Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities
State Board of Antiquities & Heritage
International Organizations Department
State of Conservation report
Hatra
In response to the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, Fuzhou, China 2021
Decision 44 COM 7A.7

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Baghdad
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FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION
REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES
(In compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)
Hatrap World Heritage site
State Party: Iraq
Hatrap ID: 277
Hatrap district, Nineveh Governorate, Iraq
Founded: 3rd or 2nd century BC
Coordinates: N35 35 17.016 E42 43 5.988
Date of Inscription: 1985
Danger List (dates): 2015-present
Criteria: (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)
Property: 323.75 ha
Buffer zone:
Ref: 276rev
Region: ARB
Country: IQ
Type: C

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1- Executive Summary of the report

This report is submitted in response to the World Heritage Committee Decision (44 COM 7A .7) in its 44th extended session (Fuzhou, 2021), which requests the State Party to submit a State of Conservation Report to the World Heritage Committee to review the status of Hatra world heritage property. Therefore, it contains summery of important topics related to the management and conservation of Hatra world heritage site, taking into consideration that the security of Hatra WH site is stable enough that permit us to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to help in assessing Hatra damage and discuss together the short, medium, and long term goals and action required to protect the property and implement corrective measures aiming at achieving the DSOCR depending on the fact that Hatra subjected a minor destruction and damage and no way could be compared to other archaeological sites destructed by ISIS . The report is submitted for considerations by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th Session to be held in Kazan, Russian Federation 19-30 June 2022. The progress report further contains updates on the Sate of conservation of Allat temple, Shamiyyah Temple, Hatra Temenos and other subterranean monuments that are on the revised management plan.
2. in Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

Decision: 44 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions 43 COM 7A.19 and 43 COM 7A.21 adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),

3. Taking into account Decision 44 COM 7A.9, on the World Heritage properties of Iraq,

4. Notes the State Party’s efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground, welcomes the submitted ‘Damage Assessment Report Status Study’, takes note of the documentation carried out, and urges the State Party to compile comprehensive information on the state of conservation of the property, particularly detailed assessment of the damage needed to facilitate the protection, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the important monuments;

5. Requests the State Party to submit all assessments it has undertaken, and to carry out a more detailed damage assessment, including systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics and quantitative data, as well as identification of potential risks to the property, prior to taking any action on the ground, and to submit this assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Reiterates its request that interventions be addressed within the framework of the overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive conservation plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Encourages the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the State Party to collaborate and to draw upon the Damage Assessment Report Status Study in order to progress the elaboration of a set of correctives measures and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from
the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as well as identification of means by which the state of conservation of the property can be verified;

8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, once security conditions permit, to assist in assessing damage at the property, and discuss with the State Party authorities the Decisions adopted during the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee WHC/21/44.COM/18, p. 24 short , medium- and long-term goals and actions required to protect the property, in order to implement corrective measures and achieve the DSOCR;

9. Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;

10. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session;

12. Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Fulfillment of item 4 and 5 of the above mentioned decision on Hatra

4. Notes the State Party’s efforts to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground, welcomes the submitted ‘Damage Assessment Report Status Study’, takes note of the documentation carried out, and urges the State Party to compile comprehensive information on the state of conservation of the property, particularly detailed assessment of the damage needed to facilitate the protection, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the important monuments;

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1- Allat Temple:

During the excavation season of 1974 and 1975 archaeologists of the Iraqi Directorate General of Antiquities (now it is called State Board of Antiquities and Heritage) uncovered at Hatra a huge edifice, built of ashlar masonry, located in the forecourt of the Great Temple. The building was a temple dedicated to the worship of Allat, the great Arab goddess. This identification is based on epigraphic evidence and sculptural representations, some of which offered in turn evidence for the goddess's assimilation with Nemesis, the omnipresent Greek goddess of justice and vengeance. The plan and architecture of the temple exhibit the distinctive features of the Hatrene style, characterized by the appearance of a triple iwan. In this way the temple is similar to the southern and northern units of the great iwans, the temple of the Triad and the temple of Smya, though its dimensions are larger. The inscriptive evidence indicates that it was King Sanatruq who was responsible for planning and building the temple. However, the final stages of the work were completed by his son, 'Abdsmya, who acted as Sanatruq's viceroy before succeeding him as king. Both kings left their images carved in high relief in two niches in the small iwans. (wathiq al—Salīhi-IRAQ)

