

**Name of World Heritage property: Hill Forts of Rajasthan**

**State Party: India**

**Identification number: 247 rev**

**Date of inscription: 2013**

**Criteria: (ii) (iii)**

**1. Executive summary of the report**

Hill Forts of Rajasthan was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2013 under criteria (ii) and (iii). The state party had submitted the last state of conservation (SOC) report for the property in 2019, which was reviewed in the World Heritage Committee's extended 44th session in 2021. As per the committee's recommendations in Decision: **44 COM 7B.24** and UNESCO's operational guidelines for SOC reports, steps have been taken as per the following details:

**Recommendation 3 (1):** All developmental projects are being assessed as per the provision of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR) and the National Monument Authority (NMA). Stringent actions are being taken against encroachments. At the same time, public awareness is being raised in the local community regarding rules and regulations as well as the process of approval regarding construction within the property or the buffer zone.

**Recommendation 3 (2):** Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) is being constituted under the Urban Development Act of the Government of Rajasthan. The authority would ensure the incorporation of SMP in Master Plan under the provision of the Town Country Planning act. The properties under major trustees are clearly marked and demarcated, but other properties have no clear ownership titles. Due to this problem it is difficult to implement regular procedures followed by government agencies towards conservation/reuse of the buildings.

**Recommendation 3 (3):** Monitoring and mitigation measures are being taken on-site to manage the visitors. It has been decided to shift the Vegetable Market and the District Authorities have agreed for planned traffic movement to mitigate the rush in and around the Fort.

**Recommendation 3 (4):** ASI has identified the possible areas of immediate structural intervention for risk preparedness and regularly communicating with District Authorities for restoration of dilapidated bastions to counter the progressive decay caused by wind, moisture, rainfall and old age etc. Preparation of Disaster assessment plan and mechanism of post disaster recovery are under process.

The Government has promoted tourism with vision to protect traditional culture and handicrafts as well as to give wide publicity to folk arts and rural artists. Scheme to enhance tourism in Border area, Rural area and Desert area is also under preparation. The administration is also planning to finalize and introduce the 'Home Stay' policy to extend the accommodation facilities. For resourcing of residents and betterment of visitors, ASI has provided guidelines for training of guides and coordinated other stakeholders.

**Recommendation 3 (5):** Following the National Policy for Conservation 2014, a conservation plan is prepared for the property annually. It is also revised regularly and in case of emergency. A five-year action plan has also been prepared for fort Jaisalmer. Maintenance and upkeep of the property is done regularly as per the mandate of ASI.

**Recommendation 3 (6):** All the relevant issues are deliberately discussed among all stakeholders in District Level Apex Advisory Committee and reviewed by both State Level Apex Advisory

Committee and Government of India periodically.

**Recommendation 3 (7):** The Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort has been adopted by the State level Fort Apex Advisory Committee. Provisions have been made in the Site Management Plan (SMP) that Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) will generate and manage fund required to perform its functions.

**Recommendation 3 (8):** The requisite information will be submitted in due course of time, as soon as Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) constituted through publication of notification in official Gazetteer.

**Current conservation issues:** No conservation issues have occurred which might affect the impact of the Property's outstanding universal value.

**Potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s):** At present, no major restorations or new constructions have been planned within the property area or the buffer zone.

2. **Response to each of the decision of the World Heritage Committee's most recent decision (Decision: 44 COM 7B.24) (C 247rev) are as follows:**

3. *Welcoming the finalization of the Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort and requests the State Party to report on progress concerning the resourcing and implementation of the planned actions, including the following high-priority matters:*

1. *Effectiveness of the implementation of regulations and other measures to curtail unauthorized constructions and / or encroachment.*

### **Response**

The six hill forts of Rajasthan, including Jaisalmer Fort, have been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO in year 2013. The State Level Fort Apex Advisory Committee on hill forts has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan for the evaluation and preparation/ monitoring of management plan. Further, the District Level Committee has also been formed and functioning under the chairmanship of the District Collector for maintenance, conservation and day-to-day management of the hill forts. A separate Committee is also constituted on court order for the protection of the fort under the chairmanship of the District Collector.

The meetings of State Level Fort Apex Advisory Committee and District Level Committee on hill forts have been conducted time to time to take decision for overall and better protection of Hill forts of Rajasthan, including Jaisalmer Fort.

