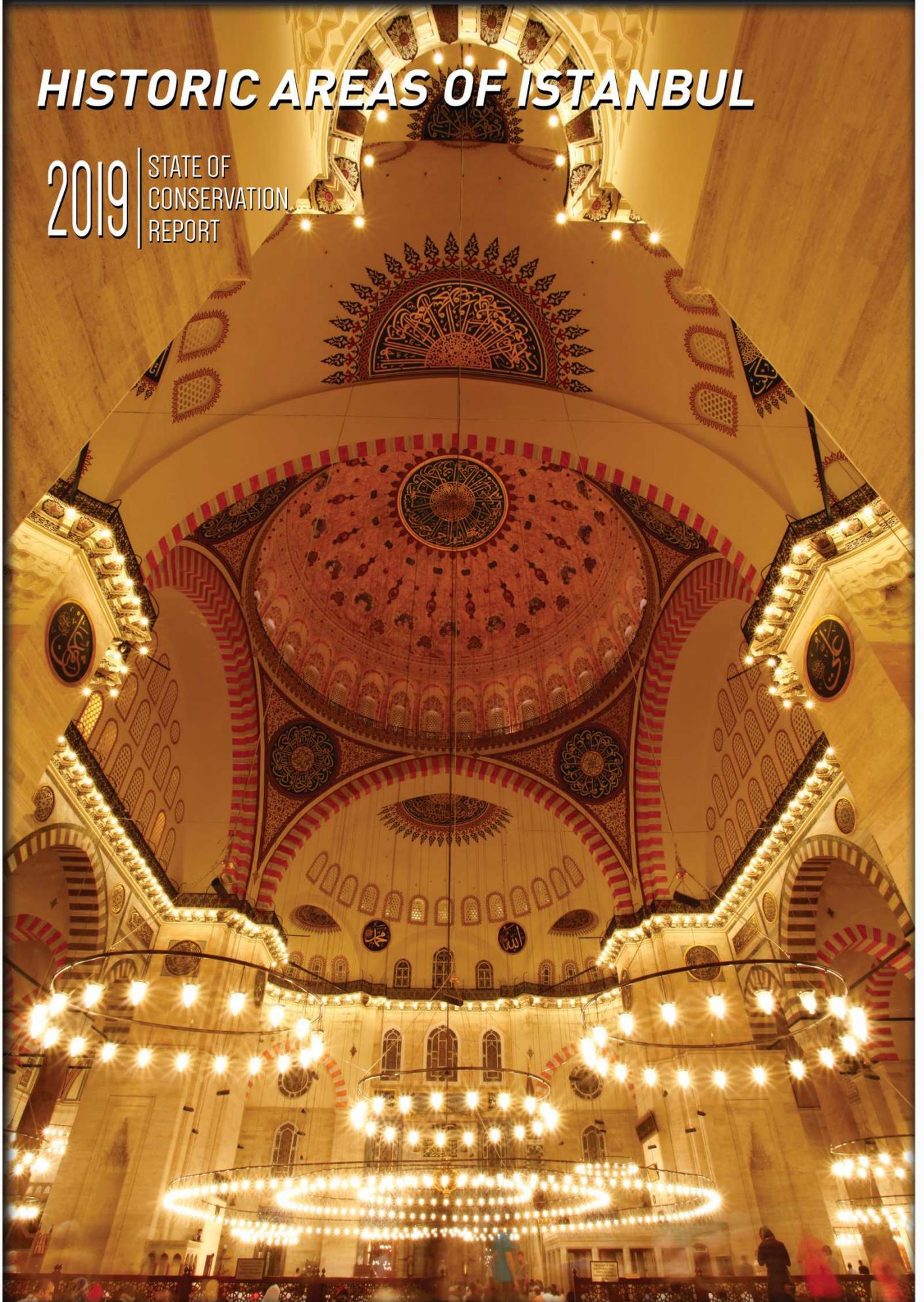


HISTORIC AREAS OF ISTANBUL

2019 | STATE OF
CONSERVATION
REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present report was prepared as per Article 9 (**requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 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 44th session in 2020**) of the decision 42 COM 7B on the Historic Areas of Istanbul taken by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its 42nd Session (Bahrain-Manama).

The first part of the two-part report is dedicated to the issues covered in the resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. This chapter features, along with the projects and activities stated in the decision, especially transportation and infrastructure projects and activities undertaken within or near the borders of the Historic Peninsula Site Management Plan Area. The second part consists of training, promotion and awareness raising activities of the relevant institutions and stakeholders for the UNESCO World Heritage Site and cultural heritage.

