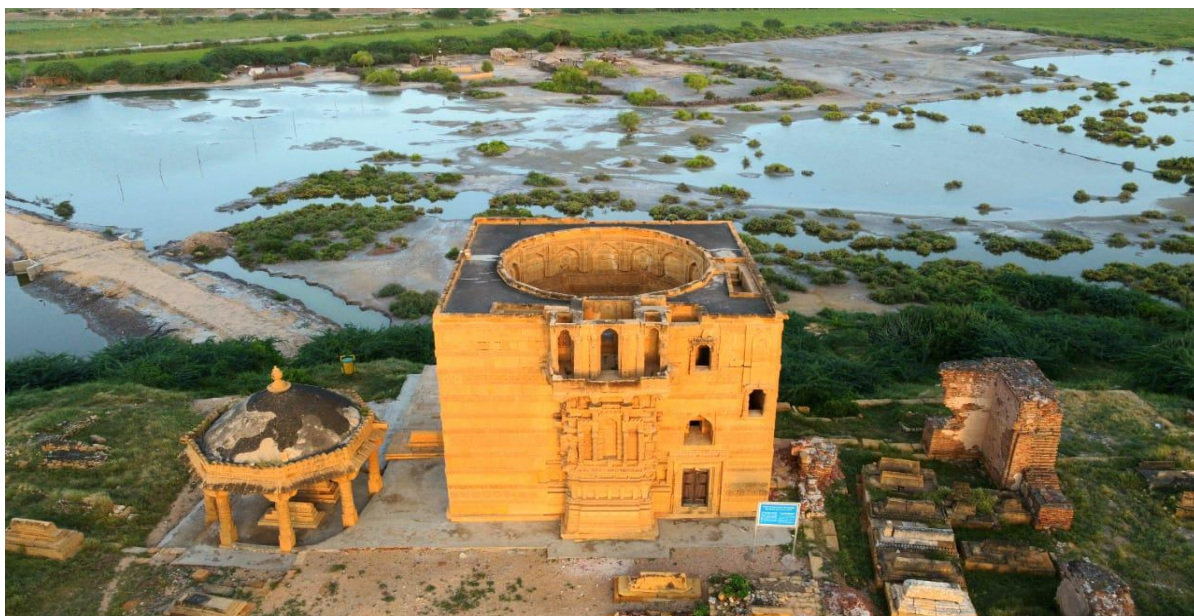




Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department
Government of Sindh (Pakistan)

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT
HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AT MAKLI, THATTA (PAKISTAN) (C 143)
DECISION: 44 COM 7B.35
Updated as of November, 2022

In compliance with Decisions adopted during the extended 44th Session of World Heritage Committee & Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines
Following the format for the submission of SOC reports by the State Parties



Aerial view of tomb of Jam Nizamuddin-II



Workers installing emergency drain under the supervision of the site archaeologist during monsoon of 2022.

CULTURE, TOURISM, ANTIQUITIES AND ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH, PAKISTAN



Executive Summary

This State of Conservation (SoC) Report is intended to give a straightforward evaluation of the situation at the World Heritage property of Historic Monument at Makli Hills, Thatta, Sindh, Pakistan. It also presents the response of the Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department, Government of Sindh, Pakistan to the recommendations of Decisions **41 COM 7B.97**, **43 COM 7B.73**, **44 COM 7B.35** of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) regarding the site, at their 44th meeting, Fuzhou, China, 2021.

The Government of Sindh is conscious of its responsibility towards the unique World Heritage property. The government highlights in this report the efforts it has undertaken on all fronts in conserving the site, in association with international partners and non-government stakeholders, to preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Also highlighted are the efforts to prevent the deterioration of its physical fabric and implement an integrated conservation strategy for the site, according to WHC's guidelines and this Department's specific development goals and needs.

Response to the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee- This SOC report is an in-depth and a clear regarding the decisions and recommendations. The report not only comprises the actions and works that were successfully completed but also presents an overview of actions and works ongoing, including the critical response to the disastrous monsoon flooding. In summary the Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department, Government of Sindh, Pakistan has already submitted the final draft of Management Plan for the property, the master plan has been implemented, additional technical staff have been engaged on the site and assigned in several tasks as per the recommendations. The completed activities and works include: plantation of over 250 trees to protect the monuments from wind-borne salinity, an inventory system for displaced architectural elements, installation of weather stations and cracks monitors, stabilization of components in danger of collapse, capacity building of the staff, baseline documentation in drawings and photographs, community education programmes, construction of the boundary wall, information boards for visitors, an improved management framework, aerial photography, 3-D Scanning, GPR studies and prioritized actions in response to heavy rainfall to prevent further damage to important monuments.

There have been numerous conservation efforts at Makli including work at Jamia Masjid, Essa Khan II, Mubarak Khan, Old Jamia Mosque, Sultan Qaus, Hamshera Fateh Khan, Mirza Tughral Baig, Juman Jatti, Sunjo Qubo, Jani Baig, Arghun Mosque, Meran Bai, Jan Baba and Dewan-e-Shurfa. This work includes detailed structural assessment and recommendations and a specific action plan for the tomb of Jam Nizamuddin which is a defining structure of Makli is underway. The staff on site has been deployed on special duty on numerous occasions for monitoring and managing religious rituals celebrated at popular shrines and tombs where thousands of pilgrims gather. Staff remains vigilant on the site and a walkie talkie system was introduced so that the crowds at active shrines are monitored. This work addresses the living nature of Makli.

In addition to this work, other issues of the site are being fully addressed. At present there are more than 21 active shrines on the site, each with its own caretaker. Numerous major conservation works on significant tombs including Lali Mosque, Isa Khan Tarkhan-II, Jan Baba, Sultan Ibrahim have been successfully completed and decorative tiles resembling the original features are used wherever necessary on the site. The commercial and residential encroachment on site has been removed; there are no longer any cases of vandalism. Much of the vegetation that caused decay of tombs has been cleared away; however this is a constant work, especially now after the heavy rains. The entry gate of the site has been fortified and rehabilitated, staff offices and documentation center has been established. The entry of vehicles of visitors in the premises of the site has been strictly prohibited and an electric Shuttle Service has been started to facilitate the delegations and visitors. A spacious Guest House has been reconstructed; a conference room has been prepared and a dining hall has also been provided. A multimedia system has been installed on site where visitors can watch videos related to history and heritage of the site. This has proven very popular as there are an increasing number of visitors and pilgrims along with numbers of the local community that frequently visit the shrines of the site. Keeping this in mind the guidelines concerning a visitor plan have been updated and site team has been engaged to improve maintenance at the site.

All the conservation activities carried out on the site represent an effort to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Values as well as the artistic integrity and the authenticity of Makli. The Directorate General of Antiquities & Archaeology thrives on challenges and proactively responds to decisions and recommendations presented at every session, providing that a true partnership with World Heritage Committee exists.