The draft for the formulation of Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA), is under preparation which will be notified in the Official State Gazetteer in accordance with Urban Development Act of Government of Rajasthan. Once the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority finalized and issued, it would perform key functions of municipality within the defined boundary of Jaisalmer Fort including implementing regulations, thus making day-to-day monitoring and implementation of Management Plan easier and effective, which will work under the directions of State Level Fort Apex Advisory Committee.

However, some core issues regarding the implementation of Jaisalmer Fort Management Plan has

been discussed and reviewed in the regularly held District Level meetings, are as under:

1. Prevention of disorganized vehicular traffic.
2. Preparation of vehicle movement plan and regulation of traffic management.
3. Controlling of un-authorized hotels/ restaurants/ guest houses.
4. To make necessary arrangements for proper parking.
5. Regular disposal of waste excreted from residents / tourists and proper cleanliness.
6. Undergrounding the overhead electrical supply lines and other cables.
7. Arrangement of adequate illumination.

Apart from above, the Jaisalmer Fort is a living monument and thickly inhabited by local residents. The habitation exists within protected area of the fort before it was declared protected in 1951. To curb the problem of unauthorized construction related activities i.e. repairs, renovation, construction and reconstruction etc by the residents and to stop such illegal activities, regular monitoring is done. Timely reporting of cases and issuing of notices is undertaken under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (Amendment and Validation Act 2010) and initiate appropriate action against the offenders.

Local people are being encouraged to take necessary permissions from the competent authority before commencing any repairing and renovation work in the restricted area by giving them information of related rules and the process.

***2. Efforts to incorporate the SMP into the legal protection system and ongoing efforts to clarify the ownership of property.***

**Response**

Jaisalmer town has a Master Plan 2011-2031 and the Fort falls in ward number 4. As per the Town and Country Planning Act for this area (which is a complete municipal ward) Management Plan should be incorporated as a Local Area Plan. As stated earlier, once the formulation of Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA), under Urban Development Act of Government of Rajasthan is completed through Gazette notification, the said Authority will implement separate/ special regulations for the fort as per guidelines stated in the Management Plan for heritage conservation and building repairs, as a building regulation for the fort area under the aegis of existing guidelines. Hence, such inclusion of Management Plan in the Master plan will provide desired statutory status to the Management Plan.

The Jaisalmer fort is situated within Revenue plot number 193, whose ownership is in name of the Nagar Parishad (City Council). As stated earlier, the Jaisalmer Fort is a living monument and thickly inhabited by local residents. Most of locals are living in their houses since generations on the sole basis of occupation without property document or ownership records, though few of them own lease documents. All the residential houses are under private hands, while some other structures are under private trust. Although properties under major trustees like properties under Giridhar Smarak Dharmarth Nyas Trust and Jain trust are clearly marked and demarcated, but other properties have no clear ownership titles. Due to this problem it is difficult to implement regular procedures followed by government agencies towards conservation/reuse of the buildings.

***3. Development of the sub-plan for visitor management for Jaisalmer Fort, as a key part of the management system that will guide the development of appropriately designed and in-situ facilities and other initiatives to enhance the visitor experience, and***

*requirement that Heritage Impact Assessments be conducted for all new facilities within the property boundaries or the buffer zone.*

**Response**

Being a popular and prodigious tourist center, influx of visitors is common at Fort, where national and international visitors travel every year. Doubtlessly the historic site is under threat of visitor's impact, where proper visitor management planning is required to reduce the risk on architectural heritage. The narrow passage till the 'Dussehra Chowk' is prone to excessive crowding, mostly during the time of festivals, when huge gathering appears.

To combat the issue, ASI has discussed the matter in District Level Fort Apex Committee with other stakeholders and Nagar Parishad (City Council). Accordingly, it has been decided to shift the Vegetable Market and the District Authorities have agreed for planned traffic movement to mitigate the rush in and around the Fort. A Police Beat has also been established near the main entrance gate to secure the visitors. Deployment of armless Guards at key point by ASI and installation of CCTV Cameras consulting with community by local administration is under process.

- 4. Development of the sub-plans for risk preparedness and livelihood generation for the local population, to ensure that they can be operationalized and implemented, taking into account the need for capacity building.*

**Response**

**Risk preparedness:** Jaisalmer Fort was designed to protect the populace habited on extensive settlement within the wall enabling as centre of production & distribution with mercantile element. The primary factors of risk management e.g. urban sprawl, easement of transport, desertification in and around buffer zone, public utilities infrastructure, wind erosion, indigenous water seepage effect, high temperature impact on built heritage, high level visitation, slight changes in traditional way of life etc. have been noted and their impact assessment on people will also be examined shortly with recovery plans. However, related Governmental and Non-Governmental stakeholders are regularly being approached to prepare a monitoring system for the same to mitigate the related risk.