In 2018, the Site Management Directorate held a meeting with the Governorship of Istanbul to discuss **examples of civil architecture** addressing the status of registered timber structures in the World Heritage Site, the possibility of maintenance through simple maintenance and repair and related funds. In this context, a decision was made to provide financial aid from the Contribution Share for the Preservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage to conduct simple maintenance and repair for 10 personally owned registered timber structures in Süleymaniye, which have been worn and not maintained due to financial difficulties. The activity has been carried out in partnership with the Site Management Directorate, Directorate of Investment Monitoring and Coordination of the Governorship of Istanbul and Fatih Municipality. The Governorship of Istanbul approved the cash aid to the related buildings and transferred the preservation fund to the Fatih Municipality, which is responsible for implementation. Fatih Municipality completed the simple maintenance and repair works of these 10 registered wooden buildings in Süleymaniye in January 2019. A similar ongoing project started for 10 wooden buildings in Zeyrek.

Synthesis is conducted in the project related to the **Statement of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the Importance of the Site**. The plan foresees the finalization of the project in a focus group meeting with the participation of relevant experts and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism representatives and its submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Center.

Historic Areas of Istanbul Site Management Directorate closely monitors all plans, projects and works that may affect the World Heritage Site through the official letters submitted by the responsible and related institutions to the Site Management, meetings it attends as part of the Conservation Boards with the status of “observer member” and news in print/visual media. The Ministry of Culture and

Tourism and the Directorate of Site Management reminds Article 172 of the Operational Guideline of the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Convention, necessity to undertake **CHIA** for plans and projects that may affect the World Heritage Committee decisions and the site through official letters submitted to relevant institutions and organizations.

Istanbul Site Management Directorate held a CHIA workshop to increase the awareness of administrators, designers, planners, contracting companies, consultants and local/central decision-making bodies about CHIA, to benefit from the experience of other directorates of site management in Turkey, which encountered similar problems, to ensure a better understanding and implementation of the CHIA process by all responsible and related institutions, and to contribute to ICOMOS's revision of the CHIA Guide. The workshop was held on 17-18 April 2019 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, supported by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Directorate of Cultural Heritage and sponsored by IMM KİPTAŞ. Approximately 100 experts participated in the workshop, including the people/institutions who prepared/currently prepare and requested to prepare a CHIA Report as well as representatives of related central and local governments, professional chambers and NGOs, and academics from universities.

The Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment workshop concluded that **“each country should prepare a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Guide that takes into account its own dynamics and that the guide should be included in the national legislation of that country”**. In this context, a focus group meeting was held on how the contents of the guide should be. The meeting was held on 15.10.2019 and related academics and experts participated in the study. The report prepared by the Directorate of Site Management on the CHIA workshop mentioned above and the CHIA panel organized in Baku during the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session will be submitted.

In accordance with the decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the State Party invited a **UNESCO WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission** to evaluate conservation and restoration projects such as the Kariye Museum and Zeyrek Mosque in line with the recommendations of the “2016 Reactive Monitoring Mission” report. The Advisory Mission, held on 15-16 April 2019, was headed by Dr. Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel from UNESCO World Heritage Center Head of Europe and North America Region and Paul Drury from ICOMOS International. On the first day of the two-day Advisory Mission, representatives of the relevant institutions and organizations and experts provided detailed information to the mission committee regarding the Bukoleon Palace project, the restoration project for the Land Walls, the restoration of the Molla Mehmet Zeyrek Mosque, the restoration of the Chora Museum and the reconstruction of the Hagia Sophia Madrasa. On the other hand, the second day was spared to the field trip to see the restoration works on the above-mentioned monumental works in situ.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Directorate General of Foundations, Governorship of Istanbul, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Fatih Municipality conduct **large-scale restoration projects** in monumental structures such as Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace, the Land Walls, Molla Gürani Mosque, Basilica Cistern and Beyazıt Mosque across the entire World Heritage Site and Historical Peninsula. The report provides detailed information about the restoration works and their current stages.

Works are underway in Land Walls, which is divided into 4 stages by the Directorate of Cultural Heritage Projects of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Directorate General of Cultural Heritage. All the survey and restitution projects concerning Land Walls are about to be approved by the Conservation Board. However, restoration projects will be evaluated by the relevant Conservation Board along with the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report. Land Walls CHIA report studies are still ongoing. After the completion of the CHIA-related activities, the report will be forwarded to the UNESCO World Heritage Center for evaluation by the relevant advisory bodies.

This part of the report also feature projects and works undertaken in the World Heritage Site and within and around the borders of the Historic Peninsula Administration Area. Mainly focused on transportation and infrastructure, they include lighting, urban transformation, square arrangement and cruise port projects.

The second part of the report consists of **publicity, awareness raising and training activities**. This section covers the activities carried out by the Directorate of Historic Areas of Istanbul, the activities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Directorate for Survey and Monuments, 2019 activities of Conservation, Implementation and Inspection Unit (KUDEB) of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Directorate of Cultural Heritage and also the activities conducted by Fatih Municipality's KUDEB unit.

On the other hand, City Planner M. Mustafa TURAL was appointed as the Director of the Historic Areas of Istanbul by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism on September 26, 2019.

All the information and documents included in the report have been obtained from the authorized and related institutions and organizations undertaking projects and studies in the field and express the State Party's efforts to protect and pass on the World Heritage Site to future generations.