

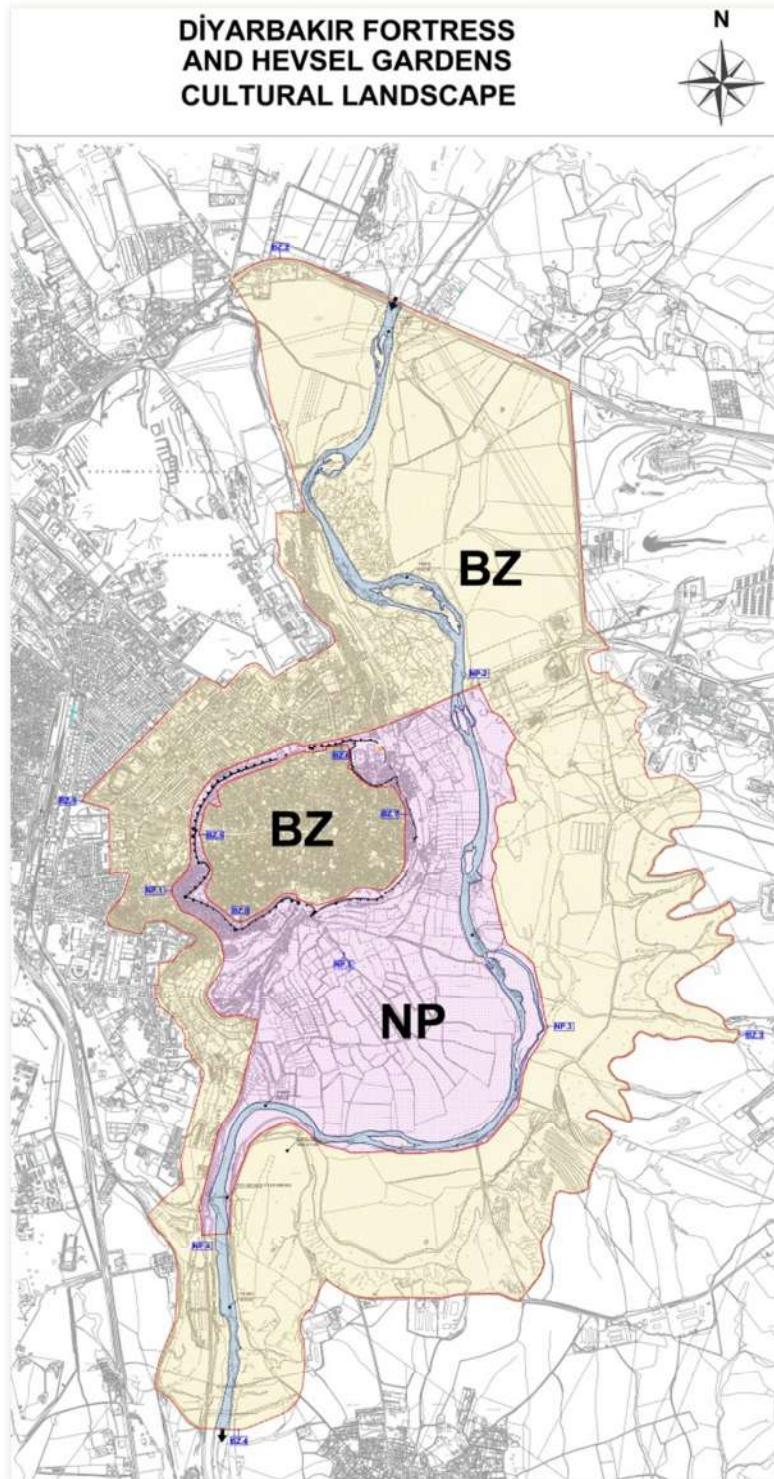
DİYARBAKIR FORTRESS AND HEVSEL GARDENS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

Date of Inscription: 2015

Criteria: (iv)

Ref: 1488



FEBRUARY, 2022

1. Executive Summary

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 44 COM 7B 56 adopted at 44th session of the World Heritage Committee at Fuzhou (China) /online meeting.

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.

It is seen that the reconstruction and rehabilitation works carried out in the neighbourhoods are located within the buffer zone. These reconstruction and rehabilitation works were carried out in the aftermath of the terrorist incidents that took place in 2015 and caused great destruction in the Suriçi Buffer Zone, with the aim of enabling the local people to live in a healthy and safe environment that fits modern living conditions. 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 of 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. The aim of these projects is also compatible with the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals and targets. As a result of the unhealthy and disordered construction from the past years and the terrorist incidents in 2015, the problems of the local people waiting for urgent solutions were taken into consideration.

Suriçi District (including Inner Castle) was declared as "Urban Site" with the decision dated 29.09.1988 and numbered 38 by the Diyarbakır Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage. On the other hand, only Amida Mound, where Artuqid's Palace is located in Inner Castle, was registered as 1st degree Archaeological Site by Diyarbakır Cultural Heritage Regional Board with the decision dated 25.10.2010 and numbered 3419. 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. The amendments have been inserted to the 2012 Conservation Plan and 2016 amendments have submitted in the appendix of the 2020 SoC Report. Suspension or cancellation of the implementation of these plans that have entered into force by the approval of the regional conservation councils of cultural properties may only be possible through judicial decisions.

By taking into consideration of the previous World Heritage Committee decisions, Heritage Impact Assessment Reports are being prepared. When the works for Heritage Impact Assessment completed, the report(s) will be submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

The relevant Turkish authorities have extended twice an invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage site. However, the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS informed on the postponement of the mission due to COVID-19 pandemic.