As the residents are inhabited inside the fort since a long time, some of dilapidated structures / houses have been marked by District Authorities recently for demolition. ASI has identified the possible areas of immediate structural intervention for risk preparedness e.g. a big portion of pitching wall has been restored and regularly communicating with District Authorities for restoration of dilapidated bastions to counter the progressive decay caused by wind, moisture, rainfall and old age etc. Preparation of Disaster assessment plan and mechanism of post disaster recovery are under process.

**Livelihood Generation:** The recognized Jaisalmer Desert Festival locally known as Maru festival, an annual famous event in Jaisalmer that takes place in winter season every year, is being attended by both native and foreign tourists at large scale. Similarly, another recognized annual event, the Jaisalmer Kite Festival, is quite popular among the tourists and attracts a number of visitors. Apart from above, Jaisalmer Fort is also included in Heritage Circuit, which covers 12 other magnificent forts of Rajasthan. The government has officially declared Maru Circuit through Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jodhpur to promote tourism with vision to protect traditional culture and handicrafts as well as to give wide publicity to folk arts and rural artists. Scheme to enhance tourism in Border area, Rural area and Desert area is also under preparation. The road connectivity

from Jodhpur and approach from other cities to Jaisalmer has been improved. Since Jaisalmer Fort is prime tourist attraction of the region and visited by the number of tourists every year, hence all these tourism enhancement and development plans are beneficial for the livelihood of local people, which is primarily dependent on tourism for their income.

The transportation has been also improved with good quality of roads, which provides regular self-employment to the local inhabitants. The business of selling handicrafts, Khadi products, Woolen items and other embroidered handmade articles in the local market, which mainly exists in buffer zone of the fort, has been also increased due to liberal government policies. The administration is also planning to finalize and introduce the 'Home Stay' policy to extend the accommodation facilities. Various establishments are making good earning in Hotel and Guest house business, which are majorly owned by the local inhabitants. All these business have their own registered welfare association. For resourcing of residents and betterment of visitors, ASI has provided guidelines for training of guides and coordinated other stakeholders.

***5. Development of the foreseen comprehensive Conservation Plan, together with detailed plans for maintenance of Jaisalmer Fort.***

**Response**

A comprehensive Conservation Policy was adopted by ASI during 2014 which emphasizes on Conservation and Investigation including exploration and research. Understanding the paramount duty of ASI to preserve the rich heritage, an extensive policy framework has been designed with renewed impetus for contemporizing and indigenizing the conservation approach as value-based process based on trustworthy documentary evidence. Annual Conservation Plan are prepared considering the necessity and consolidation of monument and also revised in case of unforeseen circumstances. Provision of amenities and necessary infrastructure development are also included considering the nature and typology of the monument along with provision of promotional / outreach program to educate and generate public awareness and sense of pride for monument and responsibilities towards a monument.

A five-year action plan has been prepared for Fort Jaisalmer as outcome of State Level Apex Advisory Committee and regularly reviewed under the meeting of District Level Apex Committee. As the Pitching Wall at the fort determines the crucial role in stability and strengthening of whole monument, so it was restored in phase manner due to wide working area e.g. wall was restored between section I and II during 2015-16, later extended up to nearby Police Chowki and Shiv Road during 2015-18, and in 2018-19 onwards respectively conserving the dilapidated portion. Apart from the fortification wall, bastions also play the major role to withstand the pressure. Bastion no. 38 was restored in 2015 -16 and others are being examined regularly for necessity. Similarly, bastion no. 44 and 45 have been identified for conservation work and other stake holders including District Authorities are being approached to get them vacate. Regular maintenance and upkeep is ordinal work of ASI, whereas Nagar Parishad, Jaisalmer and other Non-Government Agencies along with local public are approached during the organization of out-reach programmes such as Cleaning campaign, Heritage Walk, AKAM events etc.

