

**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 43 COM 7A.

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

Receiving the Emergency budget, the Ministry of Information and Culture have planned in 2019 to produce an action plan for the emergency conservation work of the Jam Minaret such as the reinstallation of wooden elements of staircase, frames to the openings and to implementation of masonry work at the Minaret, protection of cantilevers of openings and protection of inner parts of the Minaret which needs for emergency stabilization work.

- **Protection** – To ensure the OUV of the Jam Minaret, extension of gabion walls at the south bank of the Hari Rud and planting of trees upstream of the minaret was planned to tackle future possible flooding events. A system of recording the height and flow of both rivers at the upstream and downstream of the banks of Hari Rud and Jam Rud River will be set by the Ministry of Water and Energy in 2019, in consultation with the Ministry of Information and Culture, in order to monitor future seasonal flooding.
  
- **Documentation** – A further detailed documentation of the environmental setting of the Minaret is needed for setting an action plan for future conservation and protection work. In this regard a mission to jam was undertaken in September 2017 by a joint group of the Afghan officials, UNESCO experts, and international professionals (ICONEM), with the purpose of documentation of 3D model of the Minaret and its surrounding. Thanks to the Presidential office and UNESCO Kabul office for their support throughout the mission, 3D data was collected onsite. This data contributes to provide precise information on the current conservation status of the outer and inner parts of the Minaret and surrounding area. This updated data will be critical to examine: 1) the possible evolution of structural damages and decay on the Minaret (through a comparison with previous documents); 2) the current status of protection walls built by the Afghan MoIC at the end of 2014; 3) the current state of conservation of internal structures and external surfaces of the Minaret; and 4) the presence of looting activities in the vicinity of the Jam Minaret.

- **Monitoring** – Monitoring instruments should be installed on the Minaret to measure the extent of incline in order to lay the groundwork for future conservation work. However, due to the lack of stable electricity in a remote area of the Minaret and deteriorating security situation, it is extremely difficult for the Ministry staff to visit the site periodically.
- **Conservation** – After establishing an overall action plan and analysis of the 3D digitalized data on the conservation status of the Minaret, a pragmatic conservation work is required to protect and restore the delicate tile work and stucco design on the outside of the Minaret. While a stabilization plan for the Minaret structure is needed, a monitoring system *in-situ* to evaluate the movement of the structure is also required.

#### **Community development:**

The Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Rural Development, had periodical meetings in Kabul to construct a footbridge over the Hari Rud to enable year-round access for inhabitants of the nearby villages and access to the Jam World Heritage site for future conservation works. But the construction of the bridge is depends on the allocation of the national budge in 2019, as will security situation on the site.

#### **Site security:**

The Ministry of Information and Culture and the Ministry of Interior Affairs have deployed 20 people team of police officers to monitor and safeguard the World Heritage property. They are currently in place at the site to address the issue of illicit traffic of any movable cultural properties underground.

#### **Project guest house:**

During the past years heavy rains and snows caused a severe damage to the Depth. Of Historical Monuments MoIC site office in Jam and the building needs to be reconstructed. In order to set a new site office for a basic accommodation to experts during the mission seasons at Jam, a drawing and design of the new building was made by the Ministry of Information and Culture. Receiving the budget the Ministry of Information and Culture will start the construction of new site office ASAP.

Best Regards

Professor Mohammad Rasul Bawary

Deputy Minister for Cultural, Ministry of Information and Culture