

GÖBEKLİ TEPE
STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT

Date of Inscription: 2018

Criteria: (i) (ii) (iv)

Ref: 1572



December, 2022

Türkiye

1. Executive Summary

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 44 COM 7B. 57 of the World Heritage Committee, taken in the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou (China/ Online meeting,2021). The works related to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions are stated below:

In line with the laws and regulations in force within the scope of the legal legislation, many studies have been carried out in recent years in order to preserve landscape and the integrity and archaeological potential of the Göbekli Tepe archaeological site. In this context;

- Cleaning works were carried out in the old and new trenches in the archaeological excavation area and around the mound.
- After the roof construction was completed, the white stone chips and geotextile material was removed from the ground and were covered with runoff soil collected from the excavation area during the cleaning works.
- The permanent shelter covering Building H, the structure with leopard relief and the late period structures in the upper part of the main excavated area has been repaired and made more durable.
- Maintenance and repair works were carried out on the balustrades on the side of the visitor's walkway and the ropes between the balustrades.

As soon as the project work on this subject is completed, the State Party will provide the necessary documents regarding the railway line which will connect Şanlıurfa to Diyarbakır and Mardin, for consultation with the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies in line with the Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The limestones extracted during the construction of the irrigation canal were removed under the supervision of Şanlıurfa Museum Directorate experts. At the current situation, the majority of the heaps have been cleared – to an extent where construction has been completed.

The field surveys (which will incl. field walking, drones and where appropriate geophysical survey methodologies) of buffer zone have commenced and continue until 2025. Documentation studies were initiated in the research areas near Örencik and Derman villages, on predetermined walking lines 50 meters apart and 100 meters long. Objects, items and areas of archaeological and natural significance are documented through photography and forms. Based on the outcomes of the field survey, Şanlıurfa Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties will re-assess the 3rd degree archaeological conservation area (the entire area of the buffer zone = 461 ha.).

A full conservation plan will be prepared based on the decisions taken by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the recommendations proposed by the advisory body. In this direction, first of all, basic principles for the conservation strategy were determined.

Besides, in accordance with the related legislation in Türkiye, comprehensive revision of a management plan is conducted every 5 years, following its approval. The five-year implementation period of the management plan of Göbekli Tepe expired on January, 2022. The revision process of the management plan was initiated. The revised management plan should include full conservation plan, a risk preparedness plan, and tourism management programmes and be more implementable and compatible with the needs of the site.

All works carried out in Göbekli Tepe are meticulously followed by the Site Manager and the Head of Excavation. In addition, the expert assigned by the Directorate of Şanlıurfa Museum closely monitors the conservation efforts as well as visitor satisfaction, and regularly informs the site manager about these studies. The site manager also provides monthly reports to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism about the current status of the site.