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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

**Istanbul, Turkey
10-20 July 2016**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties
inscribed on the World Heritage List**

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/40COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports are available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

60. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre has received information from third parties and media reports on damages to the World Heritage property “Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape”.

On 15 December 2015, 17 December 2015, 6 April 2016 and 27 April 2016, letters were sent by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party requesting information and verification on the state of conservation of the property.

On 11 May 2016, the State Party submitted a report concerning the state of conservation of this property. This report provides information on the incurred damages and subsequent progress achieved in safeguarding the property.

In its report, the State Party noted the following details:

- A taskforce has been established to assess the damages on the property and its monuments. The taskforce concluded that there exist no major damages to the property in areas such as Diyarbakır Fortress, İckale and Hevsel Gardens;
- Temporary conservation measures had to be undertaken to protect the property due to terrorist incidents. The bailey, which has 82 bastions, has a number of passes that have been temporarily closed with concrete blocks, in line with a decision taken by the Diyarbakır Regional

Board of Conservation of Cultural Heritage, for security reasons. The blocks will be removed at a later stage;

- Damages on the bastions and the walls between the bastions are due to natural and environmental factors. A conservation Master Plan for Diyarbakir Urban Walls has been included in the 2016 investment program of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Studies in this regard have commenced;
- Damage has been reported in the buffer zone, specifically in the neighbourhood of Surici;
- The Prime Minister of Turkey pledged a recovery plan for Surici, including its conservation.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Following reports on the situation, the property and its buffer zone have been exposed to widespread attacks and consequent security operations in recent months. As such, it has been reported that the historic structures of the property, as well as a number of historic buildings and monuments in the buffer zone suffered damage.

The security situation in Diyarbakir remains challenging for heritage preservation. Notwithstanding these difficulties, some progress has been made with small scale conservation initiatives. The State Party's efforts in ensuring that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the authenticity and the integrity of the property are sustained, are to be noted.

It is recommended that the responsible authorities take all possible measures to safeguard the property to prevent further damage. It is also recommended that, as soon as the security situation allows, the responsible authorities carry out an in-depth assessment of the state of conservation of the property and its buffer zone. The results of this assessment are to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review, in line with the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite, at a later stage and when the situation allows, a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and propose appropriate measures to be taken.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.32**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Expresses its concern over the situation prevailing in Diyarbakir;
4. Acknowledges the steps taken by the State Party to protect the property and its buffer zone and underlines the importance of preventing any further damage to the property;
5. Requests the State Party, as soon as the security situation allows, to carry out an assessment of the state of conservation of the property and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.