PLAN of CITY SHAKHRISYBS



# Historic part of Shakhrisyabz city





## Shakhrisabz city



**Territory state of the historic zone of Shakhrisabz for estimated period in 2013**



**Primary reconstruction works of the historic zone of Shakhrisabz city for 2016**



**Detailed planning project (DPP) of the old city part of Shakhrisabz city for period till 2020**



## Shakhrisabz city

### Scheme of demolition buildings and structures in the historic part of the city



**Territory of residential and public buildings for demolition is 31,52 ha or 12,78% from general territory of the historic zone - 246,7 ha**

## ANNEX VII

### **Photos and Satellite Images**











