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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Extended forty-fifth session  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
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**Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda:**  
**State of conservation of the properties inscribed**  
**on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

**Summary**

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports will also be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

**Decision required:** The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

**TABLE OF CONTENT**

**CULTURAL PROPERTIES ..... 2**

**ARAB STATES..... 2**

31. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev) ..... 2

38. Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) (C 1565)..... 2

39. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)..... 2

**ASIA AND PACIFIC ..... 3**

51. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev) ..... 3

52. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)..... 8

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **ARAB STATES**

#### **31. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A.Add.4

#### **38. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) (C 1565)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A.Add.4

#### **39. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)**

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A.Add.4

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 51. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Site security not ensured
- Long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches not ensured
- State of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings not adequate
- Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan) not implemented

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress;

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2002 to 2021)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 7,324,120 (2003-2018) from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 159,000 (2011-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 6,845,121 (2013-2021) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 7,336,166 (2013-2019) from UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in Trust; USD 1,500,000 (2017-2026) from the Government of Afghanistan; USD 3.8 million from the Japanese Government for the project 'Sustainable Management of the Property - Preparing the Removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger' (2020-2022); USD 79,212 from UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund: Emergency assessment and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the Bamiyan World Heritage property (2022).

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICCROM Advisory mission; April 2011: UNESCO Kabul/ICOMOS Advisory mission; May 2014: ICOMOS technical Advisory mission; UNESCO expert missions in the context of the implementation of specific international assistance and extra-budgetary projects

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Housing
- Others (Risk of collapse of the Giant Buddha niches; Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/>

### Current conservation issues

While 2021 marked the 20-year commemoration of the destruction of the two Buddhas in March 2001, major political changes occurred in August 2021, leading to a change in the administrative and technical provisions in the field of cultural heritage in Afghanistan. As a result, donors suspended conservation projects being implemented in the property and UNESCO activities were halted. These projects, funded by Italy and Japan have now gradually resumed as of February 2023. The construction of the Bamiyan Cultural Centre, funded by the government of Republic of Korea, was completed in autumn 2022.

As of March 2023, the World Heritage Centre has not received a state of conservation report on the property. However, UNESCO through its Office in Kabul and in the framework of Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) project provides information concerning the implementation of the activities contributing to the corrective measures, as follows:

- An Open International Competition (OIC) was launched for the stabilization works of the Western Buddha Niche, and research and conservation monitoring of both the Western and Eastern Buddha Niches and requires additional information from the bidders to complete the selection process;
- The Management Plan for the property is under finalization;
- A contract is under establishment for the protection, conservation, monitoring and management of mural paintings and capacity-building initiatives to preserve the artistic legacy of the property;
- Artefacts under threat in four separate storages have been housed safely within the Bamiyan Cultural Centre;
- A rapid assessment of the state of conservation of the property has been carried out in February 2023 by UNESCO Office in Kabul.

Prior to the political change of August 2021, ICOMOS had carried out a technical review of the proposed action plan for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, which was provided by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party in February 2021. The technical review suggested refining the Action Plan, including identifying the attributes of the property that contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and maintaining the property's recognition as a cultural landscape. In addition, ICOMOS advised that the actions to be taken with the implementation of the Plan be specified in more detail and to demonstrate how they contribute to achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Technical reviews were also provided to the State Party on development projects, such as a road construction near Tepe Almas, in July 2020, and the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', in October 2021. The ICOMOS Technical Review of the Strategic Management Plan in July 2020 advised that several aspects of the project be revised.

Since August 2021, the World Heritage Centre has received information from third parties and the media, particularly regarding the reported vandalism of artefact storage facilities near the Buddha cliffs in September 2021. In addition, various media outlets reported in January 2022 on the uncontrolled excavation of the upper portion of the cliff behind the western Buddha niche and the establishment of a charcoal depot on the site of the Old Bazaar which was destroyed in the 1990s. The possible reinstallation of the historic Bazaar in direct vicinity to the western Buddha niche, an area of high archaeological sensitivity, was also brought to the attention of UNESCO in summer 2022.

