

**REPORT ON THE JOINT WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE/ICOMOS
REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION TO
'DIYARBAKIR FORTRESS AND HEVSEL GARDENS CULTURAL
LANDSCAPE', TÜRKİYE
FROM 28 NOVEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER 2022**



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission team would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Government of Türkiye for their kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangements put in place to ensure the smooth running of the mission. The mission team would like to convey its special thanks to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums, and in particular Gökhan Bozkurtlar, Head of Department, Ipek Özbek, Head of Division World Heritage Sites, Zeynep Tuna Yüncü, Site Manager, Pinar Kuşseven, Culture and Tourism expert, for their efforts in ensuring the successful organization of the mission that combined meetings and presentations with on-site visits and discussions, hence allowing the mission team to receive first-hand information on the issues and challenges that the World Heritage Committee has been examining since the World Heritage property's 'Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape' inscription.

The mission team would also like to express their sincere thanks to the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change for their serious engagement in presenting their work on the ground and their hospitality as well as to the Governor of Diyarbakir for his warm welcome.

The mission team would also like to record their sincere thanks to all representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Commission for UNESCO in Türkiye, the different Directorates of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate for Culture and Tourism, the Diyarbakir Directorate for Surveying and Monuments, the Diyarbakir Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties, the General Directorate of Foundation, the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality, the Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate for Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the Scientific Commission for the Diyarbakir Fortress, as well as ICOMOS Türkiye, all of which contributed valuable comments and support (list of participants in Annex IV of this report).

The Mission team also acknowledges the contribution of institutions and individuals from civil society (as listed in Annex IV of this report) for the time, information and viewpoints that contributed to the mission's understanding of the 'Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape' site and the complex issues surrounding the current projects.

The mission team would also like to thank the two interpreters who facilitated communication during the meetings and visits between the mission experts and the Turkish authorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Brief outline of the mission's organization and purpose

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was initially requested by the World Heritage Committee in its **Decision 41 COM 7B.50** (2017) in order to 'evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and to propose measures to be taken' and reiterated its request in 2019 (**Decision 43 COM 7B.90**) and in 2021 (**Decision 44 COM 7B.56**). The mission's objectives were to assess the overall management of the property as well as its state of conservation, especially with regards to changes since its inscription on the World Heritage List and review already implemented and planned projects in the property, its buffer zone and setting that have, may or may not have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The mission followed the Terms of Reference agreed to with the State Party (see Annex I). The mission programme included 5 days of a blend of presentations and on-site visits, as well as a meeting with representatives of civil society.

The mission team visited the Içkale excavation works, the restoration works on the City Walls and all bastions and gates, and many of the Suriçi neighbourhoods where it observed projects on street rehabilitation, new building projects, the restoration of monumental and civil architecture and registered buildings, urban design and landscaping projects in Içkale and at the Nation's Garden, the Hevsel Gardens, the Ten Eyed Bridge-Kirklar Hill and the Banks of the Tigris River. The mission team also requested and visited the Anzele Spring and surrounding area. On-site visits were followed up by presentations from the relevant national, regional and local authorities, namely the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanism and Climate Change, the Diyarbakir Regional Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties and the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality.

The mission team had to review, assess and report on projects on the City Walls, the buffer zone within the City Walls as well as the Hevsel Gardens, the buffer zone outside the City Walls and the wider setting as well as to evaluate the management of the property and assess progress on the Conservation Plan and its Conservation Implementary Development Plan and the development of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for projects having an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Summary conclusions on the state of conservation of the property, with specific reference to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

The mission team observed a large number of urban restoration, rehabilitation, renewal and landscaping projects that have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2015. While some of the already implemented projects have had a positive or neutral impact on the OUV of the property and the attributes that convey it, the majority have had a direct or indirect negative impact on the latter as defined at the time of inscription.

1. Since the time of inscription, the restoration works of the City Walls have continued in the sector overlooking the Tigris Valley, on the city wall as well as the Citadel (Içkale), with a significant qualitative leap. The quality of the research and approach have led to much more considered interventions. An approach to the work has been developed, which is consistent with best international practice. The work in progress is therefore a radical departure from the point of view of restoration doctrine compared to the situation observed in 2014. The four

main gates have been restored with contemporary scientific techniques. In the two major towers of the late twelfth century, Ulu Beden and Yedi Karden, archaeological observations conducted during the work allowed the discovery and enhancement of Roman towers absorbed into the circular Artukid towers. However, all the opening up and excavations are carried out under the control of engineers and architects, without the presence of archaeologists to collect the material found, draw the stratigraphies and interpret the remains before reburial or destruction. The mission could not establish if all the sites of restoration, removal and destruction of buildings such as the digging of pipe networks are done with any archaeological supervision, with the exception of the excavation of İçkale. The seeming absence of archaeological investigations to accompany restorations is a major problem in this regard. The archival and documentation of restoration work and recording information on the status and restoration works on the City Walls was noted during the mission. Consequently, paragraph 4.e of the Committee Decision 39 COM 8B.32 'improving the scientific basis and procedures for planning the restoration and maintenance of the City Walls, including documentation of the walls and the work undertaken' was fulfilled.

2. At the time of inscription, the Hevsel Gardens, home to a diverse flora and fauna, in existence since the ninth century BCE, had 'maintained their historical and functional links to the city' and was 'supplying the city with food and water'. They are an essential attribute that convey and support the historic cultural landscape and the OUV of the property and contributes to its authenticity. The mission noted that the gardens' structure is being fundamentally altered, with small parcels being transformed into larger fields of monoculture corn farming, and that the bond with traditional local communities is disappearing at an accelerated rate with the removal of inhabitants from within the walls of the historic city. The fundamental relationship upon which the OUV is based is eroding, threatening one of the major attributes of the World Heritage property. Urgent action must be taken here to prevent further danger and reinstate the relationship between the Hevsel Gardens, the City and the inhabitants. In addition, at the time of inscription it was recommended to improve the study and documentation of the Hevsel Gardens as well as the agriculture and water systems that support the continuing use and significance of the property. The mission saw no evidence that this is happening. The State Party should cease all changes in the working structure of the Hevsel Gardens as a matter of urgency until its complex functions are fully understood and set out clearly so that effective protections can be put in place and enforced and the details of the historic cultural landscape, its evolution and its irrigation system are fully documented.
3. Since time of inscription, the environs of the Ten-Eyed Bridge, an attribute of the World Heritage property, have been opened up to major construction activity at both ends of the banks of the Tigris. Considerable works have been undertaken to the south of the bridge both within the World Heritage property and beyond, into the outer buffer zone. Similar works have also been undertaken on the north side. The design and impact of these works are inappropriate and the riverbanks have been effectively rebuilt, particularly along the west bank of the river beyond the bridge. These works directly impact in a very negative way the Ten-Eyed Bridge further eroding its setting. There is virtually no historic setting left. Some of the works seem to have no planning permission. The management of the property appears to be ineffective at this location. The State Party should examine whether current legislation and management regulations can effectively protect the Tigris River banks within the property and in the buffer zone and review and restore the setting of this attribute in order to mitigate the evident negative impact on the OUV that has occurred.

4. The mission was informed that works are planned in the vicinity of the Anzele Spring, an attribute of the World Heritage property. The scale of building demolition located in the immediate vicinity of the spring in the inner buffer zone is very large. It is not yet known how the immediate setting of the Anzele Spring may be altered. The State Party should carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken that could impact on the contribution of the OUV of this attribute.
5. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property clearly refers to Suriçi, the inner buffer zone, as ‘the fortified city ... that has been an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present’. The City Walls, one of the main attributes of the property, should be seen and experienced within their urban and landscape settings; as such, it is stated that ‘the ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is significant, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the property’. Therefore, Suriçi plays a crucial role in fully supporting the integrity of the Diyarbakir City Walls. The City has the ability to directly affect the condition and views of the City Walls. And their historical inscriptions, repairs and reinforcements present a powerful physical and visual testimony of the many periods of the region’s history that is supported by the historic urban fabric of Suriçi.
6. Almost immediately after inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, an armed conflict erupted in the inner buffer zone. As a result, the historic city of Diyarbakir Suriçi District was exposed to widespread attacks and security operations. Satellite images show the progressive destruction of buildings and neighbourhoods in Suriçi. The demolition of approximately 40% of the buildings in the historic city and the removal of the narrow, winding streets have been replaced by a repetitive subdivision of houses and/or shops and by wide, straight street lanes that have profoundly and irreversibly altered the social and urban fabric in these parts of the city and has considerably diminished the ability to view the City Walls within their urban setting, thus severely impacting their visual integrity. Any further demolition in Suriçi should therefore be halted as a matter of urgency.
7. At the time of the inscription of the property, the World Heritage Committee recommended in its **Decision [39 COM 8B.32](#)** (2015) to strengthen the legal protection of the buffer zone, through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in Suriçi District to protect the urban fabric and strengthen mechanisms for consideration of heritage impacts in development approvals processes (Paragraph 4.a. of the Decision). It is therefore noted that the State Party was not able to follow the Committee’s recommendation. The State Party revised the 2012 Conservation Plan in 2016, and successively until August 2020 without submitting the revisions to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, despite the repeated requests by the Committee (Decisions 44 COM 7B.56 (2021) and 43 COM 7B.90 (2019)).
8. In the outer buffer zone, a large housing development on Kirkklar Hill at the far side of the Ten-Eyed Bridge, which was considered to have a visual impact on all attributes of the property at the time of the evaluation of the nomination dossier, was demolished prior to the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. Urbanization at this location is abolished and

replaced by terraced gardens that positively contribute to the visual integrity of the property. However, the various projects near and above the base of the Ten-Eyed bridge, including a large mosque, a garden café, sport facilities and sewage treatment centre, were completed after the date of inscription and directly impact on the landscape and visual integrity of the Ten-Eyed Bridge. An urban renewal project at the north of the City Walls (in the Feritköşk neighbourhood) that was being implemented at the time of the mission is planned to include the demolition of illegally constructed buildings to transform the area for recreational purposes. This area has a strong visual connection to both the Tigris Valley and İçkale. The State Party started to implement this project before undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment, despite the World Heritage Committee's repeated requests to carry out independent HIAs for urban design, landscape and infrastructure projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and its setting, before these projects are implemented.

9. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) notes that at the time of inscription the management system was not yet fully operational and that the overall functioning of the management systems was complex and might require further improvement. The Management Plan at the time provided for the division of the property into seven different implementation areas, as well as another twelve areas for the inner and outer buffer zones. From the outset, the management system lacked integration and facilitated compartmentalisation. The mission team observed that currently the Management Plan is not fully implemented and needs integration and clarity. The current system has resulted in a range of disparate projects, some of which are undermining the OUV of the World Heritage property and have negatively impacted some of its attributes. This lack of overall integration has also led to areas being considered in isolation, particularly with regard to the natural elements of the property. The implementation areas mentioned above need to be managed together to ensure their inter-relations and to manage the property and its buffer zones in a holistic manner. Local communities and civil society need to be actively involved in the management system to ensure that decision-making has a strong local impact.
10. The World Heritage Committee has repeatedly requested the State Party carry out independent Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design, landscape and infrastructure projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and its setting, in conformity with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties* (now superseded by the 2022 *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*), each of which should include a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, before these projects are implemented. Except for the Rail/Tram line project and the Dicle River Rehabilitation project, for which the implementation started before the HIA was conducted but the project was stopped before its completion, all implemented urban design, infrastructure and landscaping projects were or are being implemented without having carried out an HIA prior to the beginning of the works. An HIA document submitted to the World Heritage Centre in the aftermath of the mission contained 7 projects previously implemented. This practice entails important risks for the safeguarding of the property, since the State Party has repeatedly missed the opportunity to use this tool to analyse the possible impacts of these projects on the OUV and opt for avoiding their implementation or seek mitigation measures, thereby protecting the attributes that underpin the property's OUV. In addition, the level of interventions, the scope and quantity of the projects implemented or being implemented in the inscribed property, the buffer zone and wider setting is creating a cumulative negative

impact that should have been addressed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to identify strategic and generic measures that could apply consistently to all projects.

List of recommendations

Archaeology

1. All intervention within the property and buffer zones, whether excavation, restoration, or rehabilitation must be subject to archaeological oversight and the management system adapted to mandate continuous archaeological oversight and provide for the resources this may call for. Archaeology should be fully integrated into the works to ensure good practice and effective outcomes.
2. In the re-landscaped lower area of İçkale there should be no further archaeological disturbance. A scientific study should be undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of this area.

City Walls

3. With regard to the City Walls project, historical research, on-site research and investigation have been under way for some time. This work must be published and a programme of publications needs to be agreed and followed through. The restoration work to the four main gates should also be published. It should reflect the research undertaken, any discoveries made and demonstrate how decisions were made. The important historical research and practical work undertaken in relation to mud brick and plasters is commendable and should be published in due course. All publications should be fully illustrated.
4. A programme of interpretation needs to be developed for the substantial works to the City Walls, as the project nears completion. A lot of information can be transmitted to the public on suitably designed, well-illustrated quality display panels.

The Hevsel Gardens and the agriculture and water system

5. All changes in the functioning of the Hevsel Gardens itself should cease until a detailed broad survey/study is completed for the gardens to include not only the flora and fauna but its complex functions in relation to agriculture and water management. The study should include examination of the setting and the evolution of this historic cultural landscape so that effective protections can be put in place and enforced. An urgent recovery plan with a clear timeline should be developed to reverse recent negative impacts and this should be reported to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Any future changes to its working structure should be the subject of a HIA, once the detailed studies have been completed, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
6. A study must be undertaken of the existing mill remains within the property, the functional interrelation between the water sources, the population and the Hevsel Gardens. The water management system needs to be an integral part of this study. Proposals should then be included for the preservation and conservation of the entire system in order to support the functional and visual qualities of the property as was set out in the Statement of the OUV. The study should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Tigris River

7. There should be no further intervention along the banks of the Tigris River, which is an attribute of the property, until all relevant studies are completed, and an Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken and communicated to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. An ecological study is now required to ascertain the full impact of works to date. Depending on the results of the study, it may be necessary to restore the relationship between the river and its banks along that stretch which has already been altered.

Ten-Eyed Bridge

8. Since inscription, management and legislation seem to have failed to protect the setting of the Ten-Eyed Bridge. Developments along the banks of the Tigris River here need to be investigated and all illegal development removed. Buffer zone legislation needs to be greatly strengthened to protect the banks of the Tigris River.
9. The State Party should review the changes to the setting of this attribute (Ten-Eyed Bridge) of the World Heritage property in relation to recent developments and the impact on the OUV. It should report back to the World Heritage Committee setting out how it proposes to address these issues through a concrete plan of actions.
10. The setting of the historic Ten-Eyed Bridge has been seriously altered by the Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project. This bridge, one of the attributes contributing to the OUV of the property, is so affected that there is a threat to the OUV of the property. Elements of this project such as the mosque and the stone staircase have had a devastating visual impact. To remove this threat this project needs to be fundamentally re-visited. All remedial proposals in this area should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
11. The stone staircase should be removed, and a more appropriate stepped structure designed to better sit into the contour of the hill and constructed using more sympathetic materials. The mosque should also be relocated; a HIA should be commissioned to identify a more appropriate location and scale that will not impact negatively on the Ten-Eyed Bridge.
12. The sports facilities, the water storage structures to the south and the area below the platform dropping down to the river should be fundamentally re-landscaped to reduce their impact on the Ten-Eyed Bridge.

Inner buffer zone, Suriçi

13. Any further demolition of the historic urban fabric of Suriçi should be halted as a matter of urgency and current expropriation decisions cancelled as Suriçi, the inner buffer zone, has the ability to directly affect the condition and views of the City Walls, a major attribute of the property. The current approach to redevelopment in the historic city should be revised when rehabilitating other areas. The loss of traditional neighbourhoods has been considerable and has diminished the inner buffer zone considerably in its support of the OUV and in its ability to view the City Walls.
14. Other new developments in Suriçi need to be more sensitive to the historic city, conserving and renovating as much as possible and infilling with developments of appropriate scale,

materials, form, etc. Wholesale demolition is not the way forward, particularly as the inner buffer zone is so strongly supportive of the World Heritage property.

15. When researching and re-creating typologies of housing/dwellings in Suriçi, it is essential that each period is included, reflecting the evolution of the structures on the ground and thus avoiding a selective museum perspective. When restoring other monuments, the aim should be to conserve and repair as much as possible and avoid over-restoration.
16. A re-design of the Tourist Ring Road between Mardin and Dag Gates is necessary, to help re-establish some relationship between the City Walls and Suriçi and to mitigate the stark impact of this engineering project by reducing its scale and introducing suitable and sufficient planting. A specialist with experience in historic urban landscapes should be consulted. A project containing mitigation measures should be developed and put through Heritage Impact Assessment that should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Tram Line Project

17. In relation to the Tram Line Project, it is recommended that an archaeological trench 2 metres wide by 25 metres long is excavated at the most sensitive location, close to the City Walls. If significant archaeological remains are found, the precise route in this area may need to be reconsidered or other mitigation measures taken, if the preservation of the archaeological remains is at risk. The final design and report on the archaeological investigation, together with the State Party's proposal on how to proceed in light of the importance of the findings, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
18. The potential impact of the associated infrastructural elements of the Tram line Project and the landscaping component on the City Walls and its setting need to be reduced as much as possible in the final design to ensure a low visual impact to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Management

19. The Management Systems with the Management Plan should be fully reviewed, as it is no longer effective. The compartmentalization of many different implementation areas should be avoided to achieve better integration, cohesion and holistic management of the property and its buffer zones. The cultural and natural elements of the property and its buffer zones need to be managed in an integrated manner. The revised Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.
20. The involvement of the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality needs to be restored to ensure a strong local impact in decision-making. The involvement of local communities and civil society in the management process should be encouraged for the same reasons. In addition, the current role of the site manager should be strengthened beyond coordination.

Conservation Plan

21. The State Party should reinstate the 2012 Urban Conservation Plan as was repeatedly requested by the World Heritage Committee in its **Decisions 44 COM 7B.56** (2021) and

43 COM 7B.90 (2019). To allow for it to be fully assessed the current Conservation Plan, it should be professionally translated into one of the working languages of the World Heritage Committee, together with all the plans, the Conservation Implementary Development Plan and all relevant documentation and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review before any further development is continued.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes

22. The State Party should halt works on all ongoing or newly planned urban, infrastructural and landscaping projects located in the property, its buffer zones and the wider setting of the property before independent Heritage Impact Assessments and/or Environmental and Social Impact Assessments have been carried out. In each step of the impact assessment process, the State Party should integrate the participation of rights-holders, local communities and relevant stakeholders. Examples of such projects are the urban renewal projects at the Anzele Spring and in the Feritkösk-Dicle neighbourhoods [Yenişehir District].
23. It is essential to carry out a HIA well in advance of projects being commissioned and before any irreversible decisions are taken. All Impact Assessments conducted from now on should follow the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* published in 2022 and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the beginning of project implementation.
24. For projects already implemented, the State Party should inventory any negative impacts on the OUV, in particular the authenticity and/or integrity of the property, develop measures to reverse or redress them, and submit the inventory and proposed measures to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Based on the above, the mission is of the view that the property is faced with imminent danger, particularly due to a significant loss of integrity, cultural significance and supporting historic urban fabric, all of which fail to maintain the attributes that convey and support the OUV of the property. Remedying this situation will be a challenge and will require a pause to take stock and initiate a dramatic change in approach. This will require determined action at the highest decision-making level.

