

**ARSLANTEPE MOUND**  
**STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT**

**Date of Inscription: 2021**

**Criteria: (iii)**

**Ref: 1622**



**February, 2024**  
**Türkiye**

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 45 COM 7B 202 adopted at 45th session of the World Heritage Committee at Saudi Arabia /Riyadh meeting. The works related to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions are stated below:

Following the devastating earthquakes in February 2023, the World Heritage Centre was informed on 7 and 23 February 2023 of the collapse of some parts of the temporary roof cover and minor spalling of some of the adobe walls of the mound. Detailed information and visuals on the post-earthquake destruction of the Arslantepe Mound and the works carried out to repair the damage are presented in Section 3 of this report.

A detailed Conservation Protocol was prepared by the Excavation Team in December 2022. It is all oriented towards the preservation activities of the palatial area and adobe structures in general. This Protocol also was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in October 2023.

The five-year implementation period of the Arslantepe Mound Management Plan expired on January, 2024. The revision process of the Management Plan is going to be initiated. The revised management plan should include a full conservation plan, a risk preparedness plan, and tourism management program and be more implementable and compatible with the needs of the site.

“The revised design of the project for extension and alteration of the new roof shelter and rainwater drainage project” was prepared by taking into consideration the additional information and documents requested by ICOMOS upon the World Heritage Centre's letter dated 05 August 2022. The revised design of the project was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in October 2023. Although the new roof project is in the revision process again, some maintenance and repair works have been carried out on the present protective shelter and the temporary roof in order to protect the archaeological site.

Investigations using the geophysical method started in 2022 in the area on the northern slope of the mound continued in 2023 using the electrical resistivity tomographic method. A possible wall detected in 2022 was found to the east as a result of the 2023 studies. These findings strengthen the possibility that Arslantepe may have a hitherto unknown "lower settlement". Archaeometallurgical analyses of the finds and archaeometallurgical surveys around the mound were also initiated in the 2023 excavation season in order to determine the sources of the metal finds from Arslantepe and to understand the supply chain.

In excavated areas, all finds are covered with geo-textiles and soil. A few important areas that are intended to be preserved for public visitation, such as the new part of the palace complex or the Hittite fortification wall, are protected with a temporary roof system until the final roof cover is built.

The project for the new visitor centre was approved by the Sivas Regional Directorate of Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties. A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report of the visitor centre has also been prepared. This report was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in October 2023.