Post ISIS, Damage assessment - Allat temple:

1- Most of its façade decorations eroded as a result of weathering and ISIS attack (figure 1)

2- The Allat Temple stairs lead to its terrace damaged and eroded severely due to natural causes as well as lack of maintenance, restoration and conservation. It’s time to make an action to prevent more future deterioration.

3- The bas relief scenes on the temple façade suffered some erosion as a result of the state of neglects accompanying any conflict and instability (figure 3).

4- Bulges in the temple inner walls caused by rain water seeping through the adobe that forms the filling material of the double-leaf wall. This moisture
swells once it is trapped behind the wall, causing the wall building material (stone) to bulge outward (figure 4).

5- Allat temple back wall that located on the western side is considered one of the most serious problems, where this wall is oblique in about 50 cm. What increases our concern is the fact that Hatra located on the seismic line, therefore, an urgent intervention is required before too late.

2- Shamiyyah Temple:

It lies in front of (Shahiro) temple. It is directed to the north and consists of a large Iwan and a small one on its side leading to a rectangle area. Its plan and the architectural style are one of the oldest models in Hatra, which consists of the central area and two suites. Perhaps this temple was dedicated to the worship of the god Shamiyyah (the banner). The time of its construction goes back to the stage of lords, (80-155 AD). Copper bells were found in this temple that indicate their use in religious rituals or when danger threatening the city, (Figure 5).

The key stone of the middle Iwan arch that constitutes the main supporter of the arch sloped down its position, to put the entire arch in collapse danger. An urgent intervention needed before the disaster become reality (Figure 6).

3-Trinity Temple:

This temple located to the south of Shamiyyah temple. It consists of a large Iwan flanked by two story smaller Iwans. It dedicated to worship the Trinity of Hatra (Marn, Martin, Barmarn), where three sculptures represented them found there. It constructed on a platform 7 cm above the ground level, reached by three divided courses of stairs (figure 7)

The temple affected features:

1-The Trinity temple platform stairs subjected to weathering especially high humidity. Most of the stairs edges were damaged totally. The lack of conservation and restoration may cause a complete damage in future (figure7).
2- The facade bas-relief of the temple, affected severely by hard natural conditions, lack of conservation and restoration (figure 8).

3- The temple inner walls were affected by relative humidity fluctuation in the east and west Trinity temple Iwans. (figure 9)

4- The Temple relief and decoration affected by erosion due to natural conditions and lack of maintenance and preservation. Many of its human relief sculptures were also destroyed by ISIS (Figure 10)

5- Remaining parts of the semi-cylindrical volt of the temple’s central courtyard, which has cracks that may expose it to collapse (Fig. 11)

**Hatras current state of conservation:**

**Timeframe:**

It was agreed with the Italian side on a three to five-year conservation plan to carry out consolidation and restoration for the parts prone to collapse and we will send it after it is agreed upon soon.

**Important:**

1- Hatra Outstanding Universal Values are still preserved like building units, walls, towers, gates, city prohibited areas…etc.

2- Major looting of Iraqi archaeological sites (issue resolved)

3- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict (issue about to be solved)

**Steps to fulfil corrective measures:**

**a- Hatra restoration project**

On 20 February 2020, an Italian team visited and documented Hatra WH site with all its walls using a (drone), and managed to identify the temples and the statues damage that were destroyed by ISIS.
b- Hatra and ALIPH organization:

There is cooperation between the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) and the International Alliance for the protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), under the title (First AID Intervention to the World Heritage Site of Hatra after DAESH Occupation). The project aims to identify, coordinate, funding and monitor Hatra World Heritage site to provide quick and urgent first aid to this cultural heritage which was already damaged due to conflict.