The implementation of the International Assistance project approved in May 2021 to valorise the Bamiyan and Jam properties has been put on hold in view of the prevailing situation.

In March 2022, UNESCO granted an amount of USD 79,212 from its Heritage Emergency Fund for "*Emergency assessment and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the Bamiyan World Heritage property.*" This activity responds to the urgent need to assess the situation and conservation status of all sites comprising the Bamiyan World Heritage property as well as to implement remedial interventions to prevent further damage to the collections.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Despite the absence of a report on the state of conservation of the property and the general political situation since August 2021, some progress has been made towards achieving the Desired state of

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), adopted in 2007. The ongoing JFiT project initiated in 2020 established a detailed Action Plan to achieve the DSO CR.

However, the Action Plan needs to be revised, following the 2021 ICOMOS Technical Review, to clarify the required actions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. JFiT project activities contributing to achieving the corrective measures to reach the DSO CR and planned for execution through Open International Competition should be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation to ensure that the technical assignments of the JFiT project are aligned with the requirements of the DSO CR approved by the Committee (Decision **31 COM 7A.21**).

In light of the UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) guidelines for Afghanistan (until June 2023) and the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA) (from July 2023-onwards), operational activities have remained slow, while the situation of the education and cultural sectors in Afghanistan remains critical, according to both UNAMA and the UN Secretary General.

Therefore, the Committee may recommend that UNESCO keep monitoring the field situation and assist in the revision of the above-mentioned Action Plan for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Priority should be given to operational activities focusing on the documentation and research activities that are feasible using previously collected data, finalization of the Management Plan and addressing urgent conservation issues at various sites, including the stabilization of the Western Buddha niche. It is desirable that all heritage-related projects be supportive of humanitarian situations, to the extent possible.

Bamiyan's urban environment has developed steadily over the past 20 years, with housing projects and road construction taking place in various parts of the valley's cultural landscape and adjacent to the World Heritage property. Informing all stakeholders, in both the road project from Dasht-e Isa Khan to Gholghola Bazaar and the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', about the technical requirements provided by the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines is of particular importance to mitigate the negative impacts of these development projects on the OUV of the property and to prevent further developments that could be detrimental to the OUV.

The revision of the Strategic Master Plan should include effective provisions of cultural landscape protection, community engagement, and the revision of the buffer zones, in line with the ICOMOS Technical Review. The rapid assessment of the state of conservation of the property should also be subject to technical review.

The long-lasting concern over the uncontrolled urban development within the Bamiyan Valley remains to be addressed, in order to preserve the OUV of the property as a cultural landscape, and to provide appropriate protection to monuments and sites from deterioration, illegal excavation and illicit traffic in cultural property, by encroachment and illegal commercial development.

Several media articles and public claims have reached the World Heritage Centre concerning the possible looting of moveable objects and the reported excavation near the Western Buddha cliff. UNESCO continues to monitor the field situation through a local coordinator appointed for the project implementation and has confirmed that the storage facilities containing the artefacts discovered during past project operations are currently protected, but that cleaning and an inventory check are required. Actions such as the nonprofessional excavation reported in January 2022 should be prohibited. Two holes near the top part of the Western Buddha niches should be backfilled. It would be appropriate for the Committee to request a report on the conservation status of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre, following the UNESCO assistance for the moveable heritage collection management, through Heritage Emergency Funds.

The usage of the terrain of the so called "Old Bazaar" in front of western Buddha niche as a coal deposit is acknowledged to be an emergency measure to address the humanitarian crisis in Bamiyan and provide the local population with an energy supply during winter. Regular and continuing heavy truck traffic may adversely impact the stability of the back wall of the niche, especially while consolidation works there are not complete. Suitable deposits and areas for wholesale commercial business and industrial facilities should be identified at other locations in Bamiyan within the aforementioned Action Plan and the updates to this Plan should be shared with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies. The area of the "Old Bazaar" was a commercial centre in Bamiyan prior to its destruction in the 1990s. The land is privately owned and many of the shops and storage facilities remain partially intact. Owners

began work on the “Old Bazaar” in August 2022, but this was immediately suspended following the advice of UNESCO to address shortfalls in planning, management and impact on the property. The local owners are seeking permission to rebuild the “Old Bazaar”. The proximity of the bazaar site to the western Buddha niche, in an area of high archaeological sensitivity suggests that the proposed location may not be appropriate in light of potential impact on the OUV of the property.

