

| Name of World Heritage property | State Party | ID number |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Old Walled City of Shibam</i> | <i>Republic of Yemen</i> | <i>C 192</i> |

STATE PARTY'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF
OLD WALLED CITY OF SHIBAM, YEMEN – INSCRIBED ON THE
WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN DANGER

Ministry of Culture - GOPHCY– February 2019

**DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS
42ND SESSION (Manama, 2018), CONCERNING OLD WALLED CITY OF
SHIBAM**

Decision : 42 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7A.53**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of the property as a result of natural elements and ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be vulnerable, owing to the residual impact of previous flooding, as well as the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organizational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the local technical actors and other parties involved in damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions, and for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the community and the other concerned stakeholders of Shibam to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions;
5. Requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details for the 'Shibam Oases Development Project';
6. Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;
7. Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in



particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;

8. Reiterates its previous calls for the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, 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 43rd session in 2019;
10. **Decides to retain the Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Old City of Shibam Hadramout As a world heritage site at danger, many of the challenges and threats the security situation in the country are still facing the armed conflict that has led to the weakening of the state and the spread of terrorist groups in Hadramout valley.

Due to the absence of international organizations and the deterioration of the economic situation of the country, GOPHCY could take measures only to maintain the minimum levels measures to stabilize the state of conservation for Shibam property, where the buildings of the city affected by floods and the terrorist bombing that needs quick intervention to save the city and preserve its cultural property.

Despite the financial constraints and difficulties, the state party continues its intensive efforts to continue the preservation of the cultural property according to the available means. The representative of the State party in the historic city of the Shibam branch expressed dissatisfaction with the mechanism carried out in the implementation of the Shibam oases project, which indicates preliminary results of the failure of the project and not achieve the desired goals and urges not to repeat such projects not studied.

And stresses its continuation in consultation with the World Heritage Center and all international parties for the preservation of cultural property

It urges international parties to continue financial and technical support to avoid the effects of the war , however would like to Thanks UNESCO's attitude towards heritage in Yemen

The State Party It Reiterates Its Call To UNESCO and international organizations to continue to put pressure on the international community to stop the war in Yemen.

The State party provided a detailed report on the conservation situation in Shibam, an integrated site management strategy on the international list.

The Ministry has also reviewed the executive bylaw t of Law No. (16) for the year (2013), which have been prepared and funded by the Social Fund for Development will be submitted soon to the Prime Minister for adoption

As a State Party that has ratified the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, we are committed to protecting the World Heritage sites and the sites listed in the preliminary list in accordance with the Yemeni Law for the Protection of Cities and Historical Sites, the Antiquities Law and other applicable laws

The State party therefore calls upon UNESCO, relevant international organizations and the international community to carry out their duties to pressure the coalition countries to stop targeting the Yemeni heritage and to assume full responsibility and physical and moral compensation for all damage caused by coalition according to the international laws, charters and treaties.

The Government of Yemen affirms that it is doing everything in its power and in accordance with the available resources and in the context of war, siege and lack of resources to reduce and protect the phenomenon of indiscriminate construction within the historical city. However, there have been a number of cases as a result of the urgent need and the severe decline in the country's low economic situation. Some owners of buildings have been reconstructed inappropriately and some shops have been created to meet the demands of social life in the disastrous circumstances of the country.

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, paragraph by paragraph

3) *Expresses* its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of the property as a result of natural elements and ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be vulnerable, owing to the residual impact of previous flooding, as well as the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organizational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;

Still Shibam Hadramout city faces many challenges and threats, especially the armed conflict and war, which has caused a deterioration in the social and economic situation, where still the effects of the terrorist bombing and flooding The State party was not able to take any conservation measures due to not provide financial support and the deterioration of the economic situation. The

threat of terrorist groups still exists because of the spread of the elements of terrorist organizations in the cities and villages of Wadi Hadramout.

Despite the efforts made by the GOPHCY branch in Shibam to reduce the damage, is still suffering from a lack of basic tools to maintain and the absence of organizational support continues, which is a real obstacle to the GOPHCY 's failure to fulfill its obligations unless it is supported by urgent financial support.

Currently, GOPHCY has lack of basic mains and continuing lack of organizational support, it gets real impediments to fulfill its obligations, unless to be reinforced by urgent international supports hopefully.