***6. Development of detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of the World Heritage property, based on a clear articulation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and attributes.***

**Response**

Located on deserted terrain, the Fort contains extensive township in articulation of unique architectural attributes such as triangular shape, tripartite fortification wall, interlocked wide spread pitching wall, defensive encircled slope, serially extensive bastion constructed in dressed stone masonry, crenellations of sandstone block on periphery, stone balls and missile on top, gun pots for defense and narrow passageway for strict vigil, giant gateways, temples, extensive carving etc. Traditional water harvesting system of fort again makes its distinctiveness. Comprising approx. 8 hectares of land area, the fort has outstanding 89 Hectares buffer zone also. Representing the unique planning of medieval Rajput architect, the fort being 'living' in nature, exhibits separate aesthetic value with sacred and religious environ of the monument. Intangible features of art, tradition, cultural value and belief system fabrics the intangible framework, celebration of festivals of 'Ganguar' and 'Dussehra' are popularly famous in the country.

ASI created Jodhpur circle during 2013 for effective monitoring and implementation of conservation policy. A sub circle under ASI Jodhpur Circle has also been commissioned at Jaisalmer for implicit surveillance of gradual deterioration of fortification wall and other structures by wind erosion, water seepage, urban sprawl and times pan related elements etc. A strict watch and vigil is kept to record the impact of changing circumstance of environ on attributes of the property with regional cooperation, so that specific issues affecting the outstanding universal value, if any, may be combated at initiation. However, no such issues are registered till date. All the relevant issues are deliberately discussed among all stakeholders in District Level Apex Advisory Committee and reviewed by both State Level Apex Advisory Committee and Government of India periodically. In addition, as per the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and its later amendment in 2010, the legislative and administrative measures are taken up to deal the encroachment and unauthorized construction/activities.

***7. Adoption of the SMP by the Fort Apex Committee, including resourcing, priorities and intended timeframes for the implementation of the plan.***

**Response**

The Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort has been adopted by the State level Fort Apex Advisory Committee. In view of the large number of population in the Jaisalmer fort, Jaisalmer, it has been decided that the Management Plan will be implemented on a priority basis, focusing on the regular strict check on illegal construction and carrying out the required conservation works in the fort.

Provisions have been made in the Site Management Plan (SMP) that Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) will generate and manage fund required to perform its functions. The Authority can be setup with initial corpus funding and it will generate fund from tourism related activities. The fund available with the different departments and other allotted funds will also be utilized at the disposal of the Authority. The Authority shall have sufficient human resource of multiple stake holders i.e. residents of the fort, including various Govt. departments and related agencies.

The priorities and intended timeframes for the implementation of the plan are cited in enclosed action plan (**Annexure**).

***8. Implementation of the proposed management framework, including the establishment of the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority, and articulation of its capacities and priority activities.***

**Response**

The requisite information will be submitted in due course of time, as soon as Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) constituted through publication of notification in official Gazette.

4. **Notes the information provided about the completion of infrastructure work for water supply, sewerage and electrical/ telephone cables for Jaisalmer Fort, as well as on conservation and repair works undertaken at Jaisalmer Fort and Chittorgarh Fort.**

**Infrastructure work for Jaisalmer Fort** - As submitted earlier, the sewerage, drainage, water supply and solid waste management for the Jaisalmer Fort has already been completed under Rajasthan Urban Sector Development Investment Program (RUSDIP) and the work of connecting the outlets of remaining houses to existing sewerage line has been also executed. Regular maintenance is being carried out as and when required. Undergrounding the overhead electrical supply lines and other cables is also proposed.

**Conservation and repair works undertaken at Jaisalmer Fort** – The technical estimation for conservation of bastions No. 44 and 45 of Jaisalmer fort has been completed. The restoration work of most portion of pitching wall is completed and the rest of its part is proposed to taken up in next phase.

**Conservation and repair works undertaken at Chittorgarh Fort** – The repairing work of Rampuriya gate and ancient ruins in its surrounding area and desilting of various water bodies has been completed. Restoration of Khatan Rani Mahal has been also taken up. The work of upgrading/ repairing of pathway to Jata Shankar Mahadev temple, restoration of dwarf wall in Mrig Van (Deer park), repairing of wall of Chitrangad pond and conservation of Chudawat Palace has also been commenced.

