

World Cultural Heritage
Historic Centre of Macao
(No.: C 1110)
Conservation Status Report 2020

Overview

The State Party strictly follows the heritage protection and management requirements of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (hereinafter referred to as the “Operational Guidelines”), actively responding to the decisions adopted at the sessions of the World Heritage Committee, and continuing to develop and improve legal guidelines and regulations to safeguard the authenticity and integrity of the heritage of the Historic Centre of Macao. Since the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, 2019), the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (hereinafter referred to as the “MSAR Government”) has completed the *Project of the “Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2020-2040)”* (hereinafter referred to as the “Master Plan Project”), pushing ahead with the legislation of the *Protection and Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Macao* (hereinafter referred to as the “Management Plan”), and further improving heritage protection and management mechanisms by optimizing the technical processes involved in heritage impact assessment and conducting such assessment particularly in regard to the construction projects around the Guia Hill. Formulated based on the *Cultural Heritage Protection Law* and other related legislation, with ideas and principles centered on the *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*, the Master Plan Project establishes the protection of cultural heritage as the precondition and priority of urban planning, extending the scope of protection from the Historic Centre of Macao to all the classified immovable properties, particularly in regard to the visual corridors and protection zones of the Historic Centre of Macao and the entire city as a whole. This represents a deep understanding and strong awareness of the importance of safeguarding this heritage’s landscape value.

In the process of planning and construction of the New Reclamation

Urban Zones, the State Party takes into full consideration the needs for the continued protection of the Historic Centre of Macao, as well as the sustainability of urban development and heritage protection, while keeping in touch with the UNESCO World Heritage Center and its Advisory Bodies regarding relevant developments. The Master Plan Project defines the functions of each area in the New Reclamation Urban Zones, establishing guidelines for the development of each area, and remaining focused on the historic urban landscape as stated in the *Technical Report of the Master Plan for the Macao New Urban Zone* submitted in 2018 (hereinafter referred to as the “Technical Report”), providing a legal reference for the detailed future planning of each area. Currently, a detailed plan is being compiled for the New Urban Zone Area A. The plan for constructing a light railway line to connect Area A and Area E has been finalized and is now awaiting the completion of the respective public consultation. The mentioned railway line will be developed underground (or undersea) to avoid any impact on the surrounding landscape.

As it continues to intensify efforts to protect the heritage, the State Party also remains active in strengthening public education on heritage protection and increasing public awareness of heritage value by various means. Through effective promotional activities, focused on inspiring and encouraging the active role of the general public, government organizations and societies are also paying greater attention and participating more actively on integrated urban development programs and the protection of the heritage of the Historic Centre of Macao, also improving knowledge and deepening emotional connection with the local heritage. Thanks to such efforts, satisfactory results have been achieved in enriching the interpretation value of this heritage, also with other parallel initiatives aimed at increasing the public’s appreciation for

heritage protection and management.

The State Party attributes great importance to the protection of the visual corridors linked to the Guia Lighthouse and remains cautious in addressing the issues arising from nearby construction projects, in order to safeguard the integrity of the heritage landscape and ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the Historic Centre of Macao is not jeopardized. According to the heritage impact assessment study conducted on the unfinished building project close to the Guia Lighthouse, it was considered that “finalizing the construction project at its current height” is a reasonable technical solution that gives equal consideration to both heritage protection and the need for urban development. All the new construction projects developed around Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues abide by the restrictions on the height limits prescribed by the Order of the Chief Executive No. 83/2008 – a regulatory document issued in order to protect the visual corridors linked to the Guia Lighthouse, specifically intended to avoid damage to its surrounding landscape setting.

Above all, the State Party gives serious consideration to the protection of the world cultural heritage and responds actively to the opinions and recommendations of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions. Thanks to the progressive attitude of the local government, the efficiency of administrative coordination, the professionalism, as well as the effectiveness in execution and planning ability between relevant heritage management parties, with the active participation of the general public, government organizations and societies in urban development and heritage protection, the Historic Centre of Macao is now equipped with a relatively mature “top-down” administrative model for heritage protection and management. Through heritage-related activities and public consultations on relevant regulations, the MSAR Government has inspired and developed in the general public, government organizations

and societies an awareness about the importance of heritage protection, increasing public attention towards the protection of the Historic Centre of Macao, strengthening their sense of responsibility and participation in the decision-making processes concerning the protection of the heritage, and actively encouraging a “bottom-up” participation model for heritage protection based on the joint efforts of the general public. The combination of the mentioned “top-down” model with a “bottom-up” model effectively enables the continuous improvement of the management of the Historic Centre of Macao and an overall better protection of the heritage.