I. THE PROPERTY

The '[Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape](#)' was inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape in 2015 under criterion (iv). It is located on an escarpment in the Upper Tigris River Basin. The fortified city with its associated landscape has been an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through the Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present. The property includes the impressive Diyarbakir City Walls of 5800 metres – with its many towers, gates, buttresses and 63 inscriptions from different historical periods and the fertile Hevsel Gardens that link the city with the Tigris River and supplied the city with food and water. The City Walls, and the evidence of their damage, repair and reinforcement since the Roman period, present a powerful physical and visual testimony of the many periods of the region's history.

The attributes of this property include the İçkale (Inner Castle), Diyarbakir City Walls (known as the Dişkale or Outer Castle), including its towers, gates and inscriptions, the Hevsel Gardens, the Tigris River and Valley, the Ten-Eyed Bridge, and the spring of Anzélé. The ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is significant, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the property.

At the time of inscription, the integrity of the property was considered to be vulnerable due to development pressures in the city centre and in areas surrounding the property and its buffer zones. The authenticity of the attributes of the property was clear. A substantial part of the 5.8km-long ring consisting of bastion walls, gates and towers of the old city remain and it is still possible to recognize their materials, form and design. The Hevsel Gardens had also maintained their historical and functional links to the city.

According to [ICOMOS evaluation of the property at the time of inscription](#), the inner buffer zone component containing the historic city of Diyarbakir Suriçi District with many historical buildings contributes to the visual integrity of the nominated property. The outer buffer zone component surrounding the outside of the nominated property was extended by the State Party to include additional areas to the north and east of the nominated property in order to protect the views to and from the property.

In December 2015 an armed conflict erupted and lasted until March 2016. As a result the inner buffer zone component containing the historic city of Diyarbakir Suriçi District was exposed to widespread attacks and security operations. According to the 2018 World Heritage Watch report: 'while in East Sur the number of completely destroyed and subsequently erased buildings was 832 (10,7 hectares) in May 2016, the number increased to 1519 (20,3 hectares) in August 2016 and to 3569 in July 2017. Among the destroyed buildings from Southwestern Sur, there are 4376 destroyed buildings (58 hectares), that represent 40% of the old city area and home to approximately 23.000 people. A total of 170 monuments, i.e. architecturally registered and conserved civil and public buildings, have been destroyed or damaged in Sur according to the satellite photo dated August 2016. ... One of the destroyed registered wall remains was located in the citadel which is part of the inscribed World Heritage property. It was destroyed in order to build a park in 2017, after the Diyarbakir Regional Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties cancelled its registration status. The inhabitants of this area had left years ago to allow for excavations since underground antique monuments, including

a Roman amphitheater, had been detected.¹ Excavations of two meters depth were carried out in various locations in preparation for the construction of the park.

Satellite images from May 2016, August 2016 and July 2017 show the progressive destruction of buildings and areas in Suriçi (inner buffer zone).

In its [Decision 40 COM 7B.60](#) (2016), the World Heritage Committee underlined the importance of preventing any further damage to the property and requested the State Party to carry out an assessment of the state of conservation of the property as soon as the security situation allows. In its [Decision 41 COM 7B.50](#) (2017), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to initiate the elaboration of a Master Plan for restoration and rehabilitation activities within the property and to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design projects, which could threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS *Guidance on Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage Properties*. In its [Decisions 43 COM 7B.90](#) (2019) and [44 COM 7B.56](#) (2021), the World Heritage Committee repeatedly requested the State Party to halt all projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property until the recommendations of the reactive Monitoring Mission are known and adopted by the Committee, to halt the implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan until the revised conservation plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review and to carry out HIAs for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects before these projects are implemented and in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance.

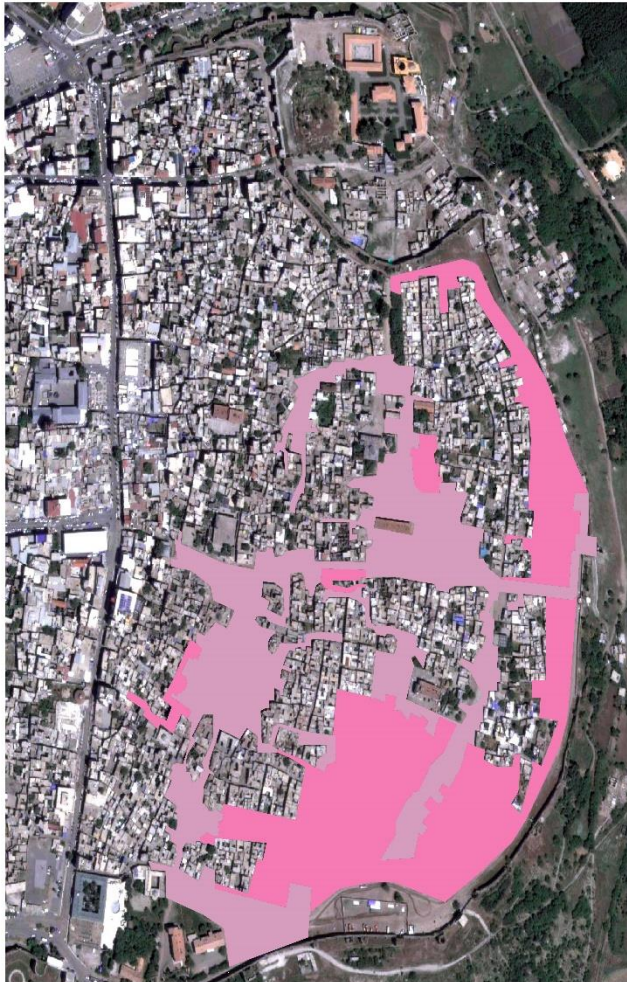
In its [2020 state of conservation report](#), the State Party has reported that even though the 2012 Conservation Plan had been revised in order to cover urgent needs such as transportation, reconsideration of open spaces, security as well as rehabilitation of the area after the 2015 attacks, large parts of the 2012 Conservation Plan remained valid.

¹ <https://world-heritage-watch.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2018-Report-WHW.pdf> (page 143).



FIGURE 1: MAP SHOWING LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION IN SURICI (BUFFER ZONE) AS OF MAY 2016

AREAS WHERE DEMOLITION HAS TAKEN PLACE
(Satellite Image Dated 16 August 2016)

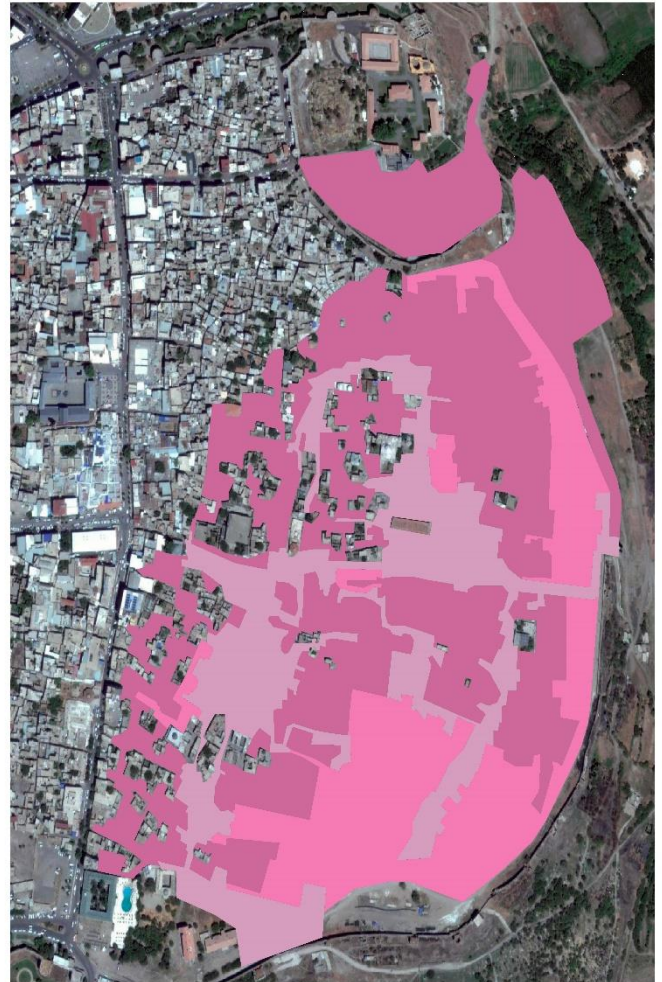


IMAGE

10 May 2016 Demolished Area	Surici Total Area	:148 Hektare
16 August 2016 Demolished Area	Total Area of Banned 6 Neighborhoods	:75.3 Hektare
	Shaded Area Where Demolition Took Place	:20.3 Hektare

FIGURE 2: MAP SHOWING LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION IN SURICI (BUFFER ZONE) AS OF 16 AUGUST 2016

AREAS WHERE DEMOLITION HAS TAKEN PLACE
(Satellite Image Dated 11 July 2017)



IMAGE

10 May 2016 Demolished Area	Surici Total Area	:148 Hektare
16 August 2016 Demolished Area	Total Area of Banned 6 Neighborhoods	:75.3 Hektare
11 July 2017 Demolished Area	Shaded Area Where Demolition Took Place	:46.3 Hektare

FIGURE 3: MAP SHOWING LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION IN SURICI (BUFFER ZONE) AS OF 11 JULY 2017

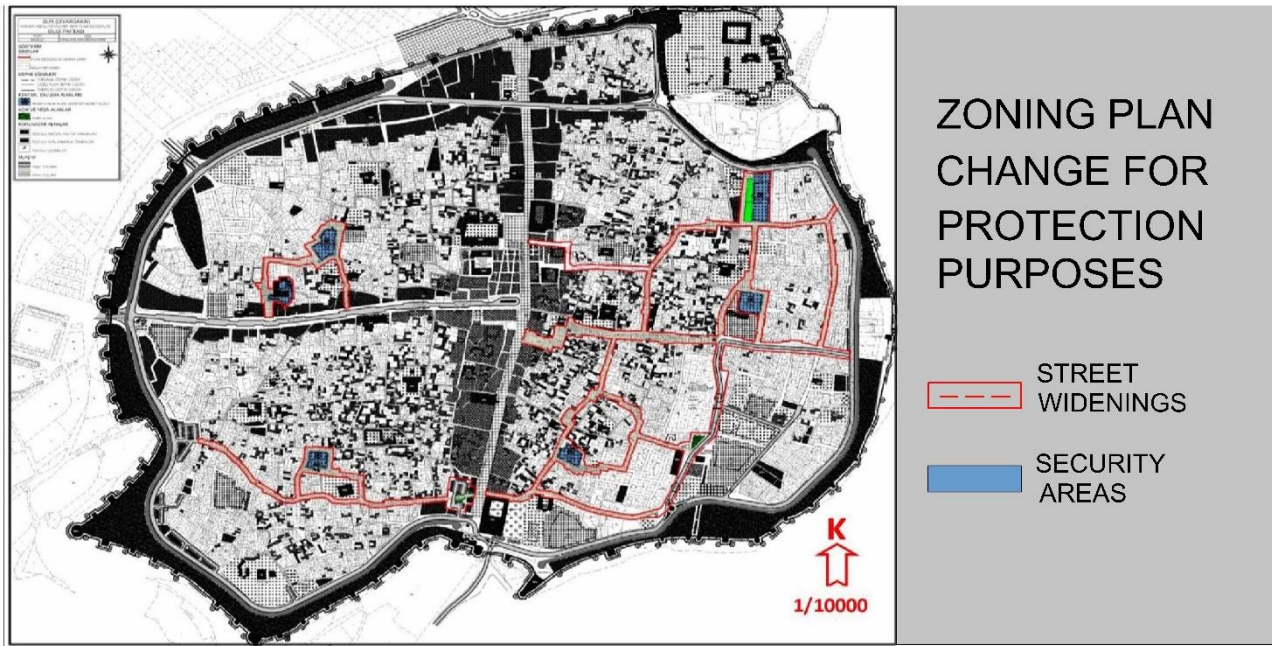


FIGURE 4: DIYARBAKIR (SURIÇI) CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2016

II. SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

At the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (2015), legal protection was in place for the key attributes of the property, although the coordination of these provisions, it was noted, could be improved and the protection of the buffer zones could be strengthened. In order to develop suitable policies for the property, seven implementation zones were established, three of these concerned the Diyarbakir Fortress and the remaining four zones were associated with the Hevsel Gardens.

The inner buffer zone located inside the city walls (Suriçi) had three planning zones based on conservation issues and the ability to directly affect the condition or views to the City Walls. The outer buffer zone that protected the area around the property was divided into nine zones based on the area's social and economic functions.

At the time of inscription, the management system was not yet fully operational and a complex range of organizations and of management systems was involved. The management of the buffer zones (particularly in relation to the Suriçi District) was not yet well coordinated with the management of the property. The World Heritage Committee in its [Decision 39 COM 88.32](#) (paragraphs 4.a, 4.b and 4.c) recommended to the State Party to strengthen the legal protection of the buffer zone, through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in Suriçi District to protect the urban fabric and to strengthen mechanisms for consideration of heritage impacts in development approval processes, to reinforce the coordination of the legal protection for the property and the two buffer zones and to fully implement the proposed management system; including the management structures and advisory mechanisms and provisions for community involvement.

Key National legislation

At the time of inscription, the surrounding of the City Walls was under the authorization of Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality. The City Walls and the Towers were declared an "Urban Site" according to the decision of Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation and Law no. 2863 on Code of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties dated 23/07/1983 and amended by Law No. 5226 dated 14/07/2004. In addition, the 5800-meter-long Diyarbakir city walls with its bastions, gates and inscriptions were also designated separately as a 'scheduled monument' including their 50-meter protection zone by the decision No. 6312 dated 11/03/1972 of the High Council for the Real Estate Antiquities and Monuments. The 50-meter protection zone was determined by the decision No. 2549 dated 13/04/2001 of the Diyarbakir Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural and Natural Properties. However, the usage right of the towers and bastions belonged to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The Amida Mound in İçkale (Inner Castle) was designated "1st degree Archaeological Site" (=conservation area). The Diyarbakir Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties needed to give permission before any construction and/or physical intervention. Special provisions for the historical City Walls, towers and wall gates were included in the implementation provisions of the 2012 Urban Site Conservation Plan. The responsible municipalities had to give permission before any construction and/or physical intervention was to be implemented in the settlements outside of

the City Walls and in Hevsel Gardens. All kinds of archaeological studies or excavations in these areas were monitored and controlled by Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakir Museum Directorate.

According to Law no. 6306 on 'Transformation of Areas Under Disaster Risk', the Suriçi District was declared as area under risk of disasters on 22.10.2012. This law required the demolition of buildings at risk in the areas under disaster risk and the resettlement of the inhabitants in the reserved building areas which were determined by the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning. Within the scope of this law, the new settlement would follow the provisions of the 2012 Conservation Plan for Suriçi. At the time of inscription there were registered 125 monumental structures, 382 civil architecture sample structures in the inner buffer zone component located inside the city walls (Suriçi).

Law no. 2872 on Soil Preservation and Land Utilization controlled and administered the agricultural activities in Tigris Valley and Hevsel Gardens. The area defined as Hevsel Gardens was described as 1st Degree Irrigated Agricultural Land and the Area. A Tigris Valley Master Plan was composed by the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality. This law prohibited the use of the lands for non-agricultural purposes or to be zoned for construction. However, with the last decision of the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning dated 23.08.2013 (no. 5181), the Hevsel Gardens and a big part of Tigris Valley were declared as 'reserved building' area for Suriçi which was declared as 'area at risk of disaster' (Law no 6306). Under this law, 'reserved building areas' are areas determined to be used for new settlement. In accordance with Article 9, this law is not subjected to restrictions designated in any other laws. For this reason, the laws such as Law no. 5403 on the Protection and Use of Agricultural Lands became invalid for this area. In 03.10.2013 the Metropolitan Municipality wrote an official letter to the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning objecting to this decision. However, at the time of inscription of the property in 2015 there was no defined cancellation of the decision.

Background information on the Management system at the time of inscription

The management of the inscribed property was co-coordinated by the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality Site Management Unit, which was established in June 2012, and by the Advisory Board, where state and local administrative institutions, Dicle University and NGOs had a seat. In accordance with the relevant laws and regulations, the Site Manager was to be appointed by the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality. The site manager would be in command of planning, implementation and management processes assigned to ensure management coordination. A Site Coordinator and site work team (secretariat) would be formed among the Municipality personnel and connected to the Site Manager. The coordinator and the secretariat would conduct the fulfilment of the Site Management Directorate's duties and responsibilities, keeping records and ensuring the communication and organization of the boards and coordination works.

The Advisory Board was expected to make proposals and suggestions regarding implementation and reviewing of the draft Management Plan. It would record all meetings, suggestions and opinions during the preparation-implementation process of the plan in order to transmit them to the Coordination and Supervision Board. The Supervision Unit would supervise the implementation of the Management Plan, supervising the actions towards evaluation, supervision and reporting of the work performed, the sufficiency of the promotion activities and the implementation process for the visitor management strategies. The Supervision Unit was authorized to evaluate the current status of the Management Plan and to prepare and present the following year's programme to the Coordination and Supervision Board. The Coordination and Supervision Board was the responsible unit for the

approval and supervision of implementation of the Management Plan and of making decisions about the site management.

The Education Board would identify the need for training of the authorized and assigned corporate personnel designated to work in the framework of the Management Plan by analyzing and proposing the personnel's training needs. The Education Board would also be responsible in looking into educational insufficiency and lack of awareness of the population in the area that could present a risk for the property, propose solutions to overcome these obstacles and develop education campaigns and programmes. The proposals would be submitted to the Advisory Board in order to include them in the scope of activities within the Management Plan. The Science Board would be responsible for planning and proposing scientific activities that would support attaining the Management Plan's targets and prepare due reporting for all such activities to the Advisory Board.

III. THE MISSION

The World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2017 ([Decision 41 COM 7B.50](#)) to evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and to propose appropriate measures to be taken. This was reiterated by the Committee in 2019 ([Decision 43 COM 7B.90](#)) and in 2021 ([Decision 44 COM 7B.56](#)) (see Annex I). The State Party invited the mission twice in April 2020 then again in December 2021. However, due to the sanitary situation and its effects the mission could not take place. This mission took place from 28 November to 3 December 2022. (For the composition of the mission team, refer to Annex II).

The mission's objective was to assess the overall management of the property as well as its state of conservation, especially with regards to changes since its inscription on the World Heritage List and review already implemented and planned projects in the property, its buffer zone and the setting that have, may or may not have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The mission followed the Terms of Reference agreed with the State Party (see Annex I). The mission programme included 5 days of presentations and on-site visits, as well as a meeting with representatives of civil society. The presentations included:

- the overall management of the property since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2015,
- the state of conservation of Suriçi (inner buffer zone), including information on protection designation, damage assessment; new registration work carried out within the Suriçi since 2016,
- the Suriçi Conservation Development Implementation Plan including implemented and/or planned rehabilitation, restoration and new building projects within Suriçi,
- restitution/restoration works on the bastions and sections of the Diyarbakir City Walls,
- excavations at the Amida Mound (Içkale),
- the Hevsel Gardens,
- several urban design and landscape projects including on the Hz. Süleyman Mosque surrounding,
- the Tigris Valley Suriçi East-part Urban Design and Landscape project including areas within Suriçi adjacent to the city walls between bastions 51 and 82,
- the landscape project in front of bastion no. 52,

- the Urban renewal /Rehabilitation project areas outside the city walls between bastions no. 26 to 45 (Ben u Sen region),
- the urban renewal projects on Feritköşk-Dicle neighbourhood,
- the Recreation and Forestation project on the Dicle Valley,
- the renovation (street rehabilitation) projects including Gazi Street, Dağ Kapi (Gate) and Melikahmet Street,
- restoration and reconstruction projects of registered civil architecture buildings, many of the projects implemented within the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and setting implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change,
- Rail/Tram Line project (Diyarbakir Dağkapi – Gazi Yaşargil Training Research Hospital Railed Service Line project).