Hatra Statuary Salvage Project

HaSSP project was great, that accomplished a restoration work of 99% the affected Hatra statues post ISIS.

Italian Expedition/ Residential House Rehabilitation:

The work commenced at the beginning of February 2021, when work was done to rehabilitating, furnishing and equipping the residence of the Italian Expedition. Furthermore, an alternative clean energy has been installed. Solar panels were used for the first time in the archaeological sites of Iraq. This idea proved to be successful and will be developed in the future. (figure 12)

Rehabilitation of Antiquities Protection Police Station:

One of the buildings close to the residence of the foreign expedition was rehabilitated to be the Antiquities Protection Police station, in conjunction with the rehabilitation of the Expedition Residence.

Conservation Laboratory Rehabilitation:

A laboratory has been created to conserve the artifact in one of the halls near the foreign expedition residence (figure 13).
Restoration, Conservation and Preservation works:

The work began in April and May 2021, by returning the human faces to their original places in the southern facade of the great temple, as well as restoring the knight statue in the northern Iwan of the same temple, in addition to the restoring of the statue located near the lab. We will release the details of our work in February, 2022. (Image 14)

Hatran Temenos Rehabilitation and lighting:

Meanwhile the first working group started the artifacts restoration work, the second group cleaned up the site from waste as well as war remnants left by the terrorist organization inside the archaeological site, besides, all temples were cleaned up of bushes, weeds, and waste. The work was done carefully, as the waste may contain explosive devices and in order not lose important historical evidences. A clean energy of Solar panels was used for the first time in lighting the temenos (Figure 1)

Allat Temple Floor:

In this season, Allat Temple floor was cleaned and covered with two layers of jostyle and building sand, aiming at preserving its original floor. (Figure 16).

Closing entrances to the temples:

During this season, all entrances to the temples were closed by iron gates similar to the old ones removed by ISIS. (Image 17)

Wellheads closure:

During this season, all wellheads were closed as part of the conservation and preservation works.

Ground and Aerial Documentation:

In this season, a laser scan was used to document and photograph all the temples, walls, and gates of Hatra, in addition to making a 3D model. This was the first step of its kind in documenting Iraq archaeological sites, where
anyone in the world can tour the ancient city of Hatra through Website. A drone was used for the same purpose. A copy of the documentation will be provided.

The Future Conservation Plan of Hatra:

**Allat Temple:**

The work and study of Allat temple features require urgent intervention and identification of the temple western wall, which was included in the future conservation that the Italian side (ALIPH) will carry out in cooperation with Nineveh Inspectorate of Antiquities and Heritage in the foreseeable future. In the first step, supporter elements will be added to prevent collapse, but at the present time a quick treatment of the temple floors has been carried out. The inscriptions were also treated for the purpose of preservation.

**Shamiyyah temple:**

During the work, the temple parts that require quick intervention were identified for foreseeable future conservation and restoration, which are the central iwan arch, as well as the floor of the iwan itself that will be treated in the next step by the Italian / Aliph in cooperation with Nineveh Inspectorate of Antiquities and Heritage.

**Mithra Temple:**

During the work, the weak parts of the western wall of the above temple were identified which have been included in the future conservation that the Italian side will carry out in cooperation with Nineveh Inspectorate of Antiquities and Heritage. In the first step, the reinforcement process will be carried out to prevent collapse.

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D.G of Administrative, Legal, and Financial Directorate
80/1/2022
Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

Image N.1
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Image N.3
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Image N.4
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Image N.5

Image N.6
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Image N.7
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(figure N.8)
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Image N.9
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Image N. 10
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( Image N.11)
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Image N.13
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Image N.14
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Image N.15
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Image N.16
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Image N.17