



Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities
State Board of Antiquities & Heritage
International Organizations Department
State of Conservation Report Update
Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)
In response to the extended 45th session of the World
Heritage Committee, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi
Arabia, 2023
Decision: 45 COM 7A.27

By
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World Heritage department /Director

Baghdad
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Property name: Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)

State party: Iraq

Governorate of Salhaddin

N35 27 24 E43 15 40

Date of Inscription: 2003

Criteria: (iii)(iv)

Property: 70 ha

Buffer zone: 100 ha

Ref: 1130

Decision: 45 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7A,**
- 2. Recalling Decision 44 COM 7A.6 adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),**
- 3. Taking into account Decision 45 COM 7A.30 on World Heritage properties in Iraq,**
- 4. Commends the decision by the State Party to halt any further construction of Makhool Dam, given its potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure the permanent cancellation or relocation of the project;**
- 5. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the State Party in providing an informative report, with indications on the damages incurred and planned conservation works at the property, as well as in seeking partnerships and support for documentation, protection and conservation;**
- 6. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2022 joint World Heritage/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and request the State party to implement its recommendations, with particular regard to:**
 - a) Preparation of an overall comprehensive conservation plan for the property in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,**

- b) Carrying out regular maintenance activities, following testing in a pilot area and monitoring over a certain period,**
- c) Submitting a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority to the World Heritage Centre, noting that all interventions must be integrated into the comprehensive conservation plan for the property, Decisions adopted during the extended 45th session WHC/23/45.COM/19, p. 56 it age Committee of the World Heritage Committee**
- d) Undertaking site protection measures, including the prevention of uncontrolled access, as well as installing a fence and proper signage that does not negatively impact the OUV of the property,**
- e) Elaboration of a management system and preparation of a Management Plan that defines and protects the attributes of OUV;**

7. Encourages the State Party to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to priorities urgent maintenance and stabilization actions for damaged and deteriorated components, while recalling that emergency stabilisation work should only be undertaken in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent and according to the principle of minimal intervention, reiterates its request to the State Party that all interventions be addressed within the framework of the overall comprehensive conservation plan for the property, which should be prepared as a matter of priority;

8. Also requests the State Party to continue to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all future works that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Takes note with satisfaction the cooperation undertaken by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS towards the development of the retrospective Statement of OUV for the property;

10. Further requests the State Party to initiate the elaboration the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the necessary corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and advisory Bodies;

11. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as

per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;

12. Calls again on all Member States of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, 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 Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

State of Conservation report- Ashur

No activities have been carried out in Ashur World Heritage Property after the maintenance work of Walter Andrea house (the expedition house)

IN THE FRAMEWORK PROCESS DRAFTING ACTION PLAN (2021-2027) FOR THE ARAB STATES REGION and the World Heritage focal points MEETING On 5 and 6 December 2023 along with representatives from ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, came together in Manama, Bahrain, to review and discuss progress in the implementation of the RAP,

With reference to the Focal Points of the Arab States region meetings objective:

Enhance the protection, conservation and management of World Heritage, particularly for sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, including through emergency preparedness, disaster risk response, and planning for recovery

The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage is in the process of signing official cooperation with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH)/ Bahrain, to finance the conservation work that will be carried out by the World Monument Fund and the start of the first phase of Ashur conservation plan. We will send detailed reports of the aforementioned works to the World Heritage center when available.

Ashur Project Summary sent by the Arab Regional Centre

The Arab Regional Center for World Heritage (ARC-WH) partnered with World Monuments Fund (WMF) to support the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in the preparation of a comprehensive Conservation Plan and of a Site Management Plan for the World Heritage Site of Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat). A Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed by the three partners. The team will be composed by international experts in management and conservation planning as well as in preservation of archaeological sites. All the experts have been working in Iraq in numerous projects and they are familiar with its history, archaeology, heritage and institutions. The international team will be working side by side with the SBAH committee of experts.

The team is planning to work on the collection of the available documentation through the support of the Iraqi and German archaeologists who work at the site. A conservation architect from Germany will also guide the preparation of the condition assessment and state of conservation of the site that will be the base for developing a comprehensive Conservation Plan. The work on the Site Management Plan will be conducted in parallel by a second team. The assessment of the threats to the site as the supposed construction of Makhoul Dam and other environmental issues will have a specific focus.

The recommendations in the 2022 Report on the Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) will be taken into account for the development of the plans. The SBAH/ARC-WC/WMF team is expecting to complete the work by the end of January 2025 for the submission of the documents to the WHC by February 1, 2025.

Ali Ubaid Shalgham

State Board of Antiquities and Heritage/Head

31/1/2024

Saba S. Omari

World Heritage dept. / director

31/1/2024