All presentations have been followed up by field visits. The mission team visited Içkale excavation works, the restoration works on the City Walls and all bastions and Gates, many of the Suriçi neighbourhoods observing projects on street rehabilitation, new building projects, restoration of monumental and civil architecture registered buildings, urban design and landscaping projects in Içkale and at the Nation's Garden, the Ten eyed Bridge-Kirklar Hill and the Hevsel Gardens. The mission team also requested and visited the Anzele Spring and surrounding area (full programme in Annex III).

IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

Issue 1: Changes to the property and its inner and outer buffer zones since inscription

The property therefore comprises two zones:

- the ring of the City Wall with a strip of fifty meters outside and the Anzele Spring;
- the Hevsel Garden to the Ten-Eyed Bridge downstream;

and two buffer zones:

- the inner city, approximately 40% of whose surface has progressively been destroyed since inscription;
- the Tigris Valley on the left bank, integrating the right bank upstream and downstream and the urban area of the North-East plateau over 500 m.

1. City Walls

Since the inscription in 2015, the restoration work of the walls has continued in the sector overlooking the Tigris Valley, on the city wall as well as at the citadel (Içkale), with a significant qualitative leap (use of lime, restoration in conservation and no longer in restitution, constitution of archived documentation of the sites). The preserved metal doors have been restored with contemporary scientific techniques.

2. Hevsel Gardens

The Hevsel Gardens have lost the connection with the city they once nurtured. Many of those who cultivate them today no longer live in the city, the crops seem to be no longer irrigated by water coming down from the city and are no longer food crops. The earlier cultural landscape has been replaced by intensive cultivation of cereals and poplars, while the course of the Tigris has been recalibrated to take into account the considerable decline in its flow. The dichotomy between the city and the Garden has become much more pronounced by the fact that the historic city has lost most of its population, with agricultural workers now housed in villages far away. Similarly, the disappearance of areas irrigated from urban water sources and the development of profitable crops has a strong impact on the landscape.

3. Ten-Eyed Bridge

The unfinished skyscrapers on the hill overlooking the left bank of the Tigris were destroyed just before the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. But very impactful infrastructures for the bridge, including a mosque with a golden dome and a monumental concrete staircase, were placed at the east end of the bridge.

4. Inner Buffer Zone

The mission team considers that the OUV of the property has been affected by the destruction of parts of the historic city, which was an essential integrity factor for the historic urban wall. In December 2015 an armed conflict erupted and lasted until March 2016. As a result, the inner buffer zone component containing the historic city of Diyarbakir Suriçi District was exposed to widespread attacks and security operations. The events resulted in the restructuring of approximately 40% of the historic city, which was inhabited in part with what seemed to be rural refugees who had resettled here 20 years earlier, and in its replacement by a repetitive subdivision of houses/shops often for tourist use.

The impoverished residential areas of the historic city (Suriçi) have been replaced by monotonous housing estates. Some of the monuments have been over-restored.

The removal of the network of narrow and winding streets has been replaced by wide and straight lanes, with often undocumented reinvention of ancient monuments now placed within a new urban fabric. The mission was presented with a *fait accompli*. Wall restorations are conditioned by tourism, accessibility, the safety of people than by a search for knowledge.

5. Outer Buffer Zone

The uncontrolled urbanization at the outside foot of the walls on the fronts of the Tigris is being completely abolished, replaced by terraced gardens overlooking the Hevsel Gardens. The university area, on the plateau on the left bank of the Tigris, has continued to develop, impacting the views from the City Walls.

Issue 2: Reconstruction and Restoration projects

2.1 City Walls

– Works on Numerous Bastions & Sections of the City Walls

Work on the City Walls has been taking place for a considerable period of time. While some of the earlier work was open to criticism in the past, the approach has been changing slowly so that the quality of the research and approach have led to much more considered interventions. An approach to the work has been developed consistent with best international practice. The quality of the masonry and brick work is excellent now.

The work in progress is therefore a radical departure from the point of view of restoration doctrine compared to the situation observed in 2014 during the ICOMOS evaluation mission. It is noted that there is no longer any systematic restitution, on the one hand of the masonry erasing the traces of the successive repairs of the walls after the siege, on the other hand of the crenellation, but a crystallization of the masonry showing the successive phases and leaving the profile of the ruined crenellation standing out against the sky at the top of the walls.

In the two major towers of the late twelfth century, Ulu Beden and Yedi Kardeş, archaeological observations conducted during the work allowed the discovery and enhancement of Roman towers, one flat and the other cross-shaped, absorbed into the circular Artukid towers. The pedagogical choice for their coronation resulted in the restoration on a small portion of the perimeter of the crenellated coronation carried on a gallery, to make comprehensible the original triple level of fire on the top.

However, all the opening up and excavations are carried out under the control of engineers and architects, without the presence of archaeologists to collect the material found, draw the stratigraphies and interpret the remains before reburial or destruction. All the sites of restoration, removal and destruction of buildings such as the digging of pipe networks are done without any archaeological supervision, with the exception of the excavation of Içkale under the supervision of Professor İrfan Yıldız.

The seeming absence of archaeological investigations to accompany restorations is a major problem in this regard. This was evident during the visit of the work in progress at the eastern gate 71, near the Citadel, which is being restored without having included the pit under the threshold, the wall condemning it and the elevation to which it has been subjected. Moreover, just after the gate, the wall makes a bend, where the mechanical shovel revealed the presence of a horseshoe tower turning south, as the mark of a first urban core before the great southern extension.

The mission team requested additional information on the archival and documentation of restoration work and looked at examples of historical analysis and recording information on the status and restoration works on the City Walls at a specially set up meeting. Some recorded information was presented on laptops while others were provided in print. The drawings contained considerable detail in relation to the works. There seems to be a considerable archive of material, recording the works before, during and after intervention. Publication of this material is essential for the future understanding of the investigative works and subsequent interventions.

Recommendations:

- Archaeology must always be fully integrated into the works to ensure good practice, no loss of material and sound interpretation.
- Interesting historical research, on site research and intervention has been under way for some time. All this work must be published and a programme of publications needs to be agreed and followed through.
- A programme of interpretation needs to be developed throughout, as the project nears completion. A lot of information can be transmitted to the public on suitably designed, well-illustrated quality display panels.

– Restoration works to the four main gates of the City Walls

For the main gates the metal corrosion was stopped using aluminium oxide and epoxy repairs were implemented. Research was undertaken by a team of experts; the scientific committee was made up of 15 experts. One of the metal conservators accompanied the on-site inspection. Samples had been taken and analysed and new information had been revealed. The works to the gates were completed in 2022.

The gates of Yeni Kapi (East) were a little over-restored. The gates of Mardin Kapi (South) were cleaned and missing areas identified and repaired. The approach at Urfa Kapi (West) was similar to Yeni Kapi. The gates at Dağ Kapi (North) had been removed in 1931. They are now back in-situ, having been restored. While the quality of the work could not be faulted, a more conservative approach would have been preferable, retaining some of the patina of age on the surfaces.

Recommendation:

- The restoration work to the four main gates is scientifically important and should be published. It should reflect the research undertaken, any discoveries made and demonstrate how decisions were made. It should be fully illustrated. It should reflect the research undertaken, any discoveries made and demonstrate how decisions were made. It should be well illustrated.

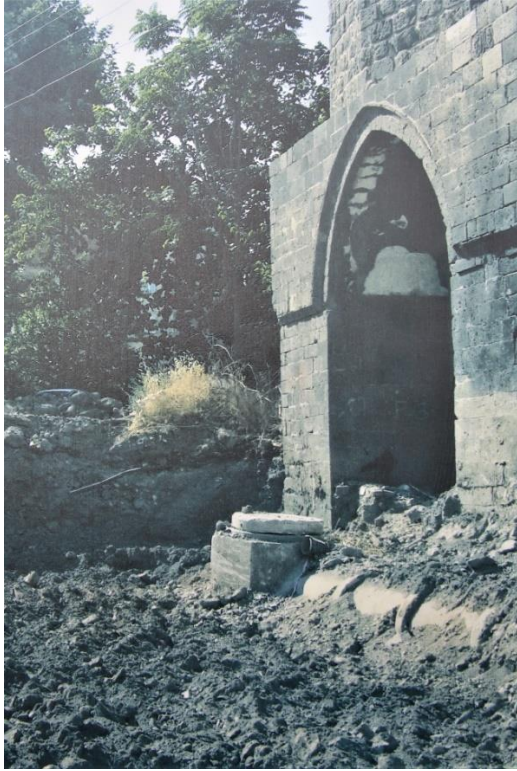


FIGURE 5: KUVELI GATE – PRE WORKS²



FIGURE 6: KUVELI GATE POST-WORKS



FIGURE 7: PHOTO SHOWING YENI KAPI (GATE) AFTER RESTORATION WORK



FIGURE 8: YENI KAPI (GATE) AFTER RESTORATION WORK

² Illustration taken from document published by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change entitled Projects/Works carried

out in Surici Buffer Zone and Heritage Site, November 2022, p. 37

– Landscape Project in front of Bastion 52

Bastion 52 [Keci] has been converted into an exhibition space. The interior where the exhibitions are staged comprises very interesting architectural elements and spaces. The lighting could be re-designed to interact more positively with both the space and the exhibition material.

Directly in front of the bastion there is 1,200 square metres of open area by the side of the road: this is now a cultural space. Some excavation has taken place in conjunction with these works. The stepped stone seating is appropriate, creating a low ‘theatre’. However, the rest of the landscaping is weak and in stark contrast to the strength of the City Wall.

Recommendations:

- Banners should not be hung directly from the historic City Walls. It would be preferable if free-standing posts could be installed to hang banners from.
- The landscaping here does not affect the OUV; however, it could be re-visited: the little ‘islands’ of kerbed grass with the low lighting fixtures and little bushes/plants don’t do justice to this space. It needs a stronger statement while still respecting the City Walls. Any new plans for reorganizing this space should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before approval and beginning of works.



FIGURE 9: BASTION 52 LANDSCAPING OVERVIEW



FIGURE 10: VIEW OF LANDSCAPING AT BASTION 52 FROM ABOVE. TREES COULD BE PLANTED ACROSS THE NEW ROAD TO HELP MASK THE MODERN DEVELOPMENT

- Excavation at İçkale Artuqid Palace [Amida Mound] and beyond

The recent excavations at the İçkale Artuqid Palace (Amida Mound) under the direction of Prof. İrfan Yıldız started in 2018 and continued again in 2019. Details of the excavations were presented during the site visit. There have been many discoveries within the palace including channel systems for water and heating. All the structures will be conserved with no restoration. Decorative tiles and mosaics have been uncovered. All artefacts will be conserved.

An open-air museum is planned to display the excavations and protecting them; these date from 7,000 BCE right up to Ottoman times and even beyond.

The tell under the palace is surrounded by a polygonal enclosure of which much of the fabric dates to the early thirteenth century. It is covered in places with wire mesh to prevent the parts that constantly collapse from falling on passers-by underneath.

Recommendation:

- This structure must be stabilized urgently before it has completely disappeared.

– Restoration of the citadel walls

The vast arched wall that encloses the citadel of the city, constructed in the early sixteenth century by the Ottomans, has been the subject of heavy and deeply distorting restoration work over the past ten years. The conservation approach has, however, improved during more recent campaigns. The principle that previously prevailed was, on the one hand, to fill the gaps with mechanically cut blocks that do not respect the curvature of the towers and jointed with cement mortar, on the other hand to restore stair steps cut with an electric saw, and finally and above all to restore a continuous linear crown arbitrarily restored at the top of the walls. The floor of the walkway was treated by a simple spreading of a grey cement screed.

No archaeological accompaniment was carried out to ensure the monitoring of the excavations in the upper rooms of the towers and on the tops of curtain walls, although these were filled with archaeological layers. Neither were surveys undertaken on the parts cleared of rubble before restitution, nor was wall stratigraphy undertaken before restitution of the blocks and joints, which amounts to a considerable loss of information, and therefore a loss of authenticity.

The work currently in progress is more attentive, both on the interpretation of the remains preserved and uncovered before restoration and on the restoration of the masonry, which is now done in crystallization and not in restitution. But, once again, the mission noted the absence of an archaeologist accompanying the works on the site regularly, who would be able to record the masonry and interpret it before restoration.

– Removal of structures inside the Citadel

Part of the perimeter of the World Heritage property inscribed in 2015, the western valley, has been radically cleared of all its inappropriate buildings to make it a public garden. Very recently, the residential district consisting of a hundred houses, a municipal swimming pool and many wooded gardens, that since the 1980s had developed between the mosque and the wall, was completely bulldozed. The face of the inner basaltic organ quarry has thus been enhanced. However, although this is within the inscribed property, no archaeological supervision was carried out for either for the destruction of the foundations of the razed houses, or for the digging of the pits to plant the one hundred 6 m high trees, transplanted with their root ball, or for the digging of the large collection pit draining the wastewater to the Tigris Valley. Ancient testimonies attest to the presence of a Roman amphitheater installed there taking advantage of the two edges of this valley, but no investigation has been conducted to locate it, which seems incomprehensible in view of the cultural and heritage investment displayed.

Recommendation

- All intervention within the property, whether excavation or restoration, must be subject to archaeological monitoring.

– Hz. Suleyman Mosque (Içkale): surrounding Urban Design & Cultural Landscape Project

This is one of the 7 projects relating to landscaping and was part of the earlier 2012 Diyarbakir (Suriçi) Conservation Development Plan. There were a series of poor-quality constructions from the 1930s in what is now the landscaped area. These were deemed to be illegal and were demolished. This approach was quite destructive, changing the function of almost half of the citadel and removed a layer of history (which should have been seen as contributing to the OUV of the property. The SOUV States that: 'The fortified city with its associated landscape has been an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through the Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present').³ The OUV of the property has been compromised by this action. A Heritage Impact Assessment should have been undertaken to assess the impact on the OUV of the property and the rationale for this change clearly tested prior to any decision taken and to the project starting. The project opened to the public in April 2017.

The landscaping in this lower area of Içkale has been completed and there is now an open green landscaped area. A wide walkway with some gentle steps divides the garden in two and leads to the restored Küpeli Kapi. Associated with this is a hard landscaped area on the east side. The upper area is simply landscaped and does not visually impact on the property's OUV. The lower area is a more formal designed landscape with reflecting pools and zig-zag pathways. In this ancient site a more restrained 'organic' landscaping project might have been more appropriate. There has been a major tree planting project.

Once again, there is the double problem of the absence of architectural archaeology and soil archaeology before and during the works. On the one hand, there is a lack of archaeological study of buildings before their destruction or highly invasive restoration, resulting in considerable loss of information and inaccurate restorations. On the other hand, is noted the importance of earthworks in the ground (foundations, cellars, underground networks) carried out without any archaeological supervision, stratigraphy survey and collection of artifacts. However, the entire citadel of Içkale is within the property, which should have required archaeology prior to any intervention.

Recommendation:

- In this re-landscaped lower area of Içkale referred to above, significant archaeological remains may be excavated at some future date. In the meanwhile, these must be protected from further development and landscaping. A scientific study should be undertaken in the first instance to try to establish the archaeological potential.
- There should be no further archaeological disturbance.

³ Brief Synthesis, [Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#)



FIGURE 11: INNER CASTLE UPPER LANDSCAPED AREA



FIGURE 12: ZIG ZAG PATHWAYS IN LOWER LANDSCAPED AREA

– Tram Line Project

This project has not yet been implemented by the Dept. of Transport of the Metropolitan Municipality. The tramline has been designed to be 14.9 km long, 1.3 km of which is in the buffer zone; 700 metres of the route runs parallel to the City Walls. Only the 700 metres of the project that are in the property are discussed in this paragraph. A Heritage Impact Assessment has been carried out, noting that there is no negative outcome; however, the mission team does have concerns over archaeology. One positive

outcome of the HIA process has been the reduction of the length of the line by 500 metres at the historic city end. Another mitigating factor resultant from the HIA has been the specification of absorbent rubber around the rails to dissipate vibration. The tram will travel close to the City Wall for a distance of almost 30 metres and will maintain a maximum speed of 20km/hour.

According to the design, 50 cm depth trenches are all that will be required although the mission team expressed concern about the procedures in place for dealing with potential archaeological remains. The problem lies in the lack of knowledge of the outer perimeter of the wall, on which no archaeological excavation has ever been carried out. It is known that the wall was fronted about ten meters towards the outside by a lower outer enclosure delimiting an outer ward, but it is not known if there existed, at least on this most exposed land front, a ditch forward. The digging of the tram line could be an opportunity to carry out a large cross-section to settle this debate and control the impact of subsequent work on this perimeter.

Recommendations:

- Given the sensitivity of this area and the huge potential for archaeology, it is recommended that an archaeological trench 2 metres wide x 25 metres long be excavated at the most sensitive location close to the City Walls. If significant archaeology emerges, the precise route in this area may need to be re-considered or other mitigation measures taken if the preservation of the archaeology is threatened.
- The potential impact of the associated infrastructural elements and the landscaping component on the City Walls and its setting needs to be reduced as much as possible in the final design to ensure a low visual impact to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
- The final design and the report on the archaeological investigation together with the State Party's proposal on the way forward depending on the importance of the findings should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

2.2 Ten-Eyed bridge

- Development along the banks of the Tigris at the Ten-Eyed Bridge

The environs of the Ten-Eyed Bridge have been opened up to major construction activity at either end. Considerable works have been undertaken to the south of the bridge both within the World Heritage property and beyond, into the outer buffer zone. Similar works have also been undertaken on the north side. The design and impact of these works are inappropriate, and the riverbanks have been effectively rebuilt, particularly along the west bank of the river beyond the bridge. The riverbanks have essentially been destroyed.

When questioned about the works, officials could give no information about them, so a request was made by the mission team to investigate these developments, which are presumably by private developers. Apparently, these works do not have planning permission. The riverbanks are no longer being protected. This gives rise to great concern, given that much of this illegal development is within the property.

These works impact directly on the Ten-Eyed Bridge, further eroding its setting. There is virtually no historic setting left. This development and that of the Tigris Valley Recreation and Forestation Project clearly demonstrate that the Management Plan, as it stands, has completely failed to protect this attribute of the World Heritage property. There seems to be no effective site management at this location.

Recommendations:

- These works along the riverbanks need to be investigated and all illegal development removed.
- Examine whether the current legislation can effectively protect the Tigris riverbanks within the property or whether the failure to do so here is due to ineffective site management.
- Buffer zone legislation needs to be greatly strengthened to protect the banks of the Tigris River.
- Review the changes to the setting of this attribute (Ten-Eyed Bridge) of the World Heritage property in relation to recent developments and the impact on the OUV.
- The State Party should report back to the World Heritage Committee on the findings relating to the above recommendations and how they propose to address these.



FIGURE 13: TEN-EYED BRIDGE BEFORE DEVELOPMENT AROUND 2011



FIGURE 14: VIEW OF ILLEGAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE WEST BANK SOUTH OF THE BRIDGE

2.3 Anzele Spring (Anzele water source) – Proposed Project adjacent

Works are proposed in the vicinity of this element of the World Heritage property in the inner buffer zone. The scale of building demolition proposed in the immediate vicinity in the inner buffer zone is very large on one side, covering an area of approx. 100 metres long and 30 metres wide. Works have been carried out to the environs of the monument itself in the past, so the present landscaping is not of any great antiquity. It is not yet known how the immediate setting for the Anzele Spring may be altered, as details of the project have yet to be proposed. Given the location of this new project and its potential impact on the OUV of the World Heritage property, it will be necessary to carry out a HIA well in advance. Tourism may be driving this project.

