

PERMANENT DELEGATION OF TURKEY

TO UNESCO



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Paris, 1 February 2020

Dear Mrs. Anatole-Gabriel,

I would like to convey herewith the State of Conservation (SOC) Report of the “Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape”, in accordance with the decision “43 COM 7B.91” adopted at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, for the examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session to be held in 2020.

With kind regards,

Eylem TANDOĞAN
Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Delegate

Encl: 1 USB

Mrs. Isabelle Anatole Gabriel
Chief of Europe and North America Unit
the World Heritage Center, UNESCO

Cc: Ms. Gwenaelle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

1. Executive Summary

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision **43 COM 7B. 90** of the World Heritage Committee, taken in the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

The works within the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone were carried out by taking into consideration the issues specified in the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan of the site, as well as the provisions of the Conservation Plan. Projects carried out in the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zones were discussed in detail during the meetings organized by the Scientific Commission, which was formed with the participation of experts from different disciplines, and regarding the projects, the necessary approvals were received by the Diyarbakır Regional Council for the Conservation of Cultural Properties.

In the studies carried out, interventions that would have a negative impact on the OUV of the site were avoided. In this context, regarding the Diyarbakır City Walls, it was aimed to find solutions to damages and structural problems, and technical and scientific analyses were made in detail.

There has been no physical intervention to the World Heritage Site (Diyarbakır City Walls) in urban design projects in the Buffer Zone Suriçi. In all works in the Buffer Zone (Suriçi), the historical texture of the site was taken into consideration and the implementations that would adversely affect the visual integrity were avoided by limiting the construction to 2 floors. As a result of the distorted construction from the past years and the terrorist attacks in 2015, the problems of the local people waiting for urgent solutions were taken into consideration. The provisions of the 2012 Conservation Plan largely remain valid. The changes made in the plan were created in order to find solutions to some problems arising from the terrorist incidents.

Regarding the projects stated in the previous State of Conservation Reports, which are Tigris River Rehabilitation Project, Diyarbakır Landscaping Project for Areas Outside the City Walls, Urban Renewal Project in Dicle and Ferit Köşk Neighbourhoods of Yenişehir District, a physical and constructive implementation has not yet started.

The implementations of the Tigris Valley Recreation and Forestation Project were carried out before the 43.COM 7B.90 decision of the WHC. With this project, multi-storey buildings, which are stated in the Nomination Dossier as having a negative impact on the visual integrity of the area, were demolished and landscaping was carried out.

Necessary plans have been made for joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission officials to Turkey to conduct examinations in the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zones. The mission visit is expected to take place in April 2020.