- 4) ***Commends*** the local technical actors and other parties involved in damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions and for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the community and the other concerned stakeholders of Shibam to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions;

The State party, despite the obstacles and financial difficulties, continues its intensive efforts to continue the conservation and preservation of cultural property in the city of Shibam, in accordance with the available means, and urges international partners to continue and increase the technical and financial support of the city.

thanks to UNESCO for supporting the state party to finance the current project for building and infrastructures damage assessments in Shibam.

- 5) ***Requests*** the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details for the 'Shibam Oases Development Project';

The State Party expresses its deep regret that it has not been involved or even consulted during the implementation of this project by Giz. In his capacity as the competent authority through his representative in Shibam, Director of GOPHCY Shibam. expresses his concern about the failure of the project, which is not well thought out and does not meet the requirements of conservation and needs of the city of Shibam and its residents. There have been no tangible positive results for the project so far

- 6) ***Reiterates*** the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;

The State party persists in continuing to consult with the World Heritage Center and advisory bodies on restoration and rehabilitation process to ensure respect for international preservation standards.

The State Party affirms its continued need to receive technical and financial support from all international parties UNESCO and its advisory bodies, especially in the field of training and qualification for the staff working on the site, in particular GOPHCY personnel.

The State Party welcomes the joint world heritage mission to advise on repair and conservation works.

And reiterates its request to provide urgent and rapid financial support to save the buildings of the city and we would like to point out that the work of restoration or study is not enough to save the city, the magnitude of the suffering is very large and that the State party strive after the end of the war and eliminate the effects left by the war inside the city to remove City from the danger list.

- 7) Urges** *all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;*

The State party expresses its concern about the continuation of the political crisis in Yemen which may lead to the continuation of the war, thus reducing the chances of improving the economic and security situation which is negatively reflected on the preservation process through the lack of local tools and programs to support the heritage,

The State party requests UNESCO urged international organizations to continue pressing the first of the international community to resolve the ongoing conflict in Yemen and stop the war as soon as possible.

- 8) Reiterates** *its previous call to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, adopted at the UNESCO expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures; and also calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing technical assistance and support where needed;*

The State party would like to thank the World Heritage Center for inviting the international community to provide technical and financial support to the city and to thank the UNESCO Doha office for providing some financial support and to continue to support the city in these difficult circumstances.

The state party, appreciates WH committee appeal's on the international community to provide urgent financial support for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for

capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and also calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed, and hope that all international concerned bodies to facilitate urgent reception of that supports;

The state party, is in urgent need of international community support, as it is depending too much in the role of the World Heritage Center, and Advisory Bodies and donors, to assist and support the state party in any way possible for priority conservation, management measures and capacity building programmes, as well funding emergency interventions, that should be taken during this period of time, because the most of the world culture heritage sites and tentative listed of Yemen are facing severe deterioration, due to the war and airstrikes. The local staff and experts could implement any necessary actions, if there is a serious generous support from the international communities and organizations.

The state party requests and hope of the World Heritage Center to secure funding for the participation of specialists from Yemen in the regular meetings of the World Heritage Committee to enable the state party to participate and meet experts and specialists, and to take advantage of opportunities to get support from international organizations and communities, and presents a true picture of the development of the world's cultural heritage on the ground Especially at the present time, in which the State party is confronted with many threats that have a significant impact on the process of protecting the heritage of Yemen in the context of war, siege and lack of resources.

9) Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2019, 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 43rd session in 2019;

3. Activates implemented during the year 2018

Summary of the conservation work of the city of Shibam Hadramout

The State party represented by the Minister of Culture held a number of meetings and consultations with several governmental bodies, headed by the Chamber of Deputies, the Council of Ministers, Ministries, Governors and relevant authorities, in order to acquaint them with the problems and difficulties facing the Ministry in the process of preserving the cultural heritage and historic cities listed in the World Heritage List (Sanaa - Zabid – Shibam and Socatra) and the historical and archaeological sites and monuments on UNESCO's tentative list and discuss ways of cooperation. The preservation of historic cities, sites and monuments is considered to a complex process. This is in terms of quality and hierarchy. The preservation also means revival in future and complete effectiveness with modern life. This necessarily requires the concerned authorities to have a complementary work and put efforts to strengthen institutional relationship .