Recommendation:

- Carrying out a HIA well in advance of the project being commissioned and before any irreversible decisions are taken or further demolitions take place. This HIA should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

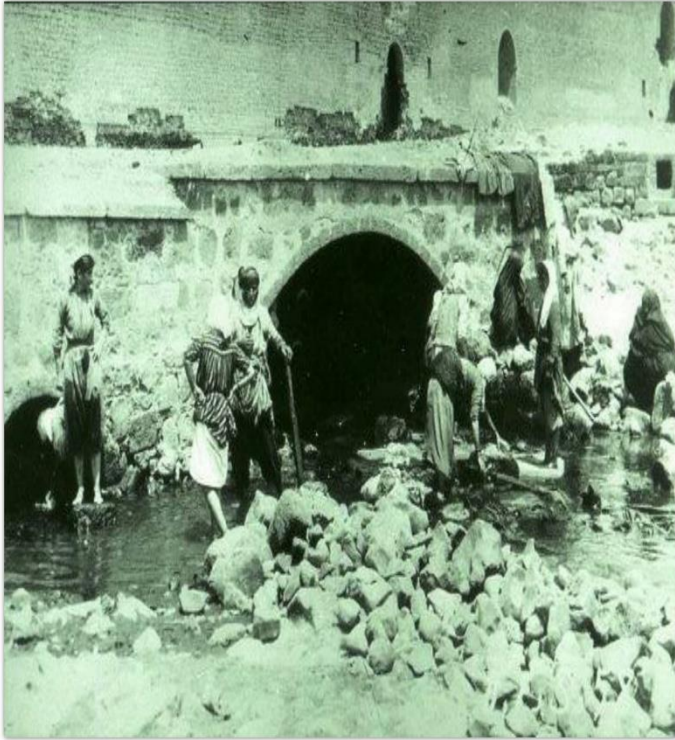


FIGURE 15: ANZELE SPRING – OLD PHOTO

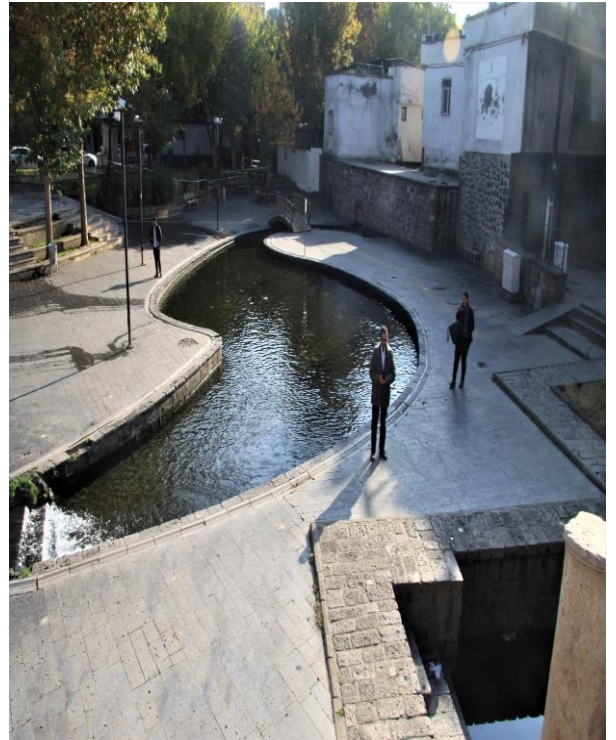


FIGURE 16: ANZELE SPRING FROM THE BRIDGE



FIGURE 17: ANZELE SPRING – CURRENT PRESENTATION

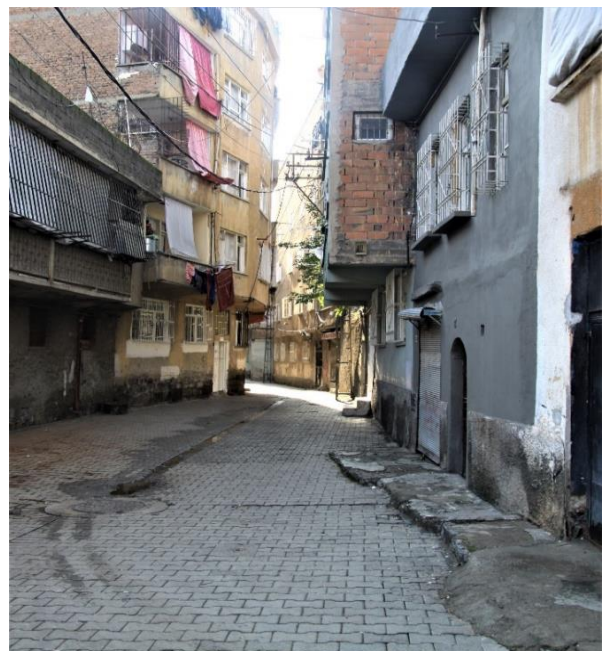


FIGURE 18: URBAN STREETSCAPE AT ANZELE SPRING DUE FOR DEMOLITION

2.4 Hevsel Gardens

– Landscaping Project for areas outside of City Walls

This area is inside the property and this landscaping project would appear to be almost completed.

There are many mills and mill races constructed in this zone between the City Walls and the Hevsel Gardens and there are concerns about these and the preservation of the water management system itself. An important aspect of the historic cultural landscape has been neglected and those mills visited by the mission team were in a poor state. This is a major element supporting the functional and visual qualities of the property and requires immediate attention. A full study of the agricultural and water management systems needs to be undertaken followed by a project of structural consolidation and conservation. This was pointed out in an additional recommendation made by ICOMOS in its evaluation of the nomination when it said that *“the State Party should give consideration to further improving the study and documentation of the Hevsel Gardens and the agriculture and water management systems that support the continuing use and significance of the nominated property.”*

Only when this had been completed and the system secured should consideration have been given to the restoration of one mill. However, as part of this project at the north end below the citadel walls, one of the many mills, which stood within the property, Fiskaya Mill, has been restored although some landscaping has yet to be completed. Given the number and importance of these mills, it is a useful interpretation exercise to have restored one so that visitors and indeed the local community can understand the part the mills played in the history and evolution of Diyarbakir and how they work. The project, which seems to be tourism driven, would be to grind flour and bake traditional Kurdish tannour bread on site. This in itself has not undermined the OUV; however, by neglecting all the other mills and the water system, the OUV is threatened.

In considering the east side, the landscaping works in general and the presentation of the City Walls has been successful and supports the OUV. A number of housing structures built against the exterior of the walls and below have been removed. However, some of the material from the demolition has found its way into the landscaping so that the grassed ground surface contains visible building detritus, which is very visible in places. This needs to be removed from the surface where it is exposed.

Along the path, which runs below the outer City Walls on this side, there are a number of viewing platforms located along the top of the Hevsel Gardens. These have been well-designed by the Ministry and are very successful and afford great views over the gardens and beyond. They seem to be well-used by the public. They assist in the visual interpretation of this part of the property and do not impinge on the OUV.

Also, along this path, at the junction with the upper level of the Gardens, there is an old cemetery; apparently its boundary cannot be expanded. There are many stone grave markers with inscriptions scattered all over the sloping ground on either side of the path but mostly below. This is an important element of this historic cultural landscape and should be preserved and maintained.

Recommendations:

- A study must be undertaken of the existing mill remains within the property, the functional interrelation between the water sources, the population and the Hevsel Gardens. The water management system needs to be an integral part of this study. Proposals should then be included for the preservation and conservation of the entire system in order to support the functional and visual qualities of the property as was stated in the Statement of the OUV.
- Building detritus should be removed from areas where it has become exposed and the ground surface re-grassed.

- The historic grave markers should be recorded, and a programme of repair and conservation initiated, followed by regular ongoing maintenance.



FIGURE 19: LANDSCAPED AREA BELOW EAST SIDE OF ICKALE CITY WALLS



FIGURE 20: LANDSCAPED AREA BELOW EAST WALL OF ICKALE



FIGURE 21: VIEWING PLATFORM ON LANDSCAPED EAST SIDE JUST BELOW CITY WALLS

– Hevsel Gardens

The Hevsel Gardens are home to a diverse flora and fauna and they were first mentioned in chronicles dating from the ninth century BCE. They have been in existence in one form or another ever since. They have been judged to be an integral part of this very historic cultural landscape, the green link between the walled city above and the Tigris River below. In the Statement of the OUV the Hevsel Gardens are an essential attribute of the OUV of this cultural landscape property contributing to the authenticity of the property. ‘The fertile Hevsel Gardens link the city with the Tigris River and supplied the city with food and water... Although the functions of the gardens have changed over time, ... they have maintained their historical and functional links to the city’.⁴

Therefore, although at the time of inscription it was stated that the Hevsel Gardens had maintained their historical and functional links to the city, the mission team observed that this is now changing and threatens to undermine the attributes of the gardens that are becoming very vulnerable. At the time of inscription many families who lived within the walled city, worked the land in the Hevsel Gardens. The connection with local communities helped create such an important cultural landscape that it has been recognised to have Outstanding Universal Value. With the removal of so many of the inhabitants from within the walls of the historic city, particularly on its east side, the historical and functional links have been severed, thereby negatively impacting the authenticity of this property. Families have been re-housed at such a distance that they can no longer work this land. This is a serious blow to the complex inter-relationship between the city and the gardens and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

It is quite clear from accounts and photographs that the structure of the Hevsel Gardens is being fundamentally changed, with smaller parcels being consolidated into larger fields. Boundaries are being uprooted, altering the traditional field patterns. The fine balance, which existed, is giving way to monoculture corn farming and suchlike. The structure of the gardens is changing and that close bond with

⁴ Brief Synthesis, [Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#)

the traditional local communities is fast disappearing. That fundamental relationship upon which the OUV is based is eroding, threatening one of the major components of the World Heritage property. The changes that have already taken place are quite considerable and this is happening very quickly, reflecting the urgency of the action that must now be taken.

At the time of nomination, ICOMOS recommended that: ‘further improving the study and documentation of the Hevsel Gardens, and the agriculture and water systems that support the continuing use and significance of the nominated property.’⁵ The Mission saw no evidence that this is happening. Instead, the impact of what has happened in Suriçi, with the removal of communities so essential to the traditional functioning of the Hevsel Gardens, is bringing to an end the small-scale farming within the gardens. This must have an impact on the flora and fauna and indeed on this essential attribute, which supports the OUV of the property.

The Hevsel Gardens represent great complexity and great antiquity. There has been a complete failure of the management system in preserving this attribute and protecting the OUV.

Recommendations:

- The Hevsel Gardens is such a sensitive and integral part of the World Heritage property that all changes in its working structure should cease until its complex functions are fully understood and set out clearly so that effective protections can be put in place and enforced.
- A detailed broad survey/study should be completed for the entire area as a matter of urgency to include not only the flora and fauna but details of the historic cultural landscape and its evolution.
- Any future change in its working structure should be the subject of a HIA once the detailed studies have been completed and agreed. All HIAs should be reported to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
- An urgent recovery plan with a clear timeline should be developed to reverse negative impacts post inscription and this should be reported to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.



FIGURE 22: THE HEVSEL GARDENS – DETAILS OF RECENTLY ENLARGED FIELDS

⁵ ICOMOS evaluation of the Diyarbakir nomination, last page.



FIGURE 23: VEGETABLES PLANTED IN HEVSEL GARDENS



FIGURE 24: VIEW OF HEVSEL GARDENS FROM CITY WALLS



FIGURE 25: VIEW OF HEVSEL GARDENS FROM BASTION 52A, SHOWING ORIGINAL SMALL FIELDS AND NEW ENLARGED FIELDS ON LEFT

2.5 Tigris Valley Rehabilitation Project

From the bridge across the Tigris River leading up to the University, looking south, some works have been undertaken to the riverbanks on either side. This was done as part of the Tigris Valley Rehabilitation Project. The river and its banks between here and the 10-Eyed Bridge is part of the World Heritage property.

A linear stone retaining wall creating a new artificial elevated ridge has been created, which impedes accessibility to the water. The Tigris Valley is characterised by a wide variety of habitats and this intervention has altered the relationship of this ancient river with its banks. The Tigris River has always flooded historically and this is an influencing element on the Hevsel Gardens. These works, had they continued, would have impacted on the natural flooding cycles; they already do so along the length where initial works were undertaken. It is understood that this project is no longer live although the initial works undertaken are still visible on site and change the character of this stretch of the river.

The Tigris River is a fundamental part of the cultural landscape of Diyarbakir and has a special relationship with the extensive Hevsel Gardens along their interface. Regular flooding has been an influence on these gardens and this has added to the fertility of this place over time. Separating the river from the Hevsel Gardens is effectively removing a vital support to the OUV of the property. It would remove an essential element to the complex working of the river in relation to the Hevsel Gardens. Fortunately, this project appears to have been cancelled. Bearing this in mind there are some recommendations.

Recommendations:

- There should be no further intervention along the banks of the Tigris River, which is an attribute of the property, until all relevant studies are completed, and an Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken and communicated to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
- An ecological study is now required to ascertain the full impact of this fundamental change to the banks of the river at the University end. The Dicle University seems to have a locally-based scientific team, which could undertake such work. Depending on the results of the study, it may be necessary to restore the relationship between the river and its banks along that stretch which has already been altered.
- The study and its recommendations should be communicated to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.



FIGURE 26: TIGRIS EAST RIVER BANK POST-WORKS



FIGURE 27: TIGRIS RIVERBANK - DETAILS OF STONE REVETMENT

2.6 Inner Buffer Zone

- Traditional Diyarbakir (stone) house and new building projects in Suriçi

The Ozdemir neighbourhood is situated close to Küpeli Kapi on the south side of the Citadel (Içkale) and runs along the eastern edge of Suriçi across from the restored City Walls. The excavation and rehabilitation work at Küpeli Kapi have been very positive and this neighbourhood is now very effectively connected to Içkale. The neighbourhood mainly provides housing (92 units) and has 24 commercial units and 2 boutique hotels. The development, especially when viewed from Içkale, is very repetitive and soulless and there is no connection with the past. The character of the earlier neighbourhood has been completely lost. The Alipaşa-Lalebey neighbourhood, located in the south-west of Suriçi, is a much larger development comprising 267 residences, 17 commercial units and 5 boutique hotels. These houses have been made available for sale back to previous residents at a rate that was below the 2016 cost price less a valuation of their previous dwelling and zero interest for the remaining debt after reconciliation negotiations with the Ministry of Environment, urbanization and Climate Change. However, this seems to be well beyond the means of many of the original inhabitants, increasing displacement and loss of community.

It is clear that a lot of study went into the traditional house-type, defining their essence and developing suitable criteria for the new buildings as reflected in the past, particularly related to scale. Street patterns were also studied. Yet, while supposedly inspired by traditional houses and their settings, the new developments are not in harmony with the past or existing urban fabric. They present an austere and sterile appearance with no replication of the character of the original neighbourhoods. Time may temper this external impact. One of the fundamental problems is that the neighbourhoods have been effectively razed, so that no elements of character from the past come through. It is effectively a new neighbourhood, which was placed on a new urban plan with streets approaching approximately 15 m wide that totally destroyed the previous street network, made up of a network of alleys and dead ends, a deep memory of the old city.

All ancient traces have been destroyed. More than 400 fragments of columns of the porticos of the *cardo* and *decumanus* were taken from the facades of the houses and had been identified by archaeologists before 2015; they have disappeared, like the many carved stones that dotted the city and the Diyarbakir Chamber of Architects denounce their illegal sale to contractors in 2017-2019⁶.

In the area immediately south of the citadel, the University of Montpellier, in conjunction with the municipality, had identified in the cadastral parcel the traces of a semicircular theater absorbed into modern houses (cf. M. Assenat, A. Perez, "An ancient theater in Amida", *Anatolia Antiqua*, XX, 2012, pp. 147-155). The block of house that had fossilized was cleared in 2017 and replaced by a new neighbourhood without the information being known to the developers and without any archaeological monitoring having been carried out.

More generally, in this multi-millennial city, in the heart of the fertile crescent where the city was born in the fourth millennium BC, it is very regrettable that no archaeological investigation, even if only monitoring of foundation trenches and networks, was carried out during the total destruction/reconstruction of these 40 hectares intramuros in six years. Oral testimony, unverifiable, claims that deep clandestine excavations were carried out while the area was under curfew.

All developments need to be more sensitive to the historic city, conserving and renovating as much as possible and infilling with appropriate (scale, materials, form, etc.) new developments. Wholesale demolition is not the way forward, particularly in the inner buffer zone of the World Heritage property, which, according to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, is strongly supporting the ability to view the City Walls within their urban setting. Therefore, the following recommendations are made.

Recommendation:

⁶ See press articles (<https://www.rudaw.net/turkish/kurdistan/151220192>).

- No further demolitions should be undertaken until proposed projects have been thoroughly tested through Heritage Impact Assessments, based on a thorough understanding of the OUV of the property, and these reviewed by the Advisory Bodies through submission to the World Heritage Centre.
- It is imperative that archaeological support be associated with all future implemented projects.



FIGURE 28: NEW STREET IN MIXED DEVELOPMENT SOUTH-EAST OF KUPELI GATE, SURICI



FIGURE 29: GENERAL VIEW OVER THE NEW MONOTONOUS AND BLAND MIXED DEVELOPMENT SOUTH-EAST OF KUPELI GATE



FIGURE 30: ALIPASA-LALEBEY NEIGHBOURHOOD REDEVELOPMENT: A COMPLETE CHANGE FROM WHAT WAS THERE BEFORE

– Restoration & Reconstruction Projects of Monumental Buildings and Registered Civil Architectural Buildings in Suriçi

a) Monumental Buildings

This project involves a number of mosques, churches and other monuments, representing 22 monumental registered buildings including the following:

- Fatih Paşa (Kurşunlu) Mosque, which had been damaged by fire. It was restored – some stone repairs at the entrance were incorrectly carried out with a fine line of lime pointing painted over a stone repair. It was possible to salvage and conserve some decorative timber shutters;
- Paşa Hamami – a considerable amount of restoration was undertaken here, particularly in the interiors. There was evidence of some plaster in the main space but this is no longer there. This building was damaged by the inappropriate restoration work;
- the Surp Gragos Armenian Church and the Keldani Church have been highly restored. Little has been done to the Syrian Protestant Church; The Hüsrev Paşa Mosque was also restored. In some cases, the buildings had damaged by fire before the restorations.

These costly restorations have a rather new appearance. It should have been possible, in some areas at least, to conserve more of the structures and ensure a greater patina of age. The buildings are in use again and, despite over-zealous restoration, the work done does not impinge on the OUV of the property.

It is noted that there is no full record of the monuments before restoration. Ideally there should have been an archaeological record of the walls and a plan indicating the successive construction phases throughout the centuries before beginning such restoration work. The main phases of restoration should have been followed by an archaeologist.

Recommendations:

- When restoring further monuments, the aim should be to conserve and repair as much as possible and avoid over-restoration.
- All restoration and construction sites should benefit from archaeological support.



