

Report on the State of Conservation

The Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

(May 2002, in Danger)

ID Number: Ref: (C 211 rev)

1. Response from Afghanistan to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 40 COM 7A.

a) Corrective measures taken by Afghanistan in reply to the World Heritage Committee's Decision(s):

Receiving the Emergency Fund, the Government of Afghanistan and UNESCO have collaborated to produce an action plan for conservation works at Jam. The action plan contains a prioritized list of potential interventions to protect the Minaret. The action plan proposes activities in four key areas:

- **Protection** – To ensure that the Minaret is protected from future flooding events the south bank of the Hari Rud should be consolidated with extension of gabions wall and planting of trees upstream of the minaret. A system of recording the height and flow of both rivers should be instituted to facilitate planning for future seasonal flooding.
- **Documentation** – Detailed documentation of the environmental setting of the Minaret is needed to provide a solid basis for future conservation and protection work. An extensive list of possible documentation approaches is included in the report including Total Station Surveying, electric tomography, laser scanning and soil sampling.
- **Monitoring** – Sensitive monitoring instruments should be installed on the Minaret to measure the extent of incline in order to lay the groundwork for future conservation work.
- **Conservation** – Finally, conservation work is required to document, protect and restore the delicate tile work and stucco design on the outside of the Minaret. Structural repairs to the helicoidal steps and protection of window cantilevers inside the Minaret should also be conducted.

Translated into the local language, Dari, this action plan is currently reviewed by the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Capacity building:

A hydrology workshop is currently planned to be conducted in Aachen University, Germany in April, 2017. The aim is to provide a technical capacity building for the Afghan national officials to deal with river flood and protective walls at the Jam Minaret. One structural engineer from the Ministry of Information and Culture and two hydrologists from the Ministry of Water and Energy will join the workshop.

No further work has been conducted at the Jam site in 2016 due to insecurity.

Community development:

A footbridge should be constructed over the Hari Rud to enable year-round access for inhabitants of nearby villages and for future conservation works. Because during the spring and summer time the water level of rivers are high and there is no any another possibility to reach the Minaret.

Site security:

For security of the Site, the MoIC and the Ministry of Interior Affairs have deployed a team of police officers for the protection of cultural property to monitor and safeguard the World Heritage property. They are currently in place at the site to address the issue of illicit traffic.

Project guest house:

For accommodation at Jam during mission, a guest house, built by UNESCO in 2003 as temporary by local materials, since the property had been used as site office of Department of Historical Monuments as will accommodation of expert, unfortunately due to heavy rains of snow during winter 2016, a big part of the guest house has been collapsed and now the building is completely out of use. So to offer a basic accommodation to experts during the missions at Jam, it is urgent recommended to build the guest house anew.

Best Regards

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