This is in addition to improve the decentralized management of conservation. and takes into account the diversity of environments and the multiplicity of architectural patterns of construction.

Summary of the conservation work of the city of Shibam Hadramout

Conservation status of Shibam Hadramout 2018 - 2019 Strategy for the management of the historic city of Shibam

The report reviews the project submitted by GOPHCY Office in Shibam Hadramout to obtain the Cultural Heritage Award in the Arab World, which included a series of procedures, programs and activities in which a number of projects submitted by Arab countries competed to the ICCROM Center in Sharjah in 2018.

The project explains the management strategy of the city of Shibam Hadramout by GOPHCY in presents of the challenges of war and political crisis in Yemen, in order to preserve the buildings of the city of Shibam Hadramout, due to the war in Yemen, that resulted to the absence of the state and weak implementation of laws and legislation and the lack of supervision of the community in the construction process, as well as increase the burden on the body responsible for the Preservation of the city of Shibam

(GOPHCY). The General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities, through its office in Shibam, has developed a series of plans and programs in the form of a strategy for the management of the historic site (Shibam City)

Including the implementation of a long-term policy bearing the slogan "Our heritage is our responsibility"

Highlights of the draft strategy:

1. Engage the local community in responsibility and preserve its historic city as the true owner of the city's heritage.
2. Engage local authorities on site.
3. Involvement of civil society organizations.
4. Intensify communication with competent international organizations in heritage.
5. Implementation of building restoration programs.
6. Implementation of workshops and community meetings.
7. Awareness programs, bulletins and urgent appeals for rescue and restoration

Positive impacts of the project:

Shibam site management strategy project has implications for various social, economic and environmental aspects:

Impact on the social level: the return of all families displaced from the city of Shibam during armed clashes and bombing near the city. With an increased sense of belonging to the heritage of the city of Shibam.

Economic level: The project provided jobs for a large number of construction and restoration workers in the city of Shibam, where the number of workers doubled, in addition to some individuals have trade in building materials. In other words, the project has contributed to the process of economic development, poverty alleviation and reduction of unemployment in order to achieve economic development at the community level.

At the international level: The city of Shibam has not registered any violations or architectural defects recorded in the records of international organizations where it can be said that the city of zero violations even with the challenges of war and the crisis in Yemen.

Sustainability:

Our strategy in the project aimed to achieve the principles of sustainability, whether economically or socially, where new young workers have been introduced into the construction of mud. These workers can continue in this profession and carry out works outside of the historical city of Shibam, The sustainability of the project also includes the development of technical skills in traditional employment.

The project management strategy of Shibam Hadramout has met all means, methods and methodologies to maintain the level of local laws or international regulations and conventions between Yemen and international organizations,

Project Results: The project management strategy of Shibam Hadramout was selected as one of the 14 best conservation projects in the Arab region for the Arab Cultural Heritage Award in 2017. The project was presented by Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Sudan and Yemen.

Main conservation work carried out during 2018

- 1) An integrated plan for the implementation of the damage inventory project for the city's historic buildings has been prepared and delivered to the Social Fund for Development. The comprehensive inventory project is expected to start in early 2019.
- 2) Develop an integrated conservation strategy to manage the heritage site.
- 3) Prepare limited studies to repair buildings damaged by terrorist bombing and floods. At an initial cost of US \$ 311,000.
- 4) Preparation of a study for the restoration and maintenance of the historical palace of Sayoun.
- 5) Preparation of a study for the establishment of the government complex of Shibam, Hadramout, so that the building is suitable for the architectural character of the city

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

- Continued armed conflict in Yemen.
- Lack of resources in the heritage sector.
- Continued economic and social deterioration.
- Natural factors and their impact on buildings and monuments affected, especially the fear of repeated floods.

5. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, please describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the protected area (core zone and buffer zone and/or corridors) that might be envisaged.

Non

6. Public access to the state of conservation report

State Party, doesn't mind to upload the report for public access.

Signature of The Authority

Abdullah Ahmed Alkebsi

Minister of Culture

Sana'a February 2019

