

# **STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

**“Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval  
Anatolia” (Türkiye) (1694)**

**November, 2024**

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### **1. Executive Summary of the report**

This report has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (State Party of Türkiye) as a response to the Decision 45COM8B46, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

In compliance with the Committee's Decision 45COM8B46, the progress that has been made on the issues of conservation and management, tourism, HIA, monitoring and risk management is summarized below:

- The Heritage Impact Assessment Report of the cable car project near the Afyon Ulu Mosque, a component of the World Heritage property "Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia, was completed, and submitted to the World Heritage Center.
- The Conservation Plan for the Urban Protected Site in Afyon was completed by Afyonkarahisar Municipality in September 2023. The Conservation Plan, which continues to be prepared by Ankara Metropolitan Municipality for the "Ulus Historical City Center Protected Areas", where the Arslanhane (Ahi Şerafeddin) Mosque is located, is expected to be completed at the beginning of 2025.
- The dismantled original pieces of the mosques (wooden door wings, window grid, oil lamps, carpets, etc.) are preserved under appropriate conditions in the museums.
- As part of the management plan, a Working Group of Tourism, Promotion and Education has been established, which is coordinating the wider promotion of the property through the media, institutions and through education
- There has been good progress on the implementation of tourism-related actions outlined in the Management Plan.
- The individual advisory boards established for each component has been replaced by an Extended Advisory Board (EAB) to better coordinate management and monitoring activities.
- In order to address the active deterioration of building materials of the mosque, caused by moisture in the fabric, insect attack of the wooden elements, and problems with the painted decoration in the mosques; the General Directorate of Foundations has initiated necessary

maintenance and conservation work depending on the conditions and specific needs of each mosque.

- As recommended by ICOMOS, a Scientific Committee has been established to undertake regular inspections, to assess condition, identify problems and to decide whether work is necessary for each component of the serial property. The Scientific Committee conducted on-site inspections and meetings to examine the factors affecting each mosque and to recommend the necessary conservation interventions.
- The General Directorate of Foundations has collaborated with the Center for Foundation Cultural Heritage Protection, Application and Research (KURAM), affiliated with the Fatih Sultan Mehmed Foundation University in İstanbul, for the preparation of a "Maintenance and Monitoring Manual" based on international conservation principles.
- The monitoring system, which creates a broad framework for the continuous evaluation of the conditions of the mosque, will be further strengthened with the completion of the "Maintenance and Monitoring Guide".
- With regard to monitoring the implementation of the management plan, the Coordination and Supervision Board meetings were held for each component, and a report was submitted by the Site Manager on the implementation status of the actions defined in the management plan.
- Regarding the Risk Management Plan, a Risk Management Panel was organized to collect and cooperate with the necessary information and stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive risk management plan for the entire series property.