

World Cultural Heritage
Historic Centre of Macao
(No.: C 1110)
Conservation Status Report 2018

1. General Summary

The State Party has always attached vital importance to the conservation and management of the Historic Centre of Macao and regarded the completion of the management plan as a matter of priority for the conservation and utilisation of the Historic Centre, particularly since the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013). The public consultation paper has now been compiled and the public consultation process completed.

The Protection and Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Macao provides a set of comprehensive, systematic, and operational regulations to ensure the preservation and sustained legacy of the Historic Centre's outstanding universal value (OUV). Heritage protection goals include not only the safeguard of important structures and their spatial composition within the World Heritage zones, but also the landscape characteristics that are found within the buffer zones, outside the buffer zones and extended to the entire Macao Peninsula. Such landscape characteristics are contributory to the value of the World Heritage and conducive to the preservation/promotion of the value.

The development of the Protection and Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Macao provides a deeper understanding of the value of the Historic Centre of Macao as World Heritage and determines the broader needs for its conservation and interpretation at the same time. On that basis, the Macao SAR Government, by adhering to the Cultural Heritage Protection Law and the Urban Planning Law and fully assimilating the ideas and principles conveyed in the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape, has taken into full consideration the relevant protection requirements for the Historic Centre of Macao, while also developing the Urban Plans for New Reclamation Urban Zones of Macao, altogether seeking to include the protection of the historic landscape and urban setting of Macao as a 'city of hills and sea' as part of the development strategies also considered for the new reclamation urban zones.

The Macao SAR Government also focused on how the World Heritage contributes to the sustainable development of Macao. Technical analysis and heritage impact assessments have been conducted prior to the commencement of any construction project that might potentially exert an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value of the Historic Centre of Macao. For the project at Macau Fisherman's Wharf and the unfinished building project on the periphery of Guia Hill, tremendous efforts have been invested in the negotiation process with the respective owners of the said properties, in order to determine a solution that works best for the reduction of potential negative impacts on the area surrounding the World Heritage property.

The protection and management level of the Historic Centre of Macao is believed to be further enhanced with the promulgation of the Protection and Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Macao.