

**Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens  
Cultural Landscape (Türkiye)**

**Ref. 1488**

**State of Conservation Report; Feb.2024**



## FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

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

### **Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) (Ref.1488)**

#### 1. Executive Summary of the report

*[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]*

The following document includes responses to the recommendations in Decision **45 COM 7B.57** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) regarding urgent considerations to issues including:

developments after 2015- 16 in Suriçi (buffer zone) that could affect the OUV of the wh property;

the functioning and morphology of the ‘hevsel gardens’ part of the wh property;

the developments around the Ten-Eyed Bridge and the Tigris River banks, both within the wh property and the buffer zone;

the vehicle road around the inner periphery of the city walls; and revision of the management system and the management plan.

The WH Committee Decision **45 COM 7B.57** in its **parag.4** also welcomes the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission that was carried out between 28 Nov. –

03 Dec. 2022. in accordance with Decision **44 COM 78.56** of the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021 )

And notes the recommendations contained within the mission report (Sep.2023) and request the State Party to implement them. The recommendations under 10 headings incl. archaeology, Suriçi (buffer zone) ; and management also coincide with most of the following **parag.5- 9** of the Decision **45 COM 7B.57**.

**Up-to-date information regarding all 24 recommendations as well as issues raised by the WH Committee in Decision 45 COM 7B.57. have been incl. in the report.**

The revision of the Management Plan have already started in line 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; 27/11/2005.

In order to increase the involvement of the local authorities in the decision -making processes a protocol between the General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums and the Diyarbakır Municipality was signed in Dec. 2023.

With this protocol the authority to prepare and oversee the preparation of the management plan has been transfered to the local authority.

Other issues regarding the current management system/ plan raised in the **parag. 9a- d** of the WH Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.57** and the mission report will be evaluated within the management plan .

Further update on the restoration works on the city walls (since Feb.2022) have also been included under **parag.5**.

A preliminary analysis of the current situation in ‘hevsel gardens’ part of the wh property has been undertaken by the Diyarbakır Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry (Dec.2013). Included as an annex to the report. Further detailed anlysis as requested in the mission report is continuing.

Mitigation measures for the development around the Ten-Eyed Birdge is being prepared (as of Feb.2024) by the related government institutions. It will be submitted to the Wh Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The illegal development/ structures around the Ten-Eyed Bridge has been identified by the related authorities and legal action for the removal of the illegal structures have been taken. The process is continuing.

There has never been a whole-sale demolision carried out by the government in Suriçi (buffer zone). The incidents that started in the neighbourhoods in the soth-eastern part of Suriçi and continued between 2015- 16 and the destruction as a result of this incident and the work carried out by the government institutions to rehabilitate the area in the aftermath has been explained in the report as it has in the previous reports. The expropriation processes and the negotiotions with the right holders incl. the options presented are detailed in the report. The State Party is also saddened by the repeating misinformation in the mission report that should have been verified before use. The State party is waiting for the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the report and how to implement them as also stated in our meetings with the WH Centre and ICOMOS experts during the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

The State Party has identified no other current conservation issues which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value. Nor are any potential major restorations, alterations or new construction intended within the property or the buffer zone that may affect the Outstanding Universal value of the property, including its authenticity and integrity.

Only the executive summary can be open for public access on the World Heritage Centre’s State of Conservation Information System.