



Aerial view of Göbekli Tepe in 2013 (Image: DAI, Göbekli Tepe Project)

GÖBEKLİTEPE

State of Conservation Report

December 2019

Turkey



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

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Göbekli Tepe (Turkey) (Ref.1572)

1. Executive Summary of the report

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

The following document includes responses to the recommendations in Decision 42COM 8B.34 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd Session (Manama, 2018) regarding urgent considerations to issues incl. monitoring developments around the property that may have an affect on the landscape and visual integrity, and the archaeological potential of the property; impact on the property of the proposed railway line located approx. 2.5 km of Göbekli Tepe on the south and south-east direction; irrigation channel; quarry; re-assessment of the degree of the statutory designation of the buffer zone; and revision of the management plan.

The Committees recommendation mainly focus on the revisions to the Management Plan prepared for the WH Property (Jan.2017) so as to include: a conservation plan; maintenance plan; risk preparedness plan; visitor management plan; and above all to appoint a manager based at the property all year round.

An on-site staff has been appointed (Oct.2018) and conservation plan (incl. issues of risk management and maintenance) is under review (as of Nov.2019) and pending confirmation due to circumstances as described in detail in Parag.e.(i).

Detailed definition of stages and timeframe for the visitor management plan are both incl. in Parag.e.(v) and *Annex 3 (Göbekli Tepe Visitor Management Preparation Work Stages – incl. a timeframe)*.

An assessment of the impact of the proposed railway line has not been carried out – as the route of the railway line which will connect Şanlıurfa to Diyarbakır and Mardin is under revision (Nov.2019).

With this revision the railway line will be even further away (approx. 4.5 km. of Göbekli Tepe) from the boundaries of the WH Property, its buffer zone or the larger protected area (presented in the Management Plan and currently called the management area).

Issues regarding the irrigation channel (loc. 3.5 km. south-east of the WH Prop.) and the quarry are incl. in Parag.c.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism (through the General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums) is already taken precautionary measures to strengthen the protection measures for the 3rd degree archaeological conservation area (= *buffer zone*) detailed under Parag.d.

The field research will begin in Apr.2020.

The State Party has identified no other current conservation issues which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value. Nor are any potential major restorations, alterations or new construction intended within the property or the buffer zone that may affect the Outstanding Universal value of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.

Only the executive summary can be open for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.