The Committee may wish to thank the international community for its support for Bamiyan and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects, which are integral part of the World Heritage property and to encourage UNESCO, working with NGOs and institutions in the field of Culture, continues addressing conservation issues at the property. The Committee may also wish to recall that the long-standing international effort to protect this World Heritage property has been an initiative of confidence-building and cooperation in the spirit of the World Heritage Convention.

It is recommended that the Committee also reiterate the importance of preserving Afghanistan’s cultural heritage, in line with humanitarian law and international instruments, such as the Geneva Convention, the UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property as well as the 2015 UNESCO Recommendations on the Museums and Collections and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Committee may also wish to express its solidarity with the Afghan people and call upon the international community to provide assistance and support in safeguarding the Afghanistan’s heritage and cultural rights on its path towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goals in light of the UN Agenda 2030.

The property remains subject to ascertained and potential threats and the DSOCR has not been achieved, so it is appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7A.51**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A.Add.3,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.1**, **43 COM 7A.41** and **44 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that a state of conservation report was not submitted for the property;*
4. *Express its deep concern with regard to the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the difficult situation of the education and cultural sectors, and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in implementing technical assistance;*
5. *Notes that the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “Sustainable Management of the Bamiyan World Heritage property – Preparing the removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger”, the UNESCO Korean Funds-in-Trust project “The Bamiyan Cultural Centre”, the Italian Funds-in-Trust projects “Preservation and Promotion of the Bamiyan Valley through Culture-Oriented Sustainable Development” and “Local Community Empowerment and Preservation of Shahr-e Gholghola, the World Heritage site in Bamiyan” have contributed to some progress in achieving the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests that an updated report on these projects be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Considering the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA), recommends that activities be focused on assistance to achieve the DSOCR, including the operational*

activities, revision of the Action Plan and timeline, as well as documentation and research activities;

7. Requests that details of the technical assignments and work plan concerning the property, as well as the rapid assessment of the state of conservation of the property be shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to ensure that the project be implemented in line with the corrective measures adopted in Decision 31 COM 7A.21;
8. Considering the prevailing situation in the country, also recommends that all stakeholders be informed about the technical requirements, as outlined by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, on the mitigation of adverse effects of the reported commercial activities in front of the western Buddha niche, the construction of the road in Tepe Almas near Shahr-i-Gholghola, the proposed revision of the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', and the possible reinstatement of the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s; and also requests to comply fully with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and not to take any decision that would be difficult to reverse before submitting detailed documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and obtaining the approval of the Committee;
9. Further requests that the elements suggested by ICOMOS for the revision of the Strategic Master Plan be taken into consideration in order to ensure a more holistic management approach that valorises the site as a cultural landscape, promoting the involvement of local communities and addressing the necessary modification of the buffer zones, in order to address the issue of uncontrolled urban development within the Bamiyan Valley which would place threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the associated cultural assets;
10. Takes note with concern of the reported incidents at the property, notably concerning the storage facilities for artefacts in September 2021, the nonprofessional excavation activities near the top part of the Western Buddhas niche in January 2022, and the possible use of lands for commercial activities in archaeologically sensitive areas, and urges to respect the provisions of the international treaties ratified by Afghanistan, such as the 1954 Convention, 1970 Convention and 1972 Convention, as well as the 2015 UNESCO Recommendations on the Museums and Collections, and further recommends to:
  - a) Ensure regular verification of the state of the storages and keep up proper inventories,
  - b) Provide a report on the conservation status of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre, following the assistance through UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund,
  - c) Ensure the backfilling of the holes at the top of the Western Buddha niche,
  - d) Closely monitor the commercial activities within the inscribed area and buffer zones,
  - e) Carefully review the concept of reinstating the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s at its original location, having regard to potential alternative locations, and appropriate design, materials, planning and management in place;
11. Thanks the international community for its support and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the property;
12. Reaffirms its solidarity to the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned to observe



