

Islamic Republic of Iran

Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism & Handicrafts

MCTH

State of Conservation and Restoration

of

Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region

(Executive Summary)

Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1568)

Decisions adopted by the Committee in 2021

44 COM 7B.145

This report concerns the World Heritage Committee decision: 44 COM 7B.145 dated 31 July 2021 on submitting an updated report on the state of conservation of the property.

UNESCO

World Heritage Convention

Tehran 2022

Decision: 44 COM 7B.145

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.65, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party, and requests that it continue working on the issues identified in previous decisions, including:
 - a) Completing, as a matter of urgency, the integrated conservation and management plan for the property,
 - b) Continuing to implement conservation works for the component sites in poor condition, at risk of serious deterioration, or at risk of collapse,
 - c) Completing the programme of geophysical surveys for Ardashir Khurreh in order to identify areas of archaeological sensitivity, and ensuring that agricultural practices are not taking place in archaeologically sensitive areas,
 - d) Revising the boundary that encompasses the two components in the Bishapur region, as request at the time of inscription, together with proposed regulations for the revised buffer zones;
4. Notes the State Party's intention to develop plans for risk preparedness and disaster mitigation along with a monitoring strategy in 2021, and also requests that these plans, along with the draft integrated management plan, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Further requests the State Party to formalise the changes to the boundaries and buffer zone of the components in the Firuzabad region along with the proposed regulations for the buffer zones by submitting a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre, accompanied by maps and a copy of the regulations for the buffer zone, in line with paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

State of Conservation and Restoration

Abstract

In this report, we have marked out the damages done to the Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region, which are:

- 1- Ardashir Investiture Relief - Firuzabad
- 2- Qal'eh Dokhtar - Firuzabad
- 3- Ardashir Khurreh - Firuzabad
- 4- Victory Relief of Ardashir - Firuzabad
- 5- Palace of Ardashir in Ateshkadeh village - Firuzabad
- 6- Jabri (Gabri) bridge – Bishapur
- 7- Eight-sided and Four-sided Baths- Bishapur
- 8- Position of Vows - Bishapur
- 9- Jame Mosque – Bishapur
- 10- Fire temple - Bishapur
- 11- Islamic School - Bishapur
- 12- Temple of Anahita - Bishapur
- 13- Mosaic Hall - Bishapur
- 14- Mosaic Ivan - Bishapur
- 15- Royal Citadel - Bishapur
- 16- Valerian Palace - Bishapur
- 17- Qal'eh Dokhtar - Bishapur
- 18- 6 Reliefs of Tang-e Chogan (Chogan Vally)- Bishapur
- 19- Towers - Bishapur
- 20- Sarvestan Palace building.

The damages referred to in this report are the most urgent problems that need immediate attention. In some cases, for the diagnosis to be definitive, we need precise scientific tests.

Some of these tests are as bellow:

- 1- Geotechnical well (to know the type of formation, determine the type of soil, calculate the permissible bearing capacity of the foundation, Etc.)
- 2- Log Boring in different dimensions based on the situation
- 3- Log Boring the floor of the building (the center of the rooms and corridors)
- 4- Log Boring of the Walls (constituent elements, arrangement type, Etc.)
- 5- Coated Boring (wall or ceiling)
- 6- Wall Consistency Test (calculating the tolerance of the wall against the applied force)
- 7- Material Chemical Testing (consistency, erosion, Etc.)

The proposed restoration plans stated in this report are unrestricted, and in every damage case, there is a need for laboratory investigations to be taken seriously. For example, regarding consistency, it is necessary to determine whether to use soluble or insoluble salt and how to move the salt to different parts of the walls, and then choose the best reversible way of restoring the cultural property according to the results. The cracks marked in the photos are in red, the material corrosion in dark yellow, burnt and humid in light yellow, and so on, and the biological activities are in green. Rating the damages start from low, up to medium and severe and respectively, visible in yellow, orange, and red.