



STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Japan) (C972)

1. Executive Summary of the report

The State Party of Japan submits this report as requested by the World Heritage Committee through its Decision 45 COM 7B.166.

The reconstruction work of the State Hall started in September 2023 and will continue in 2024 with works on the exterior and interior molding, roofing, painting, while the underground remains of the State Hall continue to be protected by sand capping to ensure a stable environment during the reconstruction works so as not to affect the OUV of the property. Regarding other replica structures including Northern Hall and Southern Hall, a basic plan for reconstruction is currently being formulated by the advisory panel for technical examination. The basic design of the Northern Hall will be prepared in 2024 and a detailed design of the Northern Hall will be prepared in 2025, after which the reconstruction work will be started.

As for the fire prevention measures, "Disaster Prevention and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall and Southern Hall and other structures of Shuri-jo Site" is currently formulated by the advisory panel for technical examination. A specific fire protection equipment to be installed will be studied in detail during the design phase of each building after 2024. Stakeholders including local communities have continuously involved in the reconstruction process of the Shuri-jō site.

There are no other conservation issues or major development projects identified that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Public access to this report is acceptable.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Follow up actions to the Decision 45 COM 7B.166 adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session are as follows. As updated information on the recovery works of the Shuri-jō site was comprehensively provided during the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission in June 2023 this report mainly describes the efforts that have been made by the State Party since that mission.

4. *Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to reconstruct the replica structures in accordance with the recovery work schedule and retain the authenticity of design, form, and artisanship, while ensuring that these constructions do not have any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*

(1) Reconstruction of the State Hall

- In August 2023, the temporary structure (the temporary roof) for the State Hall's reconstruction was constructed (Figure 1).
- In September 2023, the State Hall reconstruction began (Figure 2). In conjunction with the start of reconstruction, the reconstruction site inside the temporary roof was opened to the public, attracting approximately 3,000 visitors over two days (Figure 3).
- In December 2023, the wooden framework of the State Hall was completed (Figure 4).
- In 2024, work on the exterior and interior molding, roofing, painting is scheduled to begin in sequence.

- As explained during the mission in June 2023, the underground remains of the State Hall continue to be protected by sand capping to ensure a stable environment during reconstruction works so as not to affect the OUV of the property (Figure 5).
- Based on the work progress of the State Hall, the hygrothermal environment will be monitored while installing observation windows, and it will be opened to the public after the reconstruction is completed.



Figure 1 The temporary roof (south side)



Figure 2 The State Hall's reconstruction



Figure 3 Reconstruction site open to the public



Figure 4 The wooden framework of the State Hall



Figure 5 Protected underground remains

(2) Reconstruction of other replica structures

- For structures other than the State Hall, such as the Northern Hall and Southern Hall, a basic plan for reconstruction is currently being formulated by the advisory panel for technical examination based on the Basic Policy for the Reconstruction of the Shuri-jō formulated in

2022.

- In 2024, the basic design of the Northern Hall will be prepared based on the abovementioned basic plan, and in 2025, an detailed design of the Northern Hall will be prepared, after which the reconstruction work will be started.

5. *Welcomes* the development of “Fire Prevention Measures for The State Hall of Shuri-jo Site” as the basis of the fire prevention concept, and encourages the State Party to fully implement them at every structure, and also *encourages* the State Party to continue facilitating the involvement of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the recovery process of the property;

(1) Fire prevention measures for each structure

- Regarding specific fire prevention measures for each structure other than the State Hall, the advisory panel for technical examination is currently working on the formulation of "Disaster Prevention and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall and Southern Hall and other structures of Shuri-jo Site".
- These Measures are to organize a basic policy to take appropriate fire prevention measures in accordance with each structure use at each stage of fire (prevention, early detection, early fire extinguishing, firefighting, etc.), while taking into account the "Fire Prevention Measures for the State Hall of Shuri-jo site".
- The specific fire protection equipment to be installed will be studied in detail during the design phase of each building after 2024.

(2) Involvement of stakeholders including the local community

- Local experts continue to be involved in the recovery process as members of the advisory panel for technical examination.
- From July to September 2023, the public, including the local community, volunteered to help with the reconstruction. The foundation stone damaged by the fire is going to be reused as the material for the State Hall’s lacquer work.
- Since the start of the State Hall’s reconstruction in September 2023, an observation area has been established on a part of the temporary roof and is open to the public for visitors, including members of the local community.

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

None

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

None

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

Accessible

6. Signature of the Authority

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