

GÖBEKLİ TEPE
STATE of CONSERVATION REPORT

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Türkiye

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

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

Göbekli Tepe (Türkiye) (Ref.1572)

1. Executive Summary of the report

This report has been prepared as per paragraphs of decision 45 COM 7B.203 of the World Heritage Committee, taken in the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2023). The works related to the implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions are stated below:

All works carried out in Göbekli Tepe are meticulously followed by the Site Manager and the Head of Excavation. In addition, the expert assigned by the Directorate of Şanlıurfa Museum closely monitors the conservation efforts as well as visitor satisfaction, and regularly informs the site manager about these studies. The site manager also provides monthly reports to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism about the current status of the site.

In line with the legal legislation, many studies have been carried out in recent years in order to preserve landscape and the integrity and archaeological potential of the Göbekli Tepe archaeological site. In this context;

- Detailed vegetation cleaning is carried out in and around the excavation area.
- In order to prevent the damages detected in certain parts of the excavation trenches due to snowfall, the backfill earth spills on the structures were cleaned, the terrazzo-based structures were covered with geotextile and the walls were supported with wire fence.
- A curtain project was initiated to protect the excavation area from natural factors such as rain and snow. Maintenance and repair works of the existing curtains were completed.
- Restoration works on the "Lionised Structure" were completed and restoration operations started on the "Building A, "Building B" and "Building F" in the GT 1 area.
- Grasses that pose a fire hazard on the route of the visitor walkway around the parking area of Göbekli Tepe Visitor Centre and GT 1 area were cleaned. A water tanker was placed in the site and the necessary information was given to the staff.
- Maintenance and repair works were carried out by filling the stone gaps with filling material on the road between the service starting point of the Visitor Centre and the service end point.
- The collapses detected on the wooden walkway on the visitor route have been repaired.
- The wire fences around the site boundaries were reinforced and renewed.

The five-year implementation period of the management plan of Göbekli Tepe expired on January, 2022. The revision process of the management plan was initiated. The revised management plan should include full conservation plan, a risk preparedness plan, and tourism management programmes and be more implementable and compatible with the needs of the site.

As soon as the project work is completed, the State Party will provide the necessary documents regarding the railway line which will connect Şanlıurfa to Diyarbakır and Mardin, for consultation with the World

Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies in line with the Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The limestones extracted during the construction of the irrigation canal were removed under the supervision of Şanlıurfa Museum Directorate experts. At the current situation, the heaps have been cleared. Active work on the visual improvement of the irrigation canal is ongoing in communication with the relevant institution.

Since 2018, a survey has been conducted in the immediate vicinity of Göbekli Tepe. The project focused on the taskscape around the archaeological site. The survey conducted in 2022-2024 in the area including the Buffer Zone around Göbekli Tepe reveals the multifaceted interactions between human communities and the surrounding landscape since the Palaeolithic period. This research enriches knowledge of this remarkable archaeological site and its surroundings, highlighting the importance of the wider cultural landscape of Göbekli Tepe. Preliminary results indicate the need for further research in the coming years. Based on the outcomes of the field survey, Şanlıurfa Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties will re-assess the 3rd degree archaeological conservation area (the entire area of the buffer zone = 461 ha.).