*the humanitarian law and international instruments relating to heritage, so that all the diversity in heritage that constitutes an integral part of Afghanistan's history and culture can be preserved;*

13. *Requests moreover the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session;*
14. ***Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **52. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2002-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Lack of legal protection
- Lack of an effective monuments protection agency
- Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel
- Lack of a comprehensive Management Plan

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2002 to 2021)

Total amount approved: USD 98,750

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 844,901 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 124,300 (2003-2012) from the UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust; USD 16,800 (2017) from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund; USD 1,921,888 from the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for Safeguarding the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam, Afghanistan – Phase I (2020-2024)

Previous monitoring missions

Several UNESCO expert missions took place between 2002 and 2006 to implement the operational projects for the property. After a period of three years of inactivity from 2007 to 2009 due to the security situation, UNESCO dispatched two missions in cooperation with an Afghan local NGO in 2010 and 2014 to resume on-site operations; September 2017: mission within the framework of the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Political instability)
- River erosion (Inclination of the Minaret)
- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of management plan)
- Illegal activities (Illicit excavations and looting)
- Erosion and siltation/deposition

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/>

### Current conservation issues

At the time of writing this report, the World Heritage Center has not received a state of conservation report, nor a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, both of which were requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **44 COM 7A.29**.

The property was inscribed simultaneously on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2002. In 2007, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures were identified by Decision **31 COM 7A.20** (Christchurch, 2007).

Over the years, the property, located at the confluence of two rivers, has sustained periodic flooding, and its remote location has posed lasting challenges in terms of physical intervention.

Major changes occurred in August 2021, leading to a change in the administrative and technical provisions in the field of heritage.

In January 2022 and February 2023, the UNESCO Office in Kabul took part in planning discussions with the various parties involved in the preservation of the property.

Within the framework of the project “Safeguarding the Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam – Phase I”, funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), emergency cleaning operations of the Hari and Jam riverbeds were carried out in February and March 2022, with the aim of engaging local communities. UNESCO also commissioned rapid assessments on the conservation status of the Minaret of Jam, possible measures to minimize the adverse effects of flash flood events; and the immediate and emergency needs of the local communities. A Conservation Plan was elaborated to address technical issues faced by the Minaret and its surroundings and reviewed by ICOMOS. A contract was established to rehabilitate the river defence system along the Hari River, rebuilding and extending the gabion walls that protect the Minaret and building a gabion dike upstream the Hari River. These works are ongoing.

The implementation of the International Assistance project approved in May 2021 for the valorisation Bamiyan and Jam properties has been put on hold in view of the prevailing situation.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note with deep concern that the major changes which occurred in August 2021 have brought additional and critical challenges for the implementation of maintenance, monitoring and conservation work at the property, and for international cooperation efforts.

The Committee may note with regret that no progress on conservation work or corrective measures has been reported, despite the provisions of the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and previous Committee decisions. The CAP should serve as the basis for the revision of the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in 2007 in Decision **31 COM 7A.20**, including the installation of a monitoring device at the minaret, the emergency stabilization of the wooden staircases, the construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud, and the rehabilitation of the guesthouse. It is also suggested that emergency cleaning of sediment in the riverbeds and preventive measures be implemented as soon as the situation allows.

It is recommended that the Committee request the concerned parties to continue deploying security personnel on site to prevent any illicit trafficking of movable heritage.

In response to the concerns raised by civil society following the earthquake of 17 January 2022, the technical information provided through the project funded by ALIPH, which included on-site activities in January 2022, clarified that the Minaret is in no imminent danger of collapse, based on a comparative analysis of data collected over years. Major concerns relate to the inclination of the Minaret and the

erosion and silting caused by the accumulated sediment deposits resulting from the recurrent seasonal flooding of the two rivers surrounding the property. These natural sedimentation processes are exacerbated by the crumbling and erosion of some parts of the engineered bank stabilizations (gabions and concrete walls) constructed in recent years. As a result of the irregular, exceptional spring floods and the decreasing free volume of the riverbed, the property is increasingly susceptible to flooding, which has a negative impact on the base of the minaret. Previous hydraulic simulations have shown that labour-intensive periodic cleaning of the riverbed from silt and stones, combined with engineering measures that reduce the velocity of flows from upstream, can reduce the risk of the flooding of the property without further ground engineering interventions on the riverbank in the immediate vicinity of the Minaret.

