

ARSLANTEPE MOUND
STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT

Date of Inscription: 2021

Criteria: (iii)

Ref: 1622



December, 2022

Türkiye

1. Executive Summary of the Report

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 44 COM 8B 44 adopted at 44th session of the World Heritage Committee at Fuzhou (China) /online meeting. The works related to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions are stated below:

Studies on the preservation of the structures in the area continue with scientific methods and in an interdisciplinary manner. A detailed Conservation Plan with protocols, priorities and procedures is being developed in compliance with related legislation. Meetings in this sense have taken place since the summer 2021 and we expect the plan to be ready by the end of 2022.

Local people participate in the management planning processes through representatives. All decisions regarding the works carried out under the management plan are taken together with the representatives of the local people. According to the legal legislation, local institutions also responsible for the actions determined within the scope of the management plan are responsible to include these activities in their annual programs and allocating a budget. Risk assessment studies and analyses are also carried out at the archaeological site. The studies related to Arslantepe Mound are regularly monitored at the meetings held under the coordination of the site manager and attended by local stakeholders.

The area defined as "A3" in the Conservation Development Plan is under protection as a 3rd Degree Archaeological Site and it is the buffer zone of the property. This region generally covers the existing settlement and agricultural lands. No new residential areas were planned in this area in the Conservation Development Plan. All the implementations within this area are supervised and controlled by the Municipality Bureau of Conservation Implementation and Supervision of Cultural Assets (KUDEB) under Malatya Metropolitan Municipality.

"The Connection of New Roof Shelter Detail and Rainwater Drainage Project" will be updated again upon the opinions of the excavation directorate and the determinations of the experts of the Elazig Directorate of Measured Drawings and Monuments. The latest version of the project will be submitted for consideration, together with additional information and documents requested by ICOMOS by the World Heritage Centre's letter dated the 05th of August, 2022. Although the new roof project is in the revision process again, some maintenance and repair works have been carried out on the present protective shelter and the temporary roof in order to protect the archaeological site.

MAIAO has carried out in 2022 non-invasive geo-electric and geomagnetic research in the area that has revealed artefacts in previous years. Thus, in the following years, it could be possible to expand the buffer zone in line with the new archaeological indicators.

As a result of the maintenance and repair works carried out for the drainage problem on the roof, soil flow from the high profiles have been halted to a large extent. Regarding the security of profiles, a pilot project has been made that implies the setting up of a system of nets.

Photographing documentation of the structures and objects in Arslantepe Mound has been going on for 60 years. A monitoring system has been established in which differences and changes are automatically detected.

The project for the new visitor centre has started. A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report is being prepared. This report will be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to evaluate the potential effects of the area on its Outstanding Universal Value.