

**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF
CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATE PARTIES**

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT BY THE STATE PARTY

Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

Date of Inscription: 1994

Minor boundary modification inscribed year: 2017

Criteria: (iii)(iv)

1. Executive Summary of the report

Georgia, as a Party to the Convention, has welcomed Decision 44 COM 7B.48 of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its extended 44th Session (Fuzhou, China, 2021) concerning Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia). Referring to the recommendations arising from the decision, the State Party submits the state of conservation report.

The report addresses the government's strong commitment to investing the effort and resources required to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and develop the final concept of Mtskheta City Master Plan.

The Report reiterates the decision of the State Party to extend the Moratorium until the approval of the Master plan.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 44 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.24**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Acknowledges the considerable progress made by the State Party to implement the Committee's recommendations;
4. Welcomes the development of the Mtskheta City Master Plan Concept database that encompasses all the buildings and plots of the town and the surroundings in 3D representations, complemented by basic data, a key tool in subsequent phases of the Master Plan, as well as for future monitoring of its implementation and strongly suggests the timely completion of the Mtskheta City Master Plan;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue on-going work on the development of the "Management Documentation for Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta", including Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP), and to submit drafts of the main components of this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS International by at the latest **1 February 2022**;

During the reporting period, final steps have been taken to elaborate and revise the concept of Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP). The document was regularly circulated among all relevant stakeholders for comments and remarks prior to the development of the final version of the concept. Divergent views between stakeholders made it difficult to agree on common approaches which accordingly prolonged the process. However, at present, tangible progress has been made on most of the essential parts of the concept among the main stakeholders, and some issues are left to be solved.

6. Also acknowledges the State Party's decision to maintain the "Enactment of Special Regime of Regulation of Urban Development and Land Privatization in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta Municipality" (the Moratorium) until the "Management Documentation for Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta" has been adopted, and control and monitoring is fully in place; and also welcomes the decision by the State Party to extend the Moratorium until further notice, or until all the necessary systems and approvals are in place;

The Moratorium is still extended by the State Party until the approval of a full set of town planning documentation.

7. Supports the on-going 2019-2020 Advisory assistance and endorses the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission and invites the State Party to implement these recommendations that relate to:

- a. The development of the ULUMP,
 - b. The need to address existing urgent conservation issues that if left unresolved could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
 - c. The need for the development of a long-term vision for the historic urban landscape of Mtskheta, to guide the management of change resulting from increased commercial tourism with an approach that integrates cultural heritage with sustainable development;
-
- a. In response to this note, the State Party reiterates its commitment to the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and its Advisory Bodies regarding the development of ULUMP to ensure the proper preservation of the World Heritage Sites in Georgia.

- b. During the reporting period, at different stages, the stone conservation project has been conducted concerning Svetitskhoveli Cathedral Church. Prior to the conservation works, relevant data gathering and specific pre-planning studies had been conducted along with stone and mortar mineralogical-petrographic analysis. As for the conservation works (Svetitskhoveli Cathedral) the following was implemented: treatment of stone surfaces by biocide, mechanical removal of the material (cement) used during the previous interventions, cleaning of empty spaces with air jet and water, applying ethyl silicate on exfoliated and crumbled stones, treatment of the cracks and stitches by lime plaster, filling of cleaned spaces with lime mortar, consolidation of microcracks with nano - silicate, treatment of missing parts and fissures and other relevant activities.

At present, the stone conservation project of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral Church is still going on which implies the stone conservation works on the drum of the dome, including the treatment of part of the roofing surface by biocide.