5. **Also welcomes the advice from the state party that no mining or blasting has occurred in the area surrounding the Chittorgarh Fort since the inscription of the serial property, strongly encourages the state party to ensure that such activities are not resumed, and also requests the State party to submit, as a matter of priority, further information on progress towards the final resolution of the legal challenges that is being considered by the Supreme Court of India.**

No any activity of either mining or blasting is currently being occurred / reported in the area surrounding to the Chittorgarh Fort. The case related to mining near Chittorgarh Fort is pending consideration before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India due to demise of the Advocate of the main respondent. Being one of the respondents, the Government is making all possible efforts for early disposal of the case in the interest of the monument.

6. **Encourages the State Party to ensure that all development projects within the property and buffer zones, including all major conservation and restoration projects, new visitor facilities and major adaptive reuse projects, are subject to Heritage Impact Assessments, in line with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance, and that information about any project that could have an impact on the OUV of the property is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.**

As directed, it has been noted for compliance that all development projects within the property and buffer zones, including all major conservation and restoration projects, new visitor facilities and major adaptive reuse projects, will be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments. Further, it will be always ensured that if any project likely to have an impact on the OUV of the property, the same will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. 2011 ICOMOS Guidance and Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines will be also adhered to.

**3. Other current conservation issues identified by State Party which may have an impact on the property's OUV**

Presently, there are no such conservation issues, which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value. However, if such serious conservation issues arise and noticed in future, the same will be timely brought into the cognizance of the World Heritage Committee for kind consideration and further guidance.

**4. Any potential major restoration/ alteration and / or new construction intended within the property, buffer zone and / or corridor or other areas where such development may affect OUV / authenticity / integrity**

At present, there is no intention of any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) within the property, the buffer zone(s) or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

**5. Public access to the State of Conservation report**

The State Party agrees that the report can be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

**6. Signature of the Authority**

  
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**Action plan for next five years regarding Management plan in respect of Jaisalmer Fort**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Proposed plan/ work</b>	<b>Time limit</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	1. Undertaking appropriate documentation of all historic buildings and identification of heritage structures within the fort.	March, 2023
<b>2023-24</b>	1. Imposing restrictions on subletting/ leasing of property for commercial use.	March, 2024
	2. Timely disposal of Solid waste from the fort & regular cleaning.	March, 2024
	3. Prevention of water seepage in the fort.	March, 2024
	4. Identification and preparation of dedicated visitor route along with signage.	March, 2024
	5. Conservation of Bastion No. 44 and 45. (Phase 1)	March, 2024
	6. To control unauthorized hotels/ restaurants/ guest houses inside the fort.	March, 2024
	7. Proper arrangement of overhead electrical supply lines and other cables.	March, 2024
	8. Prevention of disorganized vehicular traffic at the fort.	March, 2024
	9. Identification and selection of land/ area inside the fort for provision of basic amenities for tourist.	March, 2024
	10. Identification of illegal Hotels, Shops and other commercial activities.	March, 2024
	11. Prioritization of conservation works of the fort wall, bastions, pitching wall and mori areas. Selection of ancient structures for Chemical preservation.	March, 2024
<b>2024-25</b>	1. Conservation of pitching wall of Jaisalmer Fort.	March, 2025
	2. Preparation of manual for repairing and other activities for privately owned properties of the fort.	March, 2025
	3. Constitution of Emergency team.	March, 2025
	4. Preparation of disaster management plan.	March, 2025
	5. Heritage awareness programs on the value and conservation needs of the heritage site for residents and city dwellers.	March, 2025
	6. Arrangement for adequate illumination.	March, 2025
	7. Facility of trained guides to the tourists.	March, 2025
	8. Construction of basic amenities for tourist inside the fort.	March, 2025
	9. Acquisition deserted/ uninhabited structures by government.	March, 2025
<b>2025-26</b>	1. Identification of adequate parking space for future developments.	March, 2026
	2. Preparation of risk management plan of Fort	March, 2026
	3. Making the whole fort as plastic free zone	March, 2026
	4. Conservation of selected bastions.	March, 2026

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	5. Chemical preservation of selected temples and other structures inside the fort.	March, 2026
	6. Removal of un-authorized constructions/ encroachments.	March, 2026
	7. Prevention of unauthorised commercial activities etc.	March, 2026
	8. Rehabilitation programme for affected occupants of Hotels, Shops and other commercial users.	March, 2026
<b>2026-27</b>	1. Conservation to required structures of the fort including rest of the pitching wall.	March 2027
	2. Conservation of selected bastions.	March, 2027
	3. Chemical preservation of selected structures inside the fort.	March, 2027
	4. Conservation to selected portions of the gates/ proles.	March, 2027