Restorasyon Öncesi (Naos)

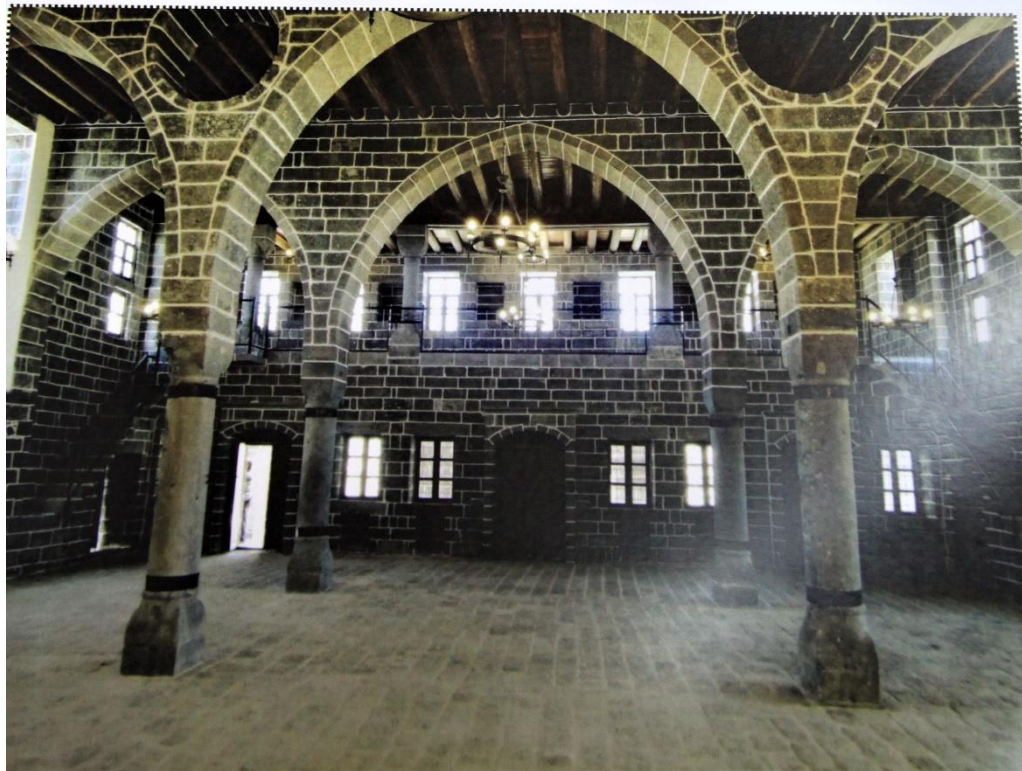


FIGURE 31: BEFORE AND AFTER SHOWING THE LEVEL OF RESTORATION

b) Registered Civil Architecture Buildings

Projects have been carried out on the traditional residential structures of Diyarbakir in Suriçi with a focus on preservation of the original state of the individual buildings. For seriously damaged and even demolished buildings, studies on the historical framework have been conducted in order to reconstruct the buildings according to their original state. This is a very historicist and museum approach, taking no account of the intervening changes and evolution. This could be a focus for criticism of the approach taken. Many traditional civil buildings were visited, some completed, some in the course of works and a few as structural shells awaiting 'restoration'. This project is about restoration to an idealised 'original' state.

In the course of research, both archival and on the ground, a lot of information has been gathered and much more is known about these structures and their construction than heretofore. Research has gone into the use of mud brick and mud plasters, based on existing construction, which is confined to particular areas of a building. The material has been analysed and bricks are currently being made on site using the same techniques, strengthened by the use of chopped straw as in the original. These bricks are then being used on site for essential repairs. This aspect of the project is to be highly commended. Another positive aspect to this project of restoration is that traditional skills can be used by the craftsmen, thus helping to ensure their survival.

The results of work to civil architecture have focused on identifying traditional houses of a certain stratum of society. Unless a balance is created, it will present an uneven or distorted view of the historic urban settlement within Suriçi. While the impact of this is limited in relation to the scale of the city it should not become the standard approach when dealing with such structures. If this approach were to become the norm it would definitely have an impact on the OUV of the property, given the close historic relationship between Suriçi and the historic City Walls.

Recommendations:

- In researching and re-creating typologies of housing/dwellings it is essential that every period is included, reflecting the evolution of the structures on the ground and so avoid a selective museum perspective.
- The important historical and practical work relating to mud brick and plasters, which is commendable, should be published in due course.



FIGURE 32: EXCAVATED LARGE HOUSE ON YENIKAPI STREET



FIGURE 33: REMAINS OF TWO-STOREY HOUSE BEHIND EXCAVATED TRADITIONAL HOUSE OFF YENIKAPI STREET



FIGURE 34: (ABOVE) MAKING MUD -STRAW BRICKS FOR RE-USE IN THE REPAIR WORKS



FIGURE 35: (RIGHT) TRADITIONAL DOMESTIC STONE WALL WITH MUD PLASTER ABOVE, REINFORCED WITH STRAW

– Street Rehabilitation Projects developed for commercial use

The Ministry of the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, has undertaken rehabilitation works in the Suriçi area. On Hz. Süleyman, Gazi and Melik Ahmet Streets and Yanik Bazaar there has been rehabilitation of existing commercial buildings, including some housing. This has been quite successful, bearing in mind that much of this area was changed in the 1950s. There has been respect for the existing structures and infrastructure, also of more recent date. This is important as they also support the OUV of the property. This has been in stark contrast to Yenikapi Street.

Yenikapi Street has been completely re-developed out of the destroyed urban fabric, which existed at the time of inscription. Over time this historic fabric of Suriçi has been inextricably connected with both the City Walls fortification and the extensive Hevsel Gardens and formed part of a symbiotic relationship. Historic Suriçi was the third element of the Diyarbakir cultural landscape and sadly this was not included in the property. Despite being designated a buffer zone, its role is very significant and intrinsic in supporting the OUV of the property. In this respect its role is vital.

The Yenikapi Street area has been re-made, set out as a wide street and bears no resemblance to what it replaced. There is no continuity with the past. Some restored monuments are located along one end, on one side of this street, but most of the buildings associated with the street and its environs have been built very recently. Most of them have been clad with a thin stone facing. There is a sameness about the whole development. It is so different in almost every aspect to what had been originally in this area. The overall effect is somewhat charmless and characterless. The one positive aspect is the scale, which is set to two floors in height, although making the buildings almost all exactly the same height adds an element of monotony. Many of the units look empty. The Yenikapi street neighbourhood was an integral part of the historic urban fabric of Suriçi. This enclosed urban area gave support to the City Walls, effectively supporting the OUV. The destruction and demolition paved the way for an inappropriate modern development which disregarded the historic morphology and fabric. The visual integrity has been undermined and this neighbourhood no longer adds its support in upholding the OUV.

Recommendation:

- This approach to redevelopment in the historic city should not be taken when rehabilitating other areas. The loss has been considerable and has diminished the inner buffer zone considerably in its support of the OUV.



FIGURE 36: NEW WIDE YENIKAPI STREET WITH MONOTONOUS BLOCKS

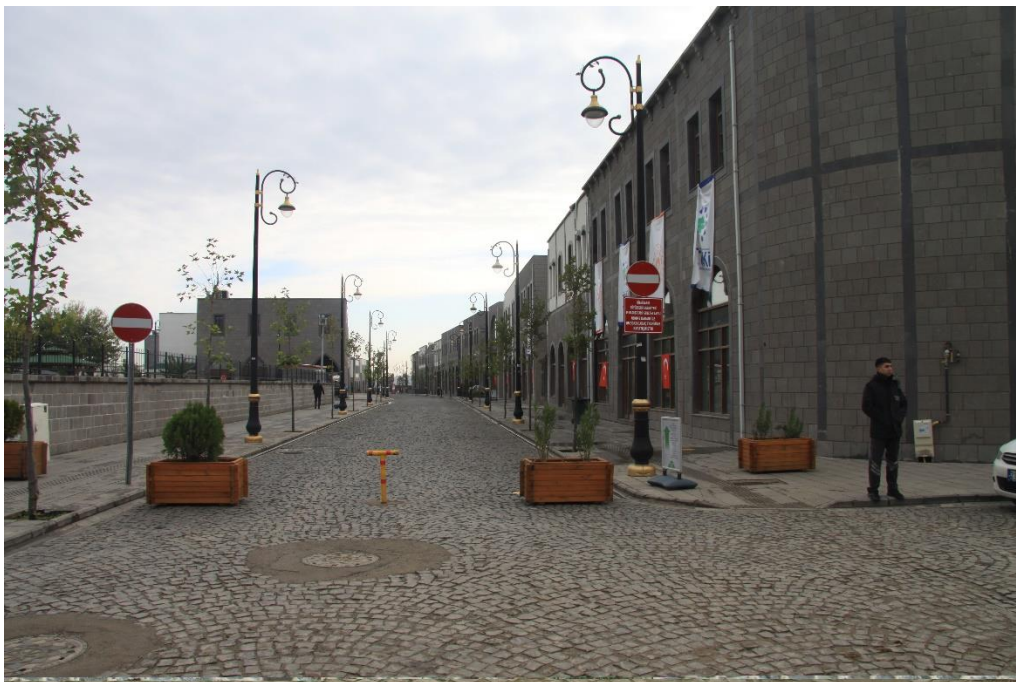


FIGURE 37: NEW WIDE YENIKAPI STREET, A STARK CONTRAST TO THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT IT REPLACES



FIGURE 38: STREET AT WEST END OF YENIKEPI STREET, PRESENTING A VERY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT AND AMBIENCE

-Vehicle Road and Touristic Tour Route between Mardin Gate/Dag Gate

This is the road that runs along the inside of the City Walls on the east side and along the outside of İçkale Walls on the south and west sides. It lies at the edge of the inner buffer zone and is 1856 meters long and 21 meters wide.

This linear road and associated grassed area run like an open buffer between the historic City Walls, which are in the property and the edge of what is left of Suriçi. The mission team visited parts of the road that was presented as a touristic route and that, together with a new settlement construction, both empty, contrasted in modernity to the City's walls and bastions. It affords a full view of the City Walls; however, this new element isolates the City Walls, giving them a stark setting and destroys their previous connection with Suriçi. The OUV has been eroded by severing the historic relationship the City Walls had with Suriçi, its inner buffer zone.

The road presents a fast dual carriageway with a bleak outlook when, in fact, it needs to induce a more leisurely pace to slow traffic down so that time can be taken to experience the historic defence walls. The road as it stands is bleak and needs a soft landscaping plan along its length. While a few token trees are planted in one area, suitable trees should be planted along the road and its median in such a way that it is still possible to see all points of interest along the route. Currently, it is not a pleasant place to walk and it is not a relaxing road to drive. It is a sterile engineering project.

Recommendation:

- A complete re-think of the ring road is necessary, to help re-establish some relationship between the City Walls and Suriçi and to mitigate the stark impact of this engineering project by reducing its scale and introducing suitable and sufficient planting. A specialist with experience in historic urban landscapes should be consulted.
- A project containing mitigation measures should be developed and put through Heritage Impact Assessment that should be communicated to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to undertaken any further work.



FIGURE 39: NEW TOURISTIC ROAD



FIGURE 40: NEW TOURISTIC ROAD WITH MODERN DEVELOPMENT SET BACK FROM CITY WALL

2.7 Outer Buffer Zone

– Urban Renewal Project in Feritköşk-Dicle neighbourhoods [Yenişehir District]

Feritköşk-Dicle lies north of the inner City Walls in the buffer zone. In 2017 it was designated as a ‘risk’ area due to the local geology that would cause a strong risk of landslides. All the housing in this area is ‘illegal’ as the structures had been constructed without building consent on public land. The urban renewal project will cover an area of 44 hectares and will be undertaken in five stages, the first of which has already begun on site. A walk through the neighbourhood below the main road showed that demolition was already under way and two machines were working in the area.

A considerable area encompassing 2,100 housing units will be demolished and the area will be zoned for recreational purposes. It would appear that voluntary agreements have been put in place and the population will be re-housed in three different locations about 3 km distant. Social aid and rental support will be forthcoming although the details of this and whether the implications of the removal of the local population have been fully considered are not clear.

While the overall area might not be suitable for settlement, additional study should be undertaken before further actions are implemented. It may not all be subject to landslides and/or in some cases remedial action may be taken. These can be considered when a HIA has taken place; none has been commissioned to date. This area has a strong visual connection to both the Tigris Valley and İçkale. All works should cease until a HIA has taken place. As it stands, this project could not be considered as an urban renewal project; it is a re-zoning project.

Recommendation:

- Given that the location of this district in the outer buffer zone could impact on the OUV of the property and the fact that insufficient preparatory study has been undertaken, all works should cease. An independent HIA should be commissioned, and the results should be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.



FIGURE 41: VIEW OF THE UPPER PART OF FERITKOSK FROM THE MAIN ROAD



FIGURE 42: CLEARANCE WORK UNDERWAY AT FERITKOSK BELOW THE MAIN ROAD

- Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project

This project comprises 32 hectares on the far side of the Ten-Eyed Bridge, which was restored in 2008, before inscription. With municipality agreement unsightly tower blocks, housing 400 flat units, were demolished at Kirkclar Hill just prior to the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List; this action was positive.

The recent project itself comprises many elements, some respecting the contours of the site, laid out in sloping grassland with pathways providing routes for walking, running and cycling. No cars are allowed. This area has been planted with 60,000 trees and shrubs.

Near and above the base of the Ten-Eyed Bridge a large flat platform was created upon which was built a large mosque, a garden café, extensive sports facilities and a waste water treatment centre for the whole project. This extensive project was developed after inscription. While the State Party indicated the need for a mosque, as there are so many visitors, the location of the mosque is quite inappropriate. It dominates the line of vision from the bridge and its visual impact on the historic bridge is very considerable. The development on the other side is of smaller scale and could have been much better integrated into the landscape, including the water storage structures.

The wide central staircase, which rises from the platform cutting the site in two, is in direct competition with the historic bridge and its presence detracts from the beauty of the landscape making it an unsightly

backdrop to the 10-Eyed Bridge and its setting. The development below the platform down to the riverbank is also inappropriate and should have not taken place in its current form.

Despite the vast scale of this mixed-use development and its proximity to the World Heritage property no HIA was commissioned. This is surprising given the scale and the potential impact of the development. Had this been commissioned, the approach to the development should have been fundamentally different or, even better, avoided. The finished project, as it stands, impacts very negatively on the World Heritage property and seriously undermines one of the attributes, the Ten-Eyed Bridge, which contributes to the OUV of the property.

This project seems to have gone ahead with undue haste; the speed of the works is well evidenced on the ground. At the top of the site the sloping ground is already giving way; the top of the new flight of steps is moving. This will require expensive remedial engineering works before long.

Recommendations:

- The setting of the historic Ten-Eyed Bridge has been seriously altered by elements of this project such as the mosque and the stone staircase; this bridge, one of the attributes contributing to the OUV of the property, is so negatively impacted that the OUV is threatened. To remove this threat, this project needs to be fundamentally re-visited. The stone staircase should be removed and a more appropriate stepped structure designed to better sit into the contour of the hill and constructed using more sympathetic materials.
- The mosque should be removed; a HIA should be used to identify a more appropriate location and scale for the mosque to ensure it will not impact negatively on the Ten-Eyed Bridge.
- The sports facilities, the water storage structures to the south and the area below the platform dropping down to the river should be fundamentally re-landscaped to reduce their impact.
- All proposals in this area should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any further implementation.



FIGURE 43: KIRKLAR HILL BEFORE REMOVAL OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS



FIGURE 44: TEN-EYE BRIDGE – STARK IMPACT OF NEW MOSQUE AND ACCESS STEPS ABOVE



FIGURE 45: TEN-EYED BRIDGE – VIEW FROM ABOVE MOSQUE



FIGURE 46: VIEW TO MOSQUE FROM THE TOP OF THE STONE STEPS



FIGURE 47: WATER STORAGE STRUCTURES – BY FAR THE GREATER VISUAL IMPACT IS FROM THE OTHER SIDE WHERE THE BRIDGE IS LOCATED

Issue 3 – Appropriateness of the Management Plan for the property and its buffer zones

Diyarbakir Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Regulation on the Substance and Procedures of the Establishment and Duties of the Site Management and the Monument Council and Identification of Management Sites No.26006 dated 07/11/2005 and approved in April 2014, just before the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. The Management Plan was submitted with the nomination in 2015, as a dynamic document.

The Site Manager oversees the Management Plan but is, in effect, more a Site Coordinator with duties set by regulation; one of the duties is to ensure management coordination. The regulations on Site Management define the boundaries and set out who does what. At the time of inscription, the Site Manager was to be supported by a management work team (Secretariat), formed from among the Municipality personnel. However, bearing in mind the fundamental changes made since the time of inscription, this strong link to the Municipality has disappeared. The Site Manager was foreseen to work with the Ministries, but this link is now much stronger since the sidelining of local input. In fact, the mission noted that currently the site manager is a Ministry of Culture employee. This has created a weakness and imbalance in the overall structure, which needs to be addressed. The Site Manager is involved with annual audits and procedures.

The Scientific Council involves itself with scientific work and advice in support of the Management Plan and its implementation. The Education Council does the same in relation to training needs to ensure sufficient carrying capacity. The Advisory Board makes recommendations/ gives advice during the preparation and revision of the management plan. These recommendations are submitted to the Coordination and Audit Board for evaluation and paramount importance in the decision of the coordination and audit board to decide either to approve the management plan or decide its revision according to the recommendations of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board also oversees the implementation of the Management Plan. According to the aforementioned Regulation the Management Plan should be revised every five years. Given the complexities of the Plan and the fact that not all aspects of the Management Plan are fully operational, revising it every five years is currently quite impractical.

There is also the Coordination and Audit Board which is authorized to approve the Management Plan and oversee its implementation. According to article 16 of the aforementioned Regulation the Board consists of the Site Manager, two members of the Advisory Board and members of relevant governmental Institutions and/or individuals whose services are needed within the scope of the management plan.

The World Heritage property is divided up into seven different implementation areas - MA1, MA2 and MA3 reflecting İçkale, the City Walls and their Protection Band. This is fragmented and, from a Management Plan perspective, these three areas could be combined into one or at least better integrated. MA4, MA5, MA6 and MA7 reflect the Hevsel Gardens, its Impact Zone, Ben-u-Sen and the Tigris River Public Shore Usage. Again, this is fragmented, projects seem to be completed in isolation when projects would need to be considered under a better integrated system. That way, the single areas would be better connected and looked at in a more holistic way, particularly with regard to the many projects, which have been and are being proposed. Projects seem to be implemented in isolation with no consideration to their cumulative impact.

Clearly, the overall Management Plan is not fully implemented and discussions are ongoing; it is a work in progress. However, the whole system is labyrinthine and needs to be much more integrated. The operation of the Management Plan requires greater clarity as its current disjointedness makes it extremely challenging to coordinate effectively. This lack of overall integration has led to areas being considered in

isolation, particularly with regard to the natural elements of the property. All the seven areas mentioned above are inter-connected and need to be managed together to ensure their inter-relationships are not eroded but reinforced. Since inscription, the current approach has facilitated the compartmentalisation of the WH property, resulting in a range of disparate projects, some of which undermining it.

Many of the problems, which have occurred have arisen because they have not been fully considered in a holistic way and many have not been assessed through a rigorous HIA process. Had this been the case many issues could have been dealt with and resolved in advance.

Recommendations:

- The Management Plan with its systems should be fully reviewed, as it no longer operates in the same way as when the property was first nominated. The revision should take into account that:
- The severe compartmentalization of many different implementation areas should be avoided in order to achieve better integration, cohesion and holistic management of the property and its buffer zones;
- The cultural and natural elements of the property and its buffer zones need to be managed in an integrated manner;
- The involvement of the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality needs to be restored to ensure strong local impact in decision-making;
- The local organizations and communities including scientific and agricultural ones need to form integral part of the management and the decision making processes;
- The current role of the Site Manager should be increased and made more independent, so the position is much more than a Site Coordinator.
- The revised Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

Issue 4: - Assess progress in the revision of the Conservation Plan and its Implementary Development Plan covering the walled City Urban Archeological Site and the Walls and of the Urban Design Project as buffer zone of the property, particularly in the context that the property's buffer zone(s) contribute to the maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of the OUV

Role of Suriçi in supporting the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property clearly talks about Suriçi as 'the fortified city ... that has been an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present'. The City Walls, one of the major attributes of the property, should be seen and experienced within their urban and landscape settings as such it is stated that 'the ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is significant, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the property'.⁷ Therefore, Suriçi plays a crucial role in fully supporting the integrity of the Diyarbakir City Walls and the evidence of their damage, repair and reinforcement since the Roman period present a powerful

⁷ [Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#)

physical and visual testimony of the many periods of the region's history that is supported by the historic urban fabric of Suriçi. The City has the ability to directly affect the condition and views of the City Walls.