The Committee may thus recommend that technical studies continue to fill the lacunae of earlier research and to identify the most urgent and feasible actions in light of the current situation, considering a people-centred approach that engages the local community in the management of the property. The results of these studies should inform an update of the CAP that should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The draft Conservation Plan elaborated within the ALIPH-funded project needs to be revised to address the recommendations issued by the ICOMOS technical review, to ensure that the proposed actions be in conformity with the corrective measures and DSOCR, and not to place potential threats to the property.

It is recommended that all activities be designed to contribute to the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision **31 COM 7A.20** and that the available resources are optimised and involve, to the extent possible, assistance that could benefit the local communities.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the concerned parties to clearly delineate the boundaries of the minaret, the other three components of the property, and the encompassing buffer zone, based on the revised topographical map of the property generated from high-resolution remote sensing imagery as presented in the UNESCO expert meeting on Jam and Herat in 2012, as a critical step towards developing an effective conservation strategy.

The Committee may also wish to reiterate the importance of the preservation of Afghanistan's heritage, in line with humanitarian law and culture Conventions. It may also express its solidarity with the Afghan people and call upon the international community to provide assistance and support towards the safeguarding of Afghanistan's heritage and cultural rights.

The property remains subject to ascertained and potential threats and the DSOCR has not been achieved, so it would be appropriate for the property to remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 7A.52**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A.Add.3,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.42** and **44 COM 7A.29** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses its deep concern regarding the current situation in Afghanistan in terms of humanitarian, educational and cultural environments, and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in effectively preserving cultural heritage and implementing technical assistance activities;*
4. *Notes with serious concern the continued lack of sustainable human and financial resources and the alarming field situation, which, combined with natural disasters, have brought another layer of difficulties for the implementation of conservation work based upon the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and the corrective measures adopted in 2007 by the Committee in Decision **31 COM 7A.20**;*
5. *Urges the State Party to seek the necessary means to implement the following:*

- a) *Installation of a monitoring instrument on the Minaret of Jam to measure its inclination,*
  - b) *Emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases to prevent further destabilization of the minaret's structure,*
  - c) *Construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud and the reconstruction of the site office at the property, in order to improve access to the property and site security,*
  - d) *Completion of the emergency cleaning of sediment from the riverbeds and the implementation of preventive measures based on the local hydrogeological conditions and hydraulic engineering studies, including upstream gabion and retaining walls, tree planting, and monitoring of the height and flow of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers,*
  - e) *Permanent deployment of security personnel on the ground;*
6. *Recommends that technical assistance, including the assistance provided by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), contribute to the implementation of the adopted corrective measures, in particular pursuing additional technical studies, identifying the most urgent and feasible actions in light of the current situation, and, to the extent possible, to benefitting the local communities;*
  7. *Requests that the draft Conservation Plan elaborated under the ALIPH funded project be revised based on the ICOMOS review to produce an update of the CAP, which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
  8. *Regrets that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone still remain to be precisely defined, and reiterates its request to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, taking into consideration the topographical map produced in 2012 to facilitate the delineation of these boundaries, in conformity with the CAP and in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
  9. *Also requests the allocation of necessary financial and human resources for the safeguarding of the property through relevant budget in order to address conservation issues at the property, including the proposal for a boundary modification, the establishment of the overall action plan for the CAP as well as capacity-building;*
  10. *Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to stand together in safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned to observe the humanitarian law and international instruments relating to heritage, so that all the diversity of heritage, moveable or immovable, that constitute an integral part of Afghanistan's culture can be preserved;*
  11. *Further requests the international community to provide support to the Afghan people in preserving their heritage and cultural rights;*
  12. *Requests furthermore the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session;*
  13. ***Decides to retain Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***