

World Cultural Heritage

**HISTORIC ENSEMBLE OF THE
POTALA PALACE, LHASA**

State of Conservation Report

Executive Summary

We appreciate the continued attention and guidance that UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Centre have given to the state of conservation and management of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa. We appreciate the important recommendations proposed by the Reactive Monitoring Mission of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM in the *Reactive Monitoring Report on the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa*.

Over the years, the Chinese Government has attached vital importance to the conservation and management of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa, strictly implemented the *World Heritage Convention*, and effectively protected and managed the property in a well-planned manner, pursuant to the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and the *World Heritage Resource Manual: Managing Cultural World Heritage*, under the guidance of the 5C Strategic Objectives, and with focus on the outstanding universal value of the property.

Despite the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, we are conducting an overall assessment of the conservation work for the property and improving our conservation and management capacity through the preparation of the conservation plans for the three component parts of the property.

This report offers responses to the issues relating to the conservation state of the property requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision 44 COM 7B. 20 adopted at its 44th session. The conservation plans for the three components of the property have been completed and examined by the National Cultural Heritage Administration. Based on the assessment, we

propose not to modify the boundary of the buffer zone of Norbulingka whose conservation zoning and management rules have already implemented in its routine management practices. With regard to the three historic steles near the Jokhang Temple Monastery that have long been exposed outdoors and subject to natural erosions to various degrees, we present a HIA report to justify the installation of the protective facility, while noting that the protective facility harmonizes with the overall landscape of the Jokhang Temple Monastery and is subject to reversible interventions. Pursuant to the requirement of the World Heritage Centre and considering comments of various parties, the Cultural Heritage Administration of Tibet Autonomous Region is working with Lhasa City and the conservation and management authority of the Jokhang Monastery to follow up the monitoring of the protective facility and assess whether degradation of the steles is effectively reduced after the installation of the protective facility so as to decide on if the protective facility is maintained or not.

Moreover, we have introduced off-peak visit booking in order to minimize visitors' disturbance of religious activities.

The report also presents the work carried out since 2020 by the conservation and management authorities of the property in the preparation of the conservation plans, inventorying and protection of value attributes, digital documentation and archival information development, monitoring and early warning system building, and public access and service guarantees.