At the time of the inscription of the property, the World Heritage Committee recommended in its **Decision 39 COM 8B.32** to strengthen the legal protection of the buffer zone, through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in Suriçi District to protect the urban fabric and strengthen mechanisms for consideration of heritage impacts in development approvals processes (Paragraph 4.a. of the Decision).

Brief overview of changes over time impacting Suriçi's urban fabric and its legal protection⁸

In 1945, Suriçi's population reached 63.377, leading to a shortage of residential stock and the establishment of new residential areas in Suriçi began in the 1950's. As violence broke out in the second half of 1980's and escalated over the course of time there was a significant migration of people from rural areas to the city. Suriçi, was heavily impacted by these waves of migration, with its population increasing to 106.545 by 1990. The growing demand for residential properties in Suriçi resulted in the deterioration of the historic fabric as a result of the construction of multi-storey buildings, and new and incongruous additions were made to traditional residences. Since 1932, numerous plans and master plans have been prepared for the Suriçi area.

The Suriçi District (including Inner Castle) was officially designated as an "Urban Site" by the Decision No. 38 dated 29 September 1988 by the Diyarbakir Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural and Natural Properties. This decision aimed to safeguard the Suriçi District as the most significant historical structure in the Diyarbakir Province by preventing any further harmful urbanization and development, which had been prevalent in previous years.

Despite the implementation of the Suriçi Conservation Plan in 1990, the changes to the social and physical environment continued to negatively impact on Suriçi's historical urban fabric. As a result, the plan was revised in 2012. The plan took into account photographs, aerial photos and cadastre information and maps from the 1930s and 1950s to identify the pre-deterioration features of the fabric, and consequently to develop a Conservation Plan aligned with the healthy and authentic fabric of the area.

The main purpose of the 2012 Conservation Development Plan was to create conservation and development framework to prevent pressures on and destruction of the Walled City zone, the original settlement of Diyarbakir, home to a concentration of urban and cultural heritage. The plan aimed to preserve the surviving traditional urban fabric, to prevent new settlements and to produce decisions that would ensure spatial development compatible to the traditional urban fabric. The 2012 Plan provisions have been revised in the 2016 Plan and revisions to the Plan provisions have continued until August 2020. The mission team only became aware of the fact that the Plan kept being revised until August 2020 after the mission was undertaken.

The 2012 Conservation Plan divided the housing zones within Suriçi into two sub-regions: the districts with intense traditional fabric and the districts with less intense traditional fabric, where monumental structures and civil architecture examples are dispersed and rare. The Conservation Plan also provided necessary landscaping to ensure that all walls and bastions can be perceived from outside and visited. The nomination dossier indicates that the unlicensed constructions, which were constructed in defiance of the landscape plan had started to be demolished and eastern routes internally surrounding the City Walls were built. The plan aimed to protect the traditional fabric at least partly and restore the illegal built-up regions

⁸ Information in this section is taken from the [Nomination file](#).

in accordance with the plan decisions. It limited the height of structures and provided detailed provisions related to the City Walls, Bastions and Gates, the Citadel as well as different groups of buildings, structures and areas to conserve and protect the traditional fabric that reaches the present day as a whole. One of the main concerns at the time of inscription was the risk of disaster posed by high storey buildings in Suriçi District's building stock. The 2012 Conservation Plan provided development rights to less intense residences with yards, thus making it impossible to accommodate the population living in these buildings.

In November 2012, an area of approximately 187 ha covering the Suriçi including the City Walls Protection Zone was declared area "at risk" with the Decision of the Council of Ministers No.3900 dated 22/10/2012 within the scope of the Law No. 6306 on the Protection of Areas Under Disaster Risk.

Current situation, conclusions and recommendations

Following the incidents that took place between December 2015 and March 2016, on 21 March 2016, an urgent expropriation decision was made by the Cabinet Decision No. 2016/8659 for 6,292 out of 7,714 parcels in Suriçi based on Article 27 of the Expropriation Law No. 2942. This law would be used in cases of necessity for national defence, urgent land expropriation decided by the Presidency or emergency situations stipulated in special laws. According to Article 20 of the same Law, the immovable property is emptied after the confiscation decision. The expropriation decision applied to several Sur districts' neighbourhoods, including Abdaldede, Alipaşa, Cemal Yılmaz, Camiikebir, Cevatpaşa, Dabanoğlu, Hasirli, İnönü, Iskenderpaşa, Lalebey, Melikahmet, Özdemir, Süleymangazi, Savaş, Şemhane, Ziyagökalp, Köşkler (Yenişehir district) and Yenişehir (Yenişehir district). The remaining parcels were not included in this decision as they had been expropriated in a previous urban transformation process. Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization revised the 2012 Plan provisions in the 2016 Plan and revisions continued until at least August 2020 as mentioned above.

The 2016 Plan gave emphasis to increasing accessibility for transportation, technical infrastructure, security and health services. According to the presentation given by the Ministry of Environment and urbanization, the changes in the 2016 Conservation Plan were carried out 'to rebuild the infrastructure damaged during the terrorist incidents' and were grouped in 3 categories: 1. Establishment of the implementation provisions regarding the Urban Design Project, 2. Expansion of zoning roads in the conservation plan, 3. Addition of public space and technical infrastructure such as Security Service areas, official institutions, park, social equipment area.

Suriçi was designated as 'urban site' by the Decision No.38, 29/09/1988 of the Diyarbakir Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural and Natural Properties and thus under protection by the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties Law No. 2863, 23/07/1983. In addition, Amida Mound in İçkale (Inner Castle) was designated as a 1st degree archaeological 'site' by the Decision No. A-2082 dated 19/01/1980 of the High Council for the Real Estate Antiquities and Monuments. Through this decision Suriçi District was protected as the most significant historical structures of Diyarbakir Province. Therefore, the ancient city fabric was fully protected. In addition to the registered Diyarbakir Suriçi Urban Fortifications, there are many registered monumental cultural heritage structures and civil architecture structures within the planning area. In the revised Plan it is observed that reference to Suriçi previously referred to as the 'Walled City Urban Archaeological Site' has been modified to 'Suriçi Urban Site', thus excluding the qualification of an archaeological site (paragraph 3.7 of the plan and throughout the Plan's text).

It is also noted that paragraphs 3.15, 3.31.1 and 3.31.2 that were added to the 2012 Conservation Plan seem to be allowing annexing to the plan Urban Design Projects prepared for areas designated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization within the planning area and whereby their practical principles and their provisions are not included in the Plan but are determined by the projects themselves (para 3.15). The size, location and functions of the building forms are determined by the Urban Design Project when

outside the registered parcels (paragraph 3.31.1). The implementation of all indoor and outdoor usage areas designated in the planning area by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization is carried out in line with the Urban Design Project annexed to the Plan (Para 3.31.2). This seems to mean that projects designated by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization can be considered annexed to the Conservation Plan without having gone through an approval process through the implementation of the Conservation Plan.

The revised Conservation Plan issued on 5 March 2018 mandated that new building construction should comply with the Diyarbakir Sur District Urban Design guidelines. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization reported during the mission that the Urban Design projects were carried out taking into account the 2016 Conservation Plan and the Urban Design guidelines.

In the 2022 state of conservation report the State Party has reported on the preparation of guidelines that were not included in the report or submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. In addition, road expansions were carried out particularly for security reasons and new Security Service Areas were established. It seems that the streets connecting the Security Service Areas have been widened, allowing easier access to security, firefighting and emergency services. The creation of an inner ring-road was proposed in the 1959 Master Plan and in the 1965 implementation Development Plan. This proposal was also included in the 2012 Conservation Plan but was interrupted by constructions on the part of the carriageway between Mardin Gate and Saray Gate. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization has completed the works of the ring carriageway which follows the inside of the walls for a full 360 degrees and is 1856 meters long and 21 meters wide.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization approved and implemented 5 Urban Design projects inside the Suriçi area, which seem to be located in the expropriated neighbourhoods. It is also important to highlight that the World Heritage Committee in its **Decisions 44 COM 7B.56** (2021) and **43 COM 7B.90** (2019) repeatedly requested the State Party to halt the implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan until the revised Conservation Plan with its Conservation Implementary Development Plan covering the walled city urban archaeological site and the walls and Urban Design Project have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review. The State Party did not implement this request.

It is therefore recommended that:

- Noting that Suriçi has the ability to directly affect the condition and views of the City Walls, a major attribute of the property, any further demolitions in its historic urban fabric should be halted as a matter of urgency and the urgent expropriation decision cancelled.
- The State Party should reinstate the 2012 Urban Conservation Plan as was repeatedly requested by the World Heritage Committee in its **Decisions 44 COM 7B.56** (2021) and **43 COM 7B.90** (2019).
- The current Conservation Plan should be professionally translated into one of the working languages of the World Heritage Convention, together with all the plans, the Conservation Implementary Development Plan and all relevant documentation and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review before any further development is continued.

Issue 5: Heritage Impact Assessments for projects that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The mission team observed that since 2016 a considerable amount of urban design, infrastructure and landscaping projects have been implemented, are in the process of being implemented or are planned for the near future. Preliminary independent HIAs have not been carried out for a considerable number of the projects situated both in the inscribed property and in the buffer zones even though in many cases these were already fully implemented.

More concretely, with the exception of a few projects, namely the Rail/Tram line project and the Dicle River Rehabilitation project, for which the rehabilitation of 21 km (4km within the buffer zone) was implemented before the project was stopped in August 2018, all the other projects have been implemented before an independent HIA was carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The mission team observed an unauthorized project along the Dicle River west of the Ten-Eyed Bridge (Ongözlü Köprü) located in the buffer zone. At the time of the mission, the scope of the project was unknown to the authorities and consequently there was lack of any type of approval or consent about this project. Consequently, an HIA had not been conducted.

On 30 January 2023, the State Party submitted an HIA document containing 7 projects previously implemented. The HIA highlights that one important limitation is that the HIA report preparation studies began after the projects were initiated on the field; consequently, the experts preparing the HIA could not perform the necessary field studies before the implementation process of the projects in order to measure the impact of all projects on the World Heritage property and its buffer zones. However, the consequence is greater than the one acknowledged by the HIA. The preparation of a preliminary impact assessment should give the opportunity to address both positive and negative impacts and in the case of negative impacts, to consider alternative solutions. These should include the possibility to choose 'avoiding' the realization of the project. In the present case, this option could not be taken into account as the expert team was confronted by a fait accompli and mitigation measures could only be considered and developed retrospectively.

In the aftermath of the mission and upon request by the mission team, the State Party shared preliminary information on 8 projects planned to be implemented in the next 3 years. Among these 8 projects an HIA has been carried out for the Tram Line project and the State Party states that an HIA will be carried out for the Anzele Urban Design and Landscape project, which is within the boundaries of the World Heritage property, for the Dicle – Feritköşk Neighborhood (Yenişehir District) Urban Renewal project located within the outer buffer zone of the World Heritage property. The mission team explicitly requested to be informed during the mission whether an HIA will be carried out for both projects. The Hançepek (Gavur) Square Urban Design project located within the inner buffer zone (Suriçi) is also reported to be subjected to an HIA. No HIA is scheduled for the remaining 4 projects namely the SurDişi Urban Design and Landscape project, the Urban Renewal/Rehabilitation project areas outside the city walls between bastions 26 and 45 (Ben-U-Sen region), the Fiskaya Mill Urban Design and Landscape project and the Dicle Valley Urban Design and Landscape project, all four located within the boundaries of the World Heritage property.

It is worth noting that at the time of inscription the integrity of the property was considered to be vulnerable due to development pressures in the city centre and in areas surrounding the property and its buffer zones. Since then, the level of intervention, the scope and the quantity of the projects implemented or being implemented in the inscribed property, its buffer zones and wider setting is considerably elevated thus creating an important cumulative impact of these interventions. Consequently, in addition to the appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments and/or Environmental and Social Impact Assessments that assist in understanding a specific proposed action/project in detail and ensure that there are no potential

negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)⁹ would have been extremely beneficial in this case. A SEA is more proactive and strategic and is better suited to assessing cumulative impacts of multiple projects at a landscape level and at setting strategic and generic mitigation measures that can apply consistently to all projects even to those that may not necessarily require an HIA.

It is also worth noting that at the time of inscription, in its **Decision 39 COM 8B.32** (2015), the World Heritage Committee recommended that the State Party give consideration to: ‘conducting a detailed Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the *ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* for future development projects to allow the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property to be recognized at an early stage; and submitting all proposals for development projects to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*’ (paragraph 4.i. of the Decision).

Since then, the World Heritage Committee in its numerous Decisions has reiterated its request that the State Party carry out independent Heritage Impact Assessments for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and its setting, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, each with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, before these projects are implemented (**Decisions 41 COM 7B.50, 43 COM 7B.90, 44 COM 7B.56**).

The State Party has been implementing projects without previously assessing their possible impact on the OUV, the integrity and the authenticity of the World Heritage property despite the repeated Committee requests. Consequently, it seems that there needs to be a more thorough understanding of the property’s OUV and its attributes as well as of the other heritage and conservation values that convey its OUV, in order to be able to better manage and protect it. It would also appear that the State Party has not fully grasped the utility of conducting HIAs prior to project implementation since there is no clear argumentation on why impact assessments may be carried out for some projects and not for others. It also transpires that impact assessment on heritage is not required by the national and local frameworks followed by the national or local authorities in project implementation.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- All Impact Assessments conducted from now on follow the newly published [*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*](#) and have to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the beginning of their implementation and in an early planning phase that is as early as possible for the recommendations to be taken into account and the project planning to be preferably avoided or modified accordingly, if necessary.
- The State Party halts works on all ongoing or newly planned urban, infrastructure and landscaping projects located in the property, its buffer zones and the wider setting of the property before independent Heritage Impact Assessments and/or Environmental and Social Impact Assessments have been carried out, submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and recommendations have been received by the State Party.
- The State Party undertakes a Strategic Environmental Assessment taking into consideration the cumulative impacts and laying out a clear idea of all past and foreseen future interventions and submits

⁹ In impact assessment the word ‘environment’ includes physical, biological, resource use, social, cultural, health and economic dimensions, so it can be applied equally to both natural and cultural World Heritage, *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, page 20.

it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before proceeding with individual Environmental and Social- or Heritage Impact Assessments or the projects' implementation.

- In each step of the impact assessment process, the State Party should integrate the participation of rights-holders, local communities and relevant stakeholders.
- The State Party should consider introducing or integrating in its national and/or local regulations the obligation to carry out impact assessments for world heritage for projects that can have an impact on the OUV of a World Heritage property. Alternatively, and if this is not possible, the State Party should conduct stand-alone assessment of impacts on the OUV and other heritage/conservation values.
- For projects already implemented, the State Party should inventory all negative impacts to the OUV, the authenticity and/or integrity of the property, develop measures to reverse or redress them and submit the inventory and the proposed measures to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The measures should be implemented after reception of recommendations by the World Heritage Centre.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Several restoration, rehabilitation, renewal and landscaping projects located in the City Walls, the Hevsel Gardens and the buffer zones have been implemented, are ongoing or planned for the near future. The level, scope and intensity of interventions has created a cumulative impact on the property that in some cases negatively impacts the OUV and in other cases threatens to impact the OUV. This requires a complete change of approach when formulating new projects so that they support and enhance the OUV of the property rather than undermine it.

Having said that, not everything is negative. The work to the City Walls has improved very much since inscription and the standard of work now being achieved can stand up to international scrutiny. While the works to the Içkale Artuqid Palace have been led by archaeologists and are of a high standard, the apparent absence of archaeologists during other restoration and rehabilitation works, in a city continuously occupied for more than six millennia, has resulted in a loss of important fabric which could have contributed to knowledge of the monumental ensemble inscribed on the World Heritage List. This is very disappointing.

Developments in the inner buffer zone (Suriçi), which contributes to the visual integrity of the World Heritage property, need to be more sensitive to the historic city. One of the fundamental problems is that some neighbourhoods have been razed and new developments, comprising new buildings and widened streets, have taken their place presenting an austere and sterile appearance with no replication of the character of the original neighbourhoods thus destroying the historic urban fabric of the city that supports the OUV of the property. The earlier street network with its tangle of narrow streets and alleys and dead-end plots has gone; the memory of large areas of the old city has itself been totally removed.

At the time of inscription, the Hevsel Gardens had maintained their historical and functional links to the city but this is now fast changing and threatens to undermine the attributes of the Gardens that are becoming more and more vulnerable. Before, many families who lived within the walled city, worked the land in the Hevsel Gardens. The connection with local communities helped create such an important cultural landscape that it has been recognised as World Heritage quality. With the removal of so many of the inhabitants from within the walls of the historic city, particularly on its east and south sides, the link has been severed. Families have been re-housed at such a distance that they can no longer work this land. This is a serious blow to the complex inter-relationship between the city and the gardens and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Hevsel Gardens are key to the cultural landscape of the property. They are not being protected. Their historic connection to the city is no longer understood. The system of agriculture and of water management is being neglected. This substantial attribute of the property is becoming very vulnerable. If nothing is done to address this situation it will undermine the OUV so completely that it may become irreversible.

The vast scale of mixed development around the Ten-Eyed Bridge negatively impacts this attribute. The setting of the historic bridge has been seriously impacted by elements of this development such as the mosque, the stone staircase and development along the riverbanks. This bridge, one of the attributes contributing to the OUV of the property, is so affected that the OUV is threatened. To remove this threat, serious and immediate action is required; the projects associated with the Ten-Eyed Bridge need to be fundamentally re-visited and, in places, reversed.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value notes that at the time of inscription the management system was not yet fully operating nor yet well-coordinated and its overall functioning was complex and needed further improvement to clarify responsibilities. It is noted that currently the management plan is still not fully implemented and needs to be much more integrated and makes effective coordination extremely challenging. This lack of overall integration has led to areas being considered in isolation, particularly with regard to the natural elements of the property. Since inscription, the current approach has facilitated the compartmentation of the World Heritage property and in relation to the projects surrounding the Ten-Eyed Bridge, the management system has utterly failed to protect the property. The management system needs a complete review and re-structuring.

The 2012 Conservation Plan submitted as part of the nomination dossier was subsequently modified in 2016 after the military events of the winter of 2015-16. It has since been updated again. The State Party was repeatedly requested by the World Heritage Committee to reinstate the 2012 plan in its **Decisions 44 COM 7B.56** (2021) and **43 COM 7B.90** (2019). This was not done. It was not possible for the mission team to assess the current Conservation Plan, as it has not been professionally translated into one of the working languages of the World Heritage Convention.

Heritage Impact Assessments have not been undertaken for a considerable number of the projects with disastrous results and in cases where there has been an impact assessment these have been conducted at a very late stage when irreversible decisions have already been made and implementation has already started on site. There is a lack of understanding and appreciation of the value and necessity of commissioning independent HIAs to ensure the protection of the property.

The mission is of the view that the property is faced with imminent danger, in particular because of significant loss of integrity, important loss of cultural significance and serious loss of supporting historic urban fabric all of which fail to maintain the attributes that convey and support the OUV of the property. Addressing this situation will be challenging and will require a new mindset to stop and take stock and change direction. This will require determined action at the highest decision-making level.

Mission recommendations

Please see suggestions made in the Executive Summary.

Archaeology

1. All intervention within the property and buffer zones, whether excavation, restoration, or rehabilitation must be subject to archaeological oversight. Archaeology should be fully integrated into the works to ensure good practice and effective outcomes.

