

Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi

(C 1103)

KAZAKHSTAN

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

1. Executive Summary of the report

Following the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, the State Party, represented by Kazakhstan, diligently complies with the requirements of these resolutions. The Republic of Kazakhstan, through its Authorized Body—the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Akimat of the Turkestan Region, the Azret Sultan State Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum, and other state management bodies—facilitates the improvement of legislative regulations, conducts scientific research, ensures continuous monitoring of the condition of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi and its buffer zone, and takes appropriate measures for the further preservation and presentation of the World Cultural Heritage Site.

Based on the results of 2022-2024, this Report on the State of Preservation of the World Heritage Site, the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in the city of Turkestan, has been compiled.

As part of strengthening legislative norms for the preservation and use of the World Heritage Site, the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, in September 2024, a draft law "On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan" was presented in the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The aim of the draft law is to create legal conditions for the formation, development, and functioning of the city of Turkestan as a spiritual, cultural, and historical center of Kazakhstan, as well as to recognize its national significance. The draft law addresses issues related to the preservation of cultural heritage and the spiritual development of the city, the application of construction standards around the Mausoleum, the unified architectural style for urban planning and construction within the city, the regulation of tourism activities, the creation of favorable conditions for its development, and the adaptation of transport and engineering infrastructure to ensure accessibility to tourist attractions.

To strengthen monitoring of the World Heritage Site, the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, the Authorized Body for the preservation and use of historical and cultural heritage of the Republic of Kazakhstan developed a special Program for Comprehensive Scientific Research on the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi at the end of 2022.

According to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan from December 6, 2022, No. 987 "On the Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Republican Budget for 2023–2025," a three-year program for the implementation of comprehensive scientific research on the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi was approved.

To carry out the comprehensive scientific research, a consultative expert group with competence in mausoleum research was established.

In 2023-2024, engineering-geological surveys, hydrogeological studies around the monument and in its buffer zone were conducted. Geodetic works for monitoring the settlement of the monument's walls were performed, and studies of the soil and ecological conditions of the area surrounding the monument within a radius of more than 300 meters from its walls were carried out. The influence of the botanical environment adjacent to the

mausoleum was also examined. Ecological monitoring studies were conducted around the mausoleum, as well as in the buffer zone and beyond, in areas of potential risk.

Instrumental equipment is being procured for comprehensive monitoring of the monument's condition, and a monitoring center has been established, allowing for 24/7 surveillance of the monument's status. The work continues, and upon completion of the three-year monitoring period, the main risks and challenges affecting the condition of the monument will be identified, and a Comprehensive Action Plan for the further preservation of the World Heritage Site, the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, will be developed.

This report addresses the main questions outlined in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 45 COM 7B.156 (Riyadh, 2023).