

Islamic Republic of Iran
Iranian Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry
ICHTHM

“Trans-Iranian Railway”

Report for The World Heritage Committee, Decision: 45 COM 7B.165



UNESCO
World Heritage Convention
2024

**REPORT PRESENTED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON
DECISION: 45 COM 7B.165 FOR**

Trans-Iranian Railway

State Party: Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Identification number: 1585

This report is prepared according to letter Ref: CLT/WHC/APA/23/92, Culture Sector World Heritage Centre dated 25 October 2023, concerns the recommendations on decision ,45 COM 7B.165 regarding **state of conservation** of 'Trans-Iranian Railway'.

Hereby The Iranian Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry expresses its deep gratitude for the World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS cooperation and is grateful to them for devotion to conservation and preservation of historic monuments and sites especially for their attention to the TIR. The objective of this detailed report is to clarify the issues raised by the world heritage committee as recommendations in the aforementioned report.

Issues raised by the world heritage committee on:

1. Requests the State Party to consider the following:

- a) Ensure, as a matter of priority, the conservation of stations, workshops and buildings in accordance with their historical and heritage values, whether in use or in a situation of reconversion of use, by:
 - (i) Completing architectural inventories and master plans for major stations,
 - (ii) Carrying out the architectural restoration studies deemed necessary with the active support of heritage conservation architects approved by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, while taking into account the integrity and authenticity of the buildings concerned,
 - (iii) Providing examples with more visible illustrations and legible texts,
 - (iv) Providing statistical information on what has been achieved, what is planned in the short-term and what is planned for the longer-term, for the entire property;
- b) Set up an inventory of engineering structures similar to that of buildings and stations;

2. Requests the State Party, when carrying out a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line electrification project, to ensure that the visual impact of the electrification project is properly documented, in particular at the level of the reference structures and historic stations, and to carry out this study in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context published in 2022;

3. Invites the State Party to pursue the railway museum project in Tehran and its network of interpretation centres along the line, which are of great importance in terms of enhancement and community involvement;

1. Executive Summary of the report

1. Regarding the conservation of stations, workshops and buildings in accordance with their historical and heritage values that is a priority for TIR, four stages have been planned:
 - a) architectural inventories
 - b) preparing master plans for main stations
 - c) architectural restoration studies
 - d) conservation activities for engineering structures

Planning for all four phases has been done in parallel. Inventories along the north and south line of the TIR has been completed and are in translating process. So far, all valuable buildings have been identified. Architectural restoration studies, preparing master plans and conservation plans for the main stations as well as other related buildings are carrying out. Some conservation activities which leading to restoration and rehabilitation of some related buildings and engineering structures have been done.

2. Given the various historical and technical aspects of the TIR, all related projects are planned and executed with specific precision. One of the latest related decisions made by the TIR board of directors; the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line electrification project is not the company priority any more due the new applied policy. So, the study of Heritage Impact Assessment currently has suspended.
3. Regarding the railway museum which is one of the main priorities of the TIR Base, it is diligently pursuing the establishment of museums based on the management plan timeline. In this regard feasibility study on various scales on site selection has done and a building adjacent to Tehran Station has been selected and currently, planning is proceeding to equip and restore this building. At the same time, the museum's content plan is also being carried out in consultation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. Also collecting related museum objects and documents are followed based on railway guideline and selected building capacity.