2. In the re-landscaped lower area of İçkale there should be no further archaeological disturbance. A scientific study should be undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of this area.

City Walls

3. With regard to the City Walls project, historical research, on-site research and investigation have been under way for some time. This work must be published and a programme of publications needs to be agreed and followed through. The restoration work to the four main gates should also be published. It should reflect the research undertaken, any discoveries made and demonstrate how decisions were made. The important historical research and practical work undertaken in relation to mud brick and plasters is commendable and should be published in due course. All publication should be fully illustrated.
4. A programme of interpretation needs to be developed for the substantial works to the City Walls, as the project nears completion. A lot of information can be transmitted to the public on suitably designed, well-illustrated quality display panels.

The Hevsel Gardens and the agriculture and water system

5. All changes in the functioning of the Hevsel Gardens itself should cease until a detailed broad survey/study is completed for the gardens to include not only the flora and fauna but its complex functions in relation to agriculture and water management. The study should include examination of the setting and the evolution of this historic cultural landscape so that effective protections can be put in place and enforced. An urgent recovery plan with a clear timeline should be developed to reverse negative impacts post-inscription and this should be reported to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Any future changes to its working structure should be the subject of a HIA, once the detailed studies have been completed, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
6. A study must be undertaken of the existing mill remains within the property, the functional interrelation between the water sources, the population and the Hevsel Gardens. The water management system needs to be an integral part of this study. Proposals should then be included for the preservation and conservation of the entire system in order to support the functional and visual qualities of the property as was set out in the Statement of the OUV.

Tigris River

7. There should be no further intervention along the banks of the Tigris River, which is an attribute of the property, until all relevant studies are completed, and an Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken and communicated to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. An ecological study is now required to ascertain the full impact of works to date. Depending on the results of the study, it may be necessary to restore the relationship between the river and its banks along that stretch which has already been altered.

Ten-Eyed Bridge

8. Since inscription, management and legislation seem to have failed to protect the attribute of the Ten-Eyed Bridge. Developments along the banks of the Tigris River here need to be investigated and all illegal development removed. Buffer zone legislation needs to be greatly strengthened to protect the banks of the Tigris River.

9. The State Party should review the changes to the setting of this attribute (Ten-Eyed Bridge) of the World Heritage property in relation to recent developments and the impact on the OUV. It should report back to the World Heritage Committee setting out how it proposes to address these issues.
10. The setting of the historic Ten-Eyed Bridge has been seriously altered by the Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project. This bridge, one of the attributes contributing to the OUV of the property, is so affected that the OUV is threatened. Elements of this project such as the mosque and the stone staircase have had a devastating visual impact. To remove this threat this project needs to be fundamentally re-visited. All remedial proposals in this area should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
11. The stone staircase should be removed, and a more appropriate stepped structure designed to better sit into the contour of the hill and constructed using more sympathetic materials. The mosque should also be relocated; a HIA should be commissioned to identify a more appropriate location where it will not impact negatively on the Ten-Eyed Bridge. The scale of the mosque should be re-considered.
12. The sports facilities, the water storage structures to the south and the area below the platform dropping down to the river should be fundamentally re-landscaped to reduce their impact on the Ten-Eyed Bridge.

Inner buffer zone, Suriçi

13. Noting that Suriçi, the inner buffer zone, has the ability to directly affect the condition and views of the City Walls, a major attribute of the property. Any further demolition in its historic urban fabric should be halted as a matter of urgency and current expropriation decisions cancelled. The current approach to redevelopment in the historic city should be revised when rehabilitating other areas. The loss of traditional neighbourhoods has been considerable and has diminished the visual connection with the City Walls in its support of the OUV.
14. Other new developments in Suriçi need to be more sensitive to the historic city, conserving and renovating as much as possible and infilling with developments of appropriate scale, materials, form, etc. Wholesale demolition is not the way forward, particularly as the inner buffer zone is so strongly supportive of the World Heritage property.
15. When researching and re-creating typologies of housing/dwellings in Suriçi it is essential that each period is included, reflecting the evolution of the structures on the ground and thus avoiding a selective museum perspective. When restoring other monuments, the aim should be to conserve and repair as much as possible and avoid over-restoration.
16. A re-think of the Tourist Ring Road between Mardin and Dag Gates is necessary, to help re-establish some relationship between the City Walls and Suriçi and to mitigate the stark impact of this engineering project by reducing its scale and introducing suitable and sufficient planting. A specialist with experience in historic urban landscapes should be consulted. A project containing mitigation measures should be developed and put through Heritage Impact Assessment that should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Tram Line Project

17. In relation to the Tram Line Project, it is recommended that an archaeological trench 2 metres wide by 25 metres long is excavated at the most sensitive location, close to the City Walls. If significant archaeological remains are found, the precise route in this area may need to be re-considered or other mitigation measures taken, if the preservation of the archaeological remains is at risk. The final design and report on the archaeological investigation, together with the State Party's proposal on how to proceed in light of the importance of the findings, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
18. The potential impact of the associated infrastructural elements of the Tram line Project and the landscaping component on the City Walls and its setting need to be reduced as much as possible in the final design to ensure a low visual impact to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Management

19. The Management Plan with its systems should be fully reviewed, as it is no longer effective. The compartmentalization of many different implementation areas should be avoided to achieve better integration, cohesion and holistic management of the property and its buffer zones. The cultural and natural elements of the property and its buffer zones need to be managed in an integrated manner. The revised Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.
20. The involvement of the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality needs to be restored to ensure a strong local impact in decision-making. The involvement of local communities and civil society in the management process should be encouraged for the same reasons. In addition, the current role of the site manager should be strengthened beyond coordination.

Conservation Plan

21. The State Party should reinstate the 2012 Urban Conservation Plan as was repeatedly requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decisions **44 COM 7B.56** (2021) and **43 COM 7B.90** (2019). In order to fully assess the current Conservation Plan, it should be professionally translated into one of the working languages of the World Heritage Committee, together with all the plans, the Conservation Implementary Development Plan and all relevant documentation and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review before any further development is continued.

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

22. The State Party should halt works on all ongoing or newly planned urban, infrastructural and landscaping projects located in the property, its buffer zones and the wider setting of the property before independent Heritage Impact Assessments and/or Environmental and Social Impact Assessments have been carried out. In each step of the impact assessment process, the State Party should integrate the participation of rights-holders, local communities and relevant stakeholders. Examples of such projects are the urban renewal projects at the Anzele Spring and in the Feritköşk-Dicle neighbourhoods [Yenişehir District].
23. It is essential to carry out a HIA well in advance of projects being commissioned and before any irreversible decisions are taken. All Impact Assessments conducted from now on should follow the [*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*](#) published in 2022

and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the beginning of project implementation.

24. For projects already implemented, the State Party should inventory any negative impacts on the OUV, in particular the authenticity and/or integrity of the property, develop measures to reverse or redress them, and submit the inventory and proposed measures to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Based on the above, the mission is of the view that the property is faced with imminent danger, particularly due to a significant loss of integrity, cultural significance and supporting historic urban fabric, all of which fail to maintain the attributes that convey and support the OUV of the property. Remedying this situation will be a challenge and will require a pause to take stock and initiate a dramatic change in approach. This will require determined action at the highest decision-making level.

VI. ANNEXES

Annex I: Terms of Reference of the Mission

The World Heritage Committee in its Decision **44 COM 7B.56** (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) requested the State Party of Türkiye to invite, as soon as the current sanitary situation would allow for it, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property 'Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape' to evaluate the overall state of conservation of the property.

Background

The World Heritage property 'Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape' (Türkiye) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2015 under criteria (iv).

The World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring Mission in its Decision **41 COM 7B.50** (Krakow, 2017) and reiterated it in its Decision **43 COM 7B.90** (Baku, 2019). The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee and scheduled twice had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New potential dates for the mission would be the week of 28 November 2022.

Objectives of the Reactive Monitoring Mission

The mission should assess the overall management of the property as well as its state of conservation, especially with regard to changes since its inscription on the World Heritage List, and review already implemented and planned projects in the property, its buffer zone and setting that have, may or may not have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

1. The Mission should Review, assess and report on projects including the following:

City Walls:

Reconstruction and restoration work already carried out as well as planned work including on:

- a. Numerous bastions and sections of the City Wall,
- b. Restoration works undertaken on the four main gates set into the City Walls.

- c. Landscape project in front of Bastion 52.

Excavation works:

- d. The excavation works at the İçkale Artuqid Palace (Amida Mound) and beyond.

Buffer Zone within the City Walls:

Planned rehabilitation and new building projects within the City Walls including on:

- e. Traditional Diyarbakır (Stone) House and New Building Projects such as Commerce, Hotel, Inn and Museum Developed within the Boundaries of the Area under Risk in the Suriçi Region;
- f. Restoration and Reconstruction Projects of Registered Civil Architectural Buildings within the Boundaries of the Area under Risk in the Suriçi Region;
- g. Renovation (Street Rehabilitation) Projects Developed for Commercial Units within the Boundaries of the Area under Risk in the Suriçi Region;
- h. Vehicle Road and Touristic Tour Route Project between Mardin Gate/ Dağ (Mountain) Gate within the Boundaries of the Area under Risk in the Suriçi Region;
- i. Hz. Suleyman Mosque (İçkale- Inner Castle) Surrounding Urban Design and Cultural Landscape Project within the Boundaries of the Area under Risk in the Suriçi Region;
- j. The Tram Line project, in particular the procedures to deal with potential archaeological remains, and the project's potential impact, including its landscaping component, on the City Walls and their setting as an essential attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Hevsel Gardens, Buffer Zone and wider Setting outside the City Walls

Rehabilitation projects outside the Diyarbakır City Walls, and within the Hevsel Gardens, the buffer zone or the wider setting including:

- k. Tigris Rehabilitation Project,
- l. Landscaping Project for Areas Outside Diyarbakır City Walls
- m. Tigris Valley Eastern Suriçi Landscaping Project,
- n. Urban Renewal Project in Dicle and Ferit Köşk Neighbourhoods of Yenişehir District
- o. Tigris Valley Recreation and Forestation Project.

- 2. The mission should evaluate the management of the property and the appropriateness of its management system or plan and clarify the purposes and management of the buffer zone;
- 3. The Mission should also assess progress in:
 - a. The revision of the Conservation Plan and its Conservation Implementary Development Plan covering the Walled City Urban Archaeological Site and the Walls and of the Urban Design Project as buffer zone of the property, particularly in the context that the property's buffer zone(s) contribute to the maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of the OUV of this World Heritage property.

- b. The development of Heritage Impact Assessments for projects that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and how these are undertaken and used, particularly with reference to impact on buffer zone and their contribution to the maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of the OUV of this World Heritage property.
4. The Mission should also consider other projects that the State Party or mission team identify during the course of the mission.

Modalities

The State Party should ensure that the mission team can carry out a comprehensive inspection of all parts of the property and visit the construction sites of projects within the property, its buffer zones and the environments listed above and any others identified by itself or the mission likely to have a significant impact on the property. The State Party should organise working meetings and consultations between the mission team and the relevant authorities/organisations as well as with other stakeholders, including representatives of local communities, civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations.

To enable the mission's preparation, the State Party should provide the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS with any relevant updates, including documents, legislation, policies and bylaws in one of the World Heritage Committee working languages (i.e. English or French) since the latest state of conservation report submitted by the State Party in February 2022, preferably no later than three weeks before the start of the mission. Additional information may be requested during the mission as required and can be provided during or very shortly after the mission.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessment and discussions with the State Party representatives and other stakeholders, and where relevant, other documentation provided by the State Party, the mission team should propose recommendations to the State Party and the World Heritage Committee to safeguard the OUV of the property and its supporting attributes to improve the overall state of conservation of the property. It should be noted that recommendations will be provided in the mission report and not during the mission.

Following the on-site mission, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS will prepare a report for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session. The mission team may request additional information from the State Party after the mission for the preparation of its report. The State Party should endeavour to provide such information as quickly as possible and in one of the World Heritage Committee working languages (i.e. English or French) to ensure the report can be finalised within the foreseen timeframe. The mission report will be made available to the State Party to comment on potential factual errors.

In accordance with UNESCO and ICOMOS policies, their experts will not engage with the media, nor will they discuss the findings and recommendations of the mission, which should only be presented in the final mission report.

Annexes

Annex I: Decision **41 COM 7B.50** (Krakow, 2017)

Annex II: Decision **43 COM 7B.90** (Baku, 2019)

Annex III: Decision **44 COM 7B.56** (Fuzhou/Online, 2021)

Annex I: Decision 41 COM 7B.50 (Krakow, 2017)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.32** and **40 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the Committee in previous Decisions, as well as the initiatives taken by the State Party to protect the property and its buffer zone and underlines the importance of preventing any further damage to the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue with work related to rehabilitation of Surici District within the buffer zone,
5. Requests the State Party to initiate the elaboration of a Master Plan for restoration and rehabilitation activities within the property, which should include information and documentation on techniques and materials;
6. Also requests the State Party, to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design projects such as “Urban Design Project for Cevatpaşa Neighborhood İç Kale Valley”, which may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties;
7. Further requests the State Party to invite, when the situation allows, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and to propose appropriate measures to be taken;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

Annex II: Decision 43 COM 7B.90 (Baku, 2019)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Notes the work carried out by the State Party to rehabilitate and protect the property and its buffer zone; however regrets that the reconstruction work has started before the mission has taken place and its conclusions known and before Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) were undertaken for all projects and submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Request all projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property be halted until the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission are known and adopted by the Committee;
5. Also notes that the 2012 Conservation Plan for the property was modified and therefore also requests the State Party to halt the implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan until the revised Conservation Plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for review;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to carry out HIAs for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage, before these projects are implemented;
7. Recommends that the urban dimension of the property and its buffer zone be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted to ensure the conservation of the property; using if necessary the approach carried by the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011);
8. Thanks the State Party for the invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the overall state of conservation of the property; and urges the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the possible dates for the mission;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, 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 44th session in 2020.

Annex III: Decision 44 COM 7B.56 (Fuzhou/Online, 2021)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes the work carried out by the State Party to rehabilitate and protect the property and its buffer zone;
4. Regrets that no details have been submitted on the urban rehabilitation projects for the property and its buffer zone;
5. Expresses concern that reconstruction work has started before the Reactive Monitoring mission has taken place and its conclusions known and before Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) were undertaken for all projects and submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party that all projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property be halted until the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission are known and adopted by the Committee;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to halt the implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan until the revised Conservation Plan with its Conservation Implementary Development Plan covering the walled city urban archaeological site and the walls and Urban Design Project have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to carry out independent HIAs for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and its setting, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, each with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, before these projects are implemented;
9. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the possible new dates for the requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the overall state of conservation of the property as soon as the current sanitary situation allows for it;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 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 45th session.

Annex II: Composition of mission team

The mission team consisted of:

- Maria Liouliou, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Nicolas Faucherre, ICOMOS
- Grellan D. Rourke, ICOMOS

Annex III: Itinerary and programme of the mission

Sunday 27 Nov. 2022		Mon. 28 Nov. 2022 Day 1	Tues. 29 Nov. 2022 Day 2
Arrival to Diyarbakır (Türkiye)	09:00 –	09:00 Visit to Mayor/ Distr. Governor of Diyarbakır	09:00
		10:00 Introductory Presentation on the Joint WHC/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission and the Working Programme (<u>Gen. Direc. of Cultural Properties and Museums</u>) Presentations on: - The overall management of the property (since its inscription on the WH List in 2015) <u>(Gen. Direc. of Cultural Properties and Museums)</u> - Excavations at the Amida Mound (Içkale) (Excavation Direc.)	10:00 Field visit: - On-site inspection of the restoration work on the bastions and the sections of the city wall (incl. the four main gates) - On-site inspection of excavation work at the Amida Mound (Içkale) - Hz. Süleyman Mosque surrounding (Içkale= Inner Castle) Urban Design and Landscape Project
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch

	14:00 – 18:00	14:00	<p>Presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restitution / Restoration works on the bastions and sections of the Diyarbakır city walls <p>(Diyarbakır Direction of Surveying and Monuments;</p> <p>Diyarbakır Municipality, Dept. of Urban Planning)</p> <p>16:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee/tea break <p>16:15</p> <p>Presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Info. on Hz. Süleyman Mosque surrounding (içkale= Inner Castle) Urb. Design and Landscape Project - Tigris Valley Suriçi (Inner Castle) East Part Urb. Design and Landscape Project - (Project incl. areas within Suriçi adjacent to the city walls between bastions 51. – inner castle walls – bastion 82) <p>(Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape Project in front of bastion no.52 (Keçi Burcu) <p>(Diyarbakır</p>	14:00	<p>Field visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on-site inspection of the rest. work on the bastions and the sections of the city wall (cont.)

			Municipality; Dept. of Parks and Gardens)		
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		<p><u>zone):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Info. on Urban Design Projects - Info on Renovation (street rehab.) Projects incl.: - Gazi St. (St. between Mardin Kapı (=gate) and the Dağ Kapı (=gate) and Melikahmet St. - Rest. and Reconstruction Projects of Registered Civil Arch. Buildings <p><u>(Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Info. on the Rail Line Project and the HIA Report sub. in Feb.2022 <p>(Diyarbakir Municipality, dept. of Transportation)</p>	
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	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch
	14:00 – 18:00	14:00 Field visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suriçi (buffer zone) west part - On-site inspection of the Alipaşa Neighborhood Urban Design Project area - Street Rehab. Projects (Imp. on the Gazi St.; and Melik Ahmet St.) and - On-site inspection of other restoration projects of registered buildings (i.e Surp Sargis Church (Alipaşa Neigh.); St. Mary Church Cemil Paşa Konağı(=mansion); Behram Paşa Camii (=mosque), Ulu Camii) 	14:00 Presentations on already implemented and/ or planned projects within the Hevsel Gardens, Surdışı (buffer zone) and its wider setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on Urban Renewal/ Rehabilitation Project areas outside the city walls between bastions no.26- 45 (=Ben U Sen region) - Information on Feritköşk – Dicle Neighborhood (Yenişehir Distr.) Urban Renewal Projects (Diyarbakir Municipality) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Info. on the Dicle (=Tigris) Valley Recreation and Forestation Project (Ministry of Environment, Urban and Climate Change)
	20:00 – 21:00		

		Friday 2 Dec. 2022 Day 5	Sat. 3 Dec. 2022
	09:00 – 13:00	09:00 Field visit: 10:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hevsel Gardens, Surdışı (buffer zone) - On-site inspection of the Hevsel Gardens; - Dicle (=Tigris) Valley Rehabilitation Project area; and - Urban renewal project areas of the Feritköşk –Dicle Neigh. (Yenişehir Distr.) 	Departure from Diyarbakır (Türkiye)
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
	14:00 – 18:00	14:00 Field visit: 15:30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hevsel Gardens, Surdışı (buffer zone) - On-site inspection of the Hevsel gardens (cont.) and 16:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-site inspection of the Dicle Valley Recreation and Forestation Project (Kırklar Dağı (=Mt.) and its surrounding environment) 	

		<p>Additional meeting with the relevant other stakeholders (including representatives of the local communities, civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations)</p>	
	<p>20:00 – 21:00</p>		

Annex IV: List of participants

No.	Name, SURNAME	Title	Institution and/or Organisation
1.	İbrahim MeteYAĞLI	Ambassador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diyarbakır Office
2.	O. İlhan ŞENER	General Director	General Directorate of Overseas Promotion and Cultural Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3.	Gökhan BOZKURLAR	Head of; Dept. of Registration and Urban Planning	General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums; Ministry of Culture and Tourism
4.	İpek ÖZBEK	Head of; Dept. WHS; Urb. Planner	Dept. of WH Sites; Gen. Direc. of Cul. Properties and Museums; MoCT
5.	Dr.Zeynep TUNA YÜNCÜ	Diyarbakır Fort. WH Site Manager; Urb.Planner	Dept. of WH Sites; General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums; MoCT
6.	Pınar KUŞSEVEN	Culture and Tourism Expert; / Archaeo.	Dept. of WH Sites; General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums; MoCT
7.	Cemil ALP	Provincial Director	Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism
8.	Canan OKAL	Deputy Director	Diyarbakır Archaeology Museum

