

**THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION
REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES**

Name of the property: Historic City of Ahmedabad

State Party: India

Identification Number: 1551

1. Executive summary of the report

Historic City of Ahmedabad was inscribed on the World Heritage list in July, 2017 under criteria (ii) and (v). The state party had submitted first state of conservation (SOC) report for the property in 2019, which was reviewed in World Heritage Committee's extended 44th session in 2021. With constraints of the pandemic and its effects, the city has been working and has taken a number of steps to ensure Integrity and Authenticity of the OUVs of the site. As per the committee's recommendations in Decision:44 COM 7B.25 and UNESCO's operational guidelines for SOC reports, steps have been taken as per following details:

Recommendation 3 (a): As by end of September 2022, documentation of 500 locally listed heritage buildings have been completed. In light of challenges faced by the teams working on site, including but not limited to availability of convenient time for house owners and their reluctance to permit teams inside their house after COVID, the process is still going on. The detailed documentation is proving to be very useful record for restoration for heritage home-owners. This has enabled single window clearance of permissions and other formal implementation hurdles which are now reduced.

Recommendation 3 (b): The first draft of Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP), incorporating the aspects of Local Area Plan and Visitor Management Plan is completed in September 2022. Public Consultation is being planned in phases for various stakeholders. The HCP would be finalized after the incorporation of comments and feedbacks received in the consultations.

Recommendation 3 (c) and 6: The HIA report for major new developments/ constructions in the western section of property and buffer zone including HIA of Proposed Reconstruction of Danapith Fire Station near Jami Masjid has been submitted to National Monuments Authority (NMA), Government of India. Additionally, the HIA for 'Redevelopment of Lal Darwaja Bus Terminus' located in western portion of the walled city has also been prepared.

Recommendation 3 (d): Continued efforts have been taken for addressing the issues of traffic congestion, pollution and neglected 'Pol' buildings by the local authorities. They include identification and designation of parking plots on main roads for reduced traffic in narrow internal streets, introduction of clean and eco-friendly transport like shared cycles' service, electric buses etc. The Pol buildings have been visited periodically, regular notices are sent for structures in danger and documentation process is prioritized to document vulnerable buildings first. Awareness campaigns are taken up regularly for this aspect.

Recommendation 4: As mentioned in 2019 SOC, AWHCT was established within AMC in 2017. With an objective of strengthening the capacities at municipal level, the administrative staff of AMC heritage department is now appointed at AWHCT for better functioning in October, 2021 through General Desk Establishment Resolution No-I/4620. This has helped integrating the efforts of AMC and AWHCT.

Recommendation 5: The process of collating information from old land-record sheets, current total station surveys and on-site verification of physical condition has been adopted to complete a part of map of the entire site. Considering complexity of the process and since the exercise of TSS could only be started by end of 2021 due to the prevailing pandemic scenario, it is still in progress and is envisioned to be available by 2025.

Current conservation issues: Due to the introvert and very high density of Pols and shared spaces in WHS, infections like COVID-19 are likely to be transmitted faster. At the same, they are also easily to be contained within neighbourhoods due to limited number of entries and exits to the Pols. This or any similar factor affecting the business and livelihoods of walled city had an impact on its OUVs temporarily. The arrival of metro might lead to larger volumes of public visiting the old area adding pressure on the site's existing infrastructure. On the other hand, it would be a positive change by addressing traffic congestion as fewer private vehicles would be used.

Potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s): A new foot-over bridge has been constructed outside the western side of buffer of the WHS. It is expected to bring positive effect for the walled city's traffic, congestion and pollution issues. Also, after the declaration two new Public-Private-People Partnership restoration projects, (i) Dhal Ni Pol Public Realm Improvement and (ii) Rejuvenation of Lokmanya Tilak Garden Heritage Open Space were completed. These projects have helped re-establish pride towards heritage in people.