

## Report on the State of Conservation 2019

### The Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

(May 2002, in Danger)

ID Number: Ref: (C 211 rev)

1. Response from Afghanistan to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 44COM 7A.

**a) Corrective measures taken by Afghanistan in reply to the World Heritage Committee's Decision(s):**

In May 2019 the Minaret of Jam and its surrounding once again affected due to flows of heavy floods in several days and some part of the retaining wall which was built in 2014 on the bank of JamRud has been destroyed.

At the end of May 2019 a mission carried out to the Jam site by a joint group of the Afghan expert, Department of Archeology and Department of Historical Monuments with the purpose of the assessment of current status of Minaret and its surrounding, and assessment of the status of the protection walls after floods. According to the experts report due to flows of floods some part of the retaining wall at the bank of Jamrud has been washed-out and the bed of the Jamrud and Harirud rivers filled by sediment materials which needs for emergency cleaning work as will reconstruction of the damaged parts of retaining walls requires by afghan expert before future possible flooding events.

Due to emergency action of the Ministry of Information and Culture an amount of 109000 U\$ allocated for cleaning of sediment materials from the bed of rivers and reconstruction of damaged retaining wall, its planned that the above mentioned activities must be implemented before April - May 2020.

The Ministry of Information and Culture have planned in 2020 to produce an overall action plan for the emergency conservation work of the Jam Minaret, in this regard several meetings had been organized with the relevant Government organization and UNESCO Kabul office authorities, and also under takes a mission to the Jam site in 2020 by a joint group of the Afghan officials and UNESCO experts.

- **Protection** – To ensure the OUV of the Jam Minaret, extension of gabion walls at the south bank of the Hari Rud and planting of trees upstream of the minaret was planned to tackle future possible flooding events. A system of recording the height and flow of

rivers at the upstream and downstream of the banks of Hari Rud and Jam Rud River should be set in order to monitor future seasonal flooding.

- Monitoring through Total Station surveys needs in order to identify possible movements of the inclination of the Minaret after floods events in 2019, in this regard the Ministry of Information and Culture requires technical assistance and financial support of UNESCO and other international community.

**Community development:**

The Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Rural Development, had periodical meetings in Kabul to construct a footbridge over the Hari Rud to enable year-round access for inhabitants of the nearby villages and access to the Jam World Heritage site for future conservation works. But the construction of the bridge is depending on the allocation of the national budget in 2020, as will security situation on the site.

**Site security:**

The Ministry of Information and Culture and the Ministry of Interior Affairs have deployed a team of police officers to monitor and safeguard the World Heritage property. They are currently in place at the site to address the issue of illicit traffic of any movable cultural properties underground.

**Project guest house:**

Due to flows of floods in May 2019, site office of department of Historical Monuments MoIC in Jam completely damaged. In order to set a new site office for a basic accommodation to experts during the mission at Jam, an amount of budget is allocated by the Ministry of Information and Culture in 2020. Therefore, the re construction of the site office will be started in 2020.

No further work has been conducted at the Jam site in 2019 due to insecurity.

Best Regards

Depl. Architect Ab.Ahad Abassi

Director of DoHM

Professor Mohammad Rasul Bawary

Deputy Minister for Culture & Art

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