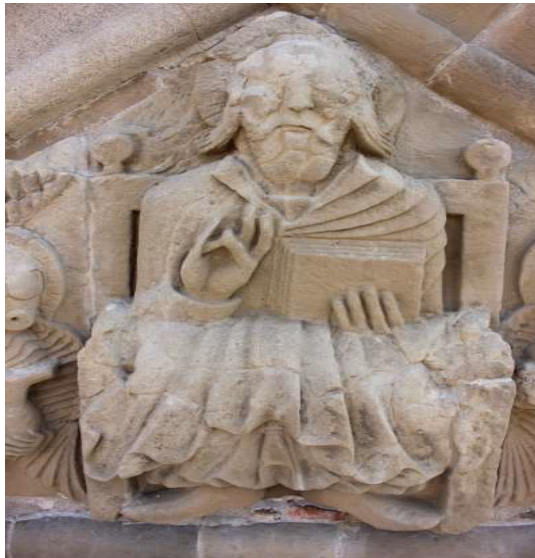
Before and After the Conservation



Before and After the Conservation



Before and After the Conservation



Ongoing works



Considering society's opinion, the yard of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral Church needed greening and dendrological rehabilitation. The project was elaborated and submitted to World Heritage Centre for review. After the positive assessment of World Heritage Centre, the following greening and rehabilitation works had been conducted: cultivation of the soil; cleaning of the sewage well; arrangement of the paths through the new garden connecting to the fence path and the inner path of the garden; taking out the weak or diseased trees and arrangement of irrigation system on the territory.

Concerning Jvari Monastery Complex, treatment by biocide was conducted. The stone conservation project concerning Jvari Monastery, accepted by World Heritage Centre, is planned to be implemented in the next year.

In order to perform extensive conservation and restoration works on Jvari Monastery, the Agency has elaborated the project implying the conservation of archaeological objects in the yard of Jvari Monastery Complex and restoration/consolidation of the Church fence. The project will be implemented by the Agency in the near future. Within the framework of the project, measures to restrict access for visitors to unsecured places have already been planned along with touristic footpaths.

Regarding Samtavro Monastery, research on the identification of construction materials and types of material damages had been conducted. Based on the studies, the project on the stone conservation works at the base of Samtavro Monastery and the lower part of the wall façade was elaborated. The project also implies the arrangement of water transformation system for the St. Nino Church (Samtavro Monastery) and the replacement of its tile roofing (at damaged places). The project will be implemented by the Agency in the next year.

- c. General Protection Zones of Mtskheta Cultural Heritage is the guideline for the State to protect historical development areas, development areas, historical landscape areas, and archaeological sites in the property. The long-term vision regarding the historical urban landscape is one of the components of town planning documentation, including ULUMP.
8. Requests the State Party to continue submitting, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, detailed information on any proposed development projects within the property, its buffer zone and setting, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse;

All the development projects within the buffer zone and setting of Historical Monuments of Mtskheta WHS are submitted for review and approval to the Cultural Heritage Council of the National Agency through the municipal authority. In case the projects are considered acceptable, the State Party, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, submits projects to World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review prior to any decision being taken.

9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for developments within the property and its buffer zone as a timely and appropriate method of assessing the multiple and cumulative impacts of current and planned developments, taking into account potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, prior to allowing any developments to take place and prior to the finalization and implementation of the ULUMP;

During the reporting period mainly, the projects of individual living houses and small commercial buildings within the buffer zone of Historical Monuments of Mtskheta WHS have been submitted to the National Agency and accordingly to the Cultural Heritage Council of the National Agency. As for the major development projects, there has been only one project regarding the installation of wind turbines within the setting of the World

Heritage property, in the context of plans to integrate renewable energy in the state submission grid and increase the use of renewable energy by 2030. The project documentation including Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Council of the National Agency and after its approval, the project documentation (including HIA), in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, was submitted to World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review prior to any decision being taken.

10. Finally requests 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, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

The report was submitted on 5 December 2022 as kindly requested to the Director of World Heritage Centre to extend the deadline.

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger Please also provide detailed information on the following:

- a. Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

[Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc

If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified

- b. Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.
- c. Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party (ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value have not been identified by the State Party.

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors 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 gives its consent to upload the present SoC Report for public access (The report does not contain annexes).

6. Signature of the Authority

Nikoloz Aznaurashvili

Director General

National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia