



Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C 1437)

State of Conservation Report

Prepared by

High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR)



High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR)

1. Executive summary for the state of conservation report of Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C1437) / November 2019

- In response to the most recent Decision (42 COM 7B.53) of the World Heritage Committee, the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR), acting as the dedicated institution in charge of site management that implements and coordinates ongoing and planned activities, is hereby reporting on the state of conservation of the property and on its continuing efforts in the implementation of activities and measures in various fields, particularly those undertaken to prevent threats to the property's OUV, as outlined below:
 - The HCECR is undertaking efforts for elaborating opportunities for **implementing conservation and revitalization programs in cooperation with local and international partners**. Within the context of built heritage preservation, development of necessary infrastructures and of generating opportunities for adaptive reuse of the Citadel's buildings while adhering with the Citadel's plans, the HCECR proceeded with approaching national and international donors, and/or applying for specific funds for implementing conservation and restoration projects. In the last two years, the HCECR was able to pursue long-lasting partnerships and engage in new collaborations. The Kurdish Regional Government continued to provide limited funds to implement regular site monitoring and emergency preservation actions.
 - The HCECR is continuing with **conservation works for preserving the built heritage**, through executing the emergency repair for consolidation, stabilization and maintenance works for selected houses inside and around the perimeter of the Citadel that require urgent intervention. The HCECR is also implementing the conservation and rehabilitation works for other heritage buildings, such as a heritage complex, the *hammam* and an infill project of office building.
 - The HCECR is continuing with **archaeological research**, in collaboration with the University of Rome, through undertaking studies of the items found during the archaeological excavations at the Citadel, and through realizing a complete non-destructive geophysical survey of the Citadel. Various scientific articles recently published are attached to this report.
 - Within the framework of enhancing **interpretative and visitation facilities**, HCECR continued in developing interpretation and presentation facilities for the property, as the open-air theatre, and the foreseen Barzani Museum, the urban enhancement of the Citadel central pathway and the Children Interpretation Center. In addition, HCECR published interpretation material. Two books are attached to this report.
 - The HCECR continued its efforts in **generating various cultural activities and public events for encouraging the involvement of the local community** through coordinating with civil society organizations, cultural foundations, diplomatic missions in addition to individual artists, to hold several activities and events at the property, aiming at promoting art, heritage, culture, peace and humanity.
- There are no current major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property and the buffer zone, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. With regards to the issue of the proposed project for the Kurdistan Museum that has been halted, HCECR was verbally informed by the Erbil Governorate that there is not yet a final decision on implementation plans.