9.	Prof. Dr. İrfan YILDIZ	Art Hist./ Director Amida Mound Excavations; Lec. at the Dept. of Fine Arts; Mem. of the Diyarbakır Fort. Rest. Project Scientific Commisio n	Dicle Uni; Fac. of Education; Dept. of FineArts
10.	Neslihan ÖZKAN	Architect	Diyarbakır Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties
11.	Yılmaz AKKUZU	Architect	Diyarbakır Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties
12.	Cemil KOÇ	Architect / Director; Mem. of the Diyarbakır Fort. Rest. Project Scientific Committee	Diyarbakır Directorate of Surveying and Monuments
13.	Betül KOYUN	Architect/ Deputy Direc.	Diyarbakır Directorate of Surveying and Monuments.
14.	Prof. Dr. Neslihan DALKILIÇ	Architect	Member of the Diyarbakır Fort. Scientific Commission for Diyarbakır Fortress
15.	Prof. Dr. Zeynep Gül ÜNAL	Architect	Member of Scientific Commission for Diyarbakır Fortress
16.			
17.	Prof.Dr. Nevra ERTÜRK	Archaeo./ Lec. at the Yıldız Tech. Uni., Fac. of Architecture	UNESCO National Commision (Türkiye)
18.	Cansu TÜRK	Architect	UNESCO National Commision (Türkiye)

19.	Prof. Dr. Neriman ŞAHİN GÜÇHAN	Architect / Lec. at Middle East Tech. Uni., Fac. of Architecture, the Dept. of Rest.;	ICOMOS Türkiye
20.	Prof. Dr. Ahmet TÜRER	Engineer/ Lec. at the Middle East Tech. Uni., Dept. of Civil Engineering	ICOMOS Türkiye
21.	Berk ÖZPINAR	Head of Dept.	General Directorate of Foundations
22.	Semra Hillez HALİFEOĞLU	Architect	General Directorate of Foundations
23.			
24.	Mehmet KARAASLAN	Head of; Dept. of Pub. Works and Urb. Planning	Dept. of Pub. Works and Urb. Planning; Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
25.	V.Sermed AZİZOĞLU	Architect/ Head of; Dept. of KUDEB	Conservation, Implementation and Supervision Bureau (KUDEB), Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
26.	Gülay KUTLU	Head of Dept. of Parks and Gardens	Dept. of Parks and Gardens; Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
27.	Benazir ÖZBEK AZİZOĞLU	Landscape Architect	Dept. of Parks and Gardens; Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
28.	Evin DİNAR		Dept. of Parks and Gardens; Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
29.	Rıfat URAL	Head of; Dept. of Transport	Dept. of Transport; Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality
30.	Bekir GÜNGÖR		Dept. of Transport; Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality

31.	Ufuk Nurullah BİLGİN	Provincial Director	Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
32.	Selahattin SARI	Deputy Director	Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
33.	Fesih BARUT	Head of Dept.	Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
34.	Serhat ALPERGİN	Engineer	Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
35.	Ayşegül DİNÇ YALÇIN	Head of Dept.	General Directorate of Spatial Planning ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change,
36.	Zeynep Kevser CERİT	Head of Division	General Directorate of Spatial Planning ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change,
37.	Mehmet Nazım ÖZER	Urb. Planner	General Directorate of Spatial Planning ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change,
38.	Vedad GÜRGEN	General Director	General Directorate of Infrastructure and Urban Rehab.; Ministry of Environment, Urb.and Climate Change,
39.	Mustafa BAKIR	Deputy General Director	General Directorate of Infrastructure and Urban Rehab.; Ministry of Environment, Urb.and Climate Change,
40.	Yunus Emre KİBAR	Head of Division	General Directorate of Infrastructure and Urban Rehab.; Ministry of Environment, Urb.and Climate Change,
41.	Fatih TÜRKMENOĞLU	Urb. Planner	General Directorate of Infrastructure and Urban Rehab.; Ministry of Environment, Urb.and Climate Change,
42.	Nagihan GÖK	Urb. Planner	General Directorate of Infrastructure and Urban Rehab.; Ministry of Environment, Urb.and Climate Change,
43.	Sümeyye ÇİĞDEM	Urb. Planner	General Directorate of Infrastructure and Urban Rehab.; Ministry of Environment, Urb.and Climate Change,
44.	Banu ASLAN	General Director	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
45.	Elif UZ	Deputy General Director	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change

46.	Metin SAĞIR	Head of Department	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
47.	Seda KARADAG YAMAN	Head of Division	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
48.	Serpil PALTUN	Head of Division	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
49.	Onur ORUÇ	Architect	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
50.	Volkan GENİŞ	Architect	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change
51.	Belgin KOÇAK	Architect	General Directorate of Construction Works ; Ministry of Environment, Urb. and Climate Change

Name	Title/Function
Nevin SOYUKAYA	Archeaologist, Former site manager
Dilan KAYA	Urbanist
Mahmut ÖZKESKİN	ŞPO
Berivan GÜNEŞ	ŞPO
Herdem DOGRUL	Mimarlar Odası
Kadir SULAR	Alipaşa Muhtari
Selahattin Yauuz	Süleyman Nazir Muhtari
Mehmet Ali KIRSAÇLI	DIKTUM DER
Kenan AKSU	Diyarbakir Kültür, Türkiye ve Musik Der. Yon Kun. Bpk
Ferit KAHRAMAN	Architect, MIMAR Mimarlar Odası Diyarbakir Subesi Esbaşkani

Annex V: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Property

Brief synthesis

The Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is located on an escarpment in the Upper Tigris River Basin. The fortified city with its associated landscape has been an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through the Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present. The property includes the impressive Diyarbakır City Walls of 5800 metres – with its many towers, gates, buttresses and 63 inscriptions from different historical periods; and the fertile Hevsel Gardens that link the city with the Tigris River and supplied the city with food and water. The City Walls, and the evidence of their damage, repair and reinforcement since the Roman period, present a powerful physical and visual testimony of the many periods of the region's history. The attributes of this property include the İçkale (Inner Castle), Diyarbakır City Walls (known as the Dışkale or Outer Castle), including its towers, gates and inscriptions, the Hevsel Gardens, the Tigris River and Valley, and the Ten-Eyed Bridge. The ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is significant, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the property.

Criterion (iv): The rare and impressive Diyarbakır Fortress and the associated Hevsel Gardens illustrate a number of significant historical periods within this region from the Roman period until the present through its extensive masonry city walls and gates (including many repairs and additions), inscriptions, gardens/fields and the landscape setting in relation to the Tigris River.

Integrity

The boundary of the property encloses all the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value, including the importance of the landscape setting of the fortress and the proximity to the Tigris River. The City Walls demonstrate many periods of damage, repair and additions. While a section of the City Walls was demolished in 1930, and there are some examples of poorly planned, executed and documented conservation work completed within the past half century, the Walls are otherwise intact and generally in a good state of conservation. The state of conservation of the Hevsel Gardens is adequate, but vulnerable due to unauthorized settlements and businesses that have been established at the base of the citadel, and by blocked drains, water quality issues, and dams on the Tigris River that divert water upstream. Adequate buffer zones have been delineated. Overall, the integrity of the property is considered to be vulnerable due to development pressures in the city centre and in areas surrounding the property and its buffer zones.

Authenticity

Although the functions of the Fortress and gardens have changed over time, it has survived for many centuries and still clearly encircles the innermost core of the historic city. It is still possible to read the importance of these walls, and to recognise their materials, form and design. A substantial part of the 5.8km-long ring consisting of bastion walls, gates and towers of the old city remain, and meet the requirements for authenticity. The Hevsel Gardens have also maintained their historical and functional links to the city. While the authenticity of the attributes of the property is clear, the documentation of restoration work needs to be improved to continue to demonstrate the authenticity of restored sections.

Protection and management requirements

The Fortress walls and towers are protected through designation as an “Urban Site” in accordance with the decision of Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation and the Law No. 2863 on Code of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties. The İçkale (Inner Castle) is designated as a “1st degree Archaeological Site”, requiring permission from the Diyarbakir Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation before any new construction or physical intervention can occur. While scientific excavations can be permitted, no building or other development activity is allowed. Special provisions for the historical City Walls, towers and wall gates are provided in the Suriçi Urban Site Conservation Plan; and permission from the responsible municipality is required before any new constructions or physical interventions occur in the settlements outside the City Walls and in Hevsel Gardens. All archaeological studies and excavations in these areas are monitored and controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakir Museum Directorate. The Law No. 2872 of Environmental Law controls and administers the agricultural activities in the Tigris Valley and Hevsel Gardens. Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate and State Hydraulic Works are also the responsible institutions. Moreover, the Soil Conservation Board, which is included in decisions about Hevsel Gardens and Tigris Valley, conducts its works in accordance with the “Application Regulations on Soil Conservation and Land Use Law”.

Within the buffer zones, legal permission is required from the responsible municipality before any new constructions and/or physical interventions are carried out. Permit mechanisms are administered by the Diyarbakir Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation for any new construction or physical intervention for registered assets in Historical Suriçi District. Permits should be given in accordance with the provisions of Conservation Plan in Suriçi District, although the town planning regulations are advisory provisions for private owners, and the coordination with the management of the World Heritage property is not established. All archaeological studies or excavations carried out in the buffer zones are monitored and controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakir Museum Directorate.

Legal protection is in place for the key attributes of the property, although the coordination of these provisions could be improved, and the protection of the buffer zones could be strengthened.

In order to develop suitable policies for the Diyarbakir Fortress and the Hevsel Gardens management components, seven implementation zones have been established – three of these concern the Diyarbakir Fortress, and the remaining four zones are associated with the Hevsel Gardens. The buffer zone located inside the city walls (Suriçi) has three planning zones based on conservation issues and the ability to directly affect the condition or views to the City Walls. The buffer zone encircling the outside of the property is divided into nine zones based on the area’s social and economic functions.

Most of the proposed management structures are yet to be implemented. The property will be managed by the Management Directorate, led by a Site Manager appointed by the Municipality. Supervision of the implementation of the Management Plan will be done by the Supervision Unit. The Site Manager will be supported by the Advisory Board and the Coordination and Supervision Board. The Advisory Board will be charged with reviewing the plan and making suggestions on the revision of the mid-term strategy and revision of the Management Plan every 5 years. The Coordination and Supervision Board has the authority to make decisions about site management and is responsible for the implementation of the Management Plan in relation to Regulations established in 2005 in accordance with the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties Law. The Coordination and Supervision Board is supported by the Education Board – responsible for training of personnel; and the Science Board – responsible for all scientific activities arising from the Management Plan.

The management system is not yet fully operating, and a complex range of organisations are involved. As a result, the overall functioning of the management systems is complex and might need further improvement to clarify responsibilities. The Management Plan for the property consists of 6 themes that focus on restructuring economic activities, conservation processes (for tangible and intangible heritage), planning activities, administrative improvements and risk management. The management of the buffer zones (particularly in relation to the Suriçi District) is not yet well coordinated with the management of the property.

Annex VI: List of key statutory documents which have informed the Mission

Nomination 1488 (inscribed)

2015 [Nomination file 1488 \(151 MB\)](#)

Advisory Bodies Evaluations

2015 [Advisory Body Evaluation \(ICOMOS\)](#)

Maps

2015 [Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape - map of inscribed property](#)

Decisions

2021 [44 COM 7B.56 - Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape \(Turkey\) \(C 1488\)](#)

2019 [43 COM 7B.90 - Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape \(Turkey\) C 1488\)](#)

2017 [41 COM 7B.50 - Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape \(Turkey\) C 1488\)](#)

2016 [40 COM 7B.60 - Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape \(Turkey\) C 1488\)](#)

2016 [40COM 8B.50 - Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of properties inscribed at the 38th \(Doha, 2014\) and 39th \(Bonn, 2015\) sessions and not adopted by the World Heritage Committee](#)

2015 [39 COM 8B.32 - Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape, Turkey](#)

State of Conservation Reports by States Parties

2022 [Summary of the State of conservation report by the State Party / Résumé du Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation](#)

2022 [State of conservation report by the State Party / Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation](#)

2020 [Summary of the State of conservation report by the State Party / Résumé du Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation](#)

2020 [Summary of the State of conservation report by the State Party / Résumé du Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation](#)

2018 [State of conservation report by the State Party / Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation](#)

2018 State of conservation report by the State Party / Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation

2018 Summary of the State of conservation report by the State Party / Résumé du Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation

2017 State of conservation report by the State Party / Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation

2017 Summary of the State of conservation report by the State Party / Résumé du Rapport de l'Etat partie sur l'état de conservation

State of conversations reports

2021 State of conservation reports

2019 State of conservation reports

2017 State of conservation reports

2016 State of conservation reports

Annex VII: Information received from the State Party after the mission

- Annex1-a: Organigram of the decision-making process that approves the project implementation within the inscribed property, in its buffer zone and in its wider setting
- Annex 1-b: Urban Design and Culture Landscape Project Suleiman
- Annex 2-a: List of urban design, infrastructure and landscaping projects that are planned to be implemented in the next 3 years within the inscribed property and the buffer zones 1 and 2 containing their location and their scope. Some projects have not been received from the Ministry of Urb., Environment and Climate Change; Sur Municipality and Yenişehir Municipality;
- Annex 2-b: Projects/works carried out in Suriçi buffer zone and heritage site ;
- Annex 3: Map overlaying Suriçi's plan at the time of inscription and at present time (Requested but the General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums has not received the data in time);
- Annex 4: Map overlaying the existing registered buildings and monuments in Suriçi at the time of inscription and at present time with details on the eventual interventions undertaken (no intervention, cleaned, restored facade, restored the whole building, reconstructed partly or entirely following demolition). State Party's reply: There is no map data which includes the registered buildings and monuments in Suriçi at the time of inscription (Jul.2015) and at present (in one single map). To prepare such a map (both data in one map) requires time but the map of existing (as of Jan.2023) 639 desig. monuments and civil architectural buildings (=486) (within the scope of the Law No.2863) is included in Annex4-a.
 - o Annex 4-a The map of existing (as of Jan.2023) desig. monuments and civil architectural buildings (within the scope of the Law No.2863)
 - o Annex 4-b Rest./ rehab. Project prep. for the civil architectural building by the Ministry of Urb., Environment and Climate Change
 - o Annex 4-c Rest./ rehab. Project prep. for the civil architectural building by the Ministry of Urb., Environment and Climate Change (cadastral map base)
 - o Annex 4-d Rest./ rehab. Project carried out by the Diyarbakır Municipality; Dept. of Urb. Planning (through KUDEB)
 - o Annex4-e Rest. projects of struc. registered as 'monuments' carried out by the Diyarbakır Direc. of Foundations
 - o Annex4-f Rest. projects of struc. registered as 'monuments' carried out by the Diyarbakır Direc. of Surveying and Monuments;
- Annex 5: 2012 Conservation Plan with Annexes (accompanying plans and maps) in English
 - o Annex 5-a Extract from the 1:1.000 scale Diyarbakır Sur İçı Conservation Dev. Impl. Plan approved by the Decision No.565, 19/06/2012 of the Diyarbakır Regional Conservation Council for Protection of Cultural Properties trans. to english (only the legend part)
 - o Annex 5-b 2012 – 1.000scale Diyarbakır Suriçi Conservation Plan
 - o Annex 5-c Unofficial translation (En.) of the implementation provisions of the 1:1.000 scale Diyarbakır Suriçi Conservation Development Implementation Plan approved by the Decision No.565, 19/06/2012 of the Diyarbakır Regional Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties;
- Annex 6: 2016 Conservation Plan with its Conservation Implementary Development Plan and Annexes (accompanying plans and maps) in English

- Annex 6-a 2016 Plan
- Annex 6-b Extract from the 1:1.000 scale Diyarbakır Sur İçı Conservation Development Implementation Plan approved by the Decision No.4407, 19/12/2016 of the Diyarbakır Regional Conservation Council for Protection of Cultural Properties trans. to english (only the legend part)
- Annex 6-c Unofficial translation (En.) of the implementation provisions of the 1:1.000 scale Diyarbakır Suriçi Conservation Development Implementation Plan approved by the Decision No.4407, 19/12/2016 of the Diyarbakır Regional Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties. (incl. the revisions to the plan provisions until Aug.2020)
- Annex 6-d 2020 Plan
- Annex 6-e Extract from the 1:1.000 scale Diyarbakır Suriçi Conservation Development Implementation Plan regarding the electricity infra. (=transformers) within the Suriçi region approved by the Decision No.7696, 19/08/2020 of the Diyarbakır Regional Conservation Council for Protection of Cultural Properties trans. to english (only the legend part and the plan provisions);
- Annex 7: Hevsel Gardens: Diyarbakır İli, Dicle Nehri Islahi Projesi (Diyarbakır Surları Ve Hevsel Bahçeleri Dünya Miras Alanı) Kültür Mirası Etki Değerlendirmesi (KMED) Raporu (in Turkish) and Diyarbakır Province, Dicle River Rehabilitation Project (Diyarbakır City Walls And Hevsel Gardens World Heritage Site) Culture Heritage Impact Assessment (KMED) (in English);
- Unofficial translation in English of Article 27 of the Expropriation Law No. 2942 and the Cabinet Decision dated 21.03.2016 No. 2016/8659;
- List of bodies involved in 3 and 4, their competencies, and list of their members accompanied with their titles and professional expertise (Scientific Committees, Conservation Council etc.); Information on how many Scientific Committees exist and what is the focus of each;
- Updated and comparative information since the time of the property's inscription on the endemic plants and animals for the Tigris River. State Party's reply: There is no updated information (Jan.2023) on the endemic flora and fauna species for the Dicle (=Tigris) river except for the information incl. as an annex to the HIA prepared by the Ministry of Urb., Environment and Climate Change for the area encompassing part of the Dicle (=Tigris) River;
- Updated and comparative information since the time of the property's inscription on the level of the water and an analysis of the water quality. State Party's reply: The data for the Dicle (=Tigris) river water levels between Jul.2015 and 2022 are incl. in Annex 7. At present there is no data for the analysis of water quality data within the boundaries of the WH property or its buffer zone(s);
- Impact of the partially implemented Tigris Valley Rehabilitation project on the river's water resources, ecological damage and possible mitigation measures proposed. State Party's reply: the project had been stopped in Aug. 2018. The HIA for the project has been completed in Oct.2018 and sent to the Secretariat in Dec. 2018 for evaluation;
- List of the current types of plantations in the Hevsel Gardens, with information on the incentives given to the farmers for agricultural works. Information on any change of ownership and of the field boundary system since inscription. State Party's reply: there is no data received as of Jan. 2023.
- Power points presentations used during the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to "Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape".
 - Power point 1 Restoration works on the bastions and Diyarbakır city walls (in Turkish);
 - Power point 2 Ben u Sen Urban Renewal Project (in Turkish);

- Power point 3 Dicle-Feritköşk Neighborhoods Urban Renewal project (in Turkish)
- Power point 4 Landscape Design Project in front of Keçi Burcu (in Turkish)
- Power point 5 Tram Line project (in English)
- Power point 6 Diyarbakir Regional Conservation Council for the protection of cultural assets (in Turkish)
- Power point 7 Presentation of the Management system (in Turkish with translations in English)
- Power point 8 Introductory presentation on the Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission and the working programme (in English)