

## IRAN

### Tchogha Zanbil

#### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1979

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Conservation and Restoration of Chogha Zanbil  
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#### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** \* C iii, iv

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:  
"Chogha Zanbil Ziqqurra is the most unique and one of the largest holy cities of its kind, a survival from the Elamite period. Chogha Zanbil Dur Untash is an evidence of Elamite times which can provide extensive information about this period and culture. It is the most valuable monument left from the Middle Elamite period."

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- Borders and buffer zone of the inscribed property are considered adequate.
- An extension of the buffer zone is proposed. The site is in close relation with its natural environment which was not taken into account at the time of its inscription on the WH List.

#### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage value is considered to have been maintained. No changes are foreseen.

#### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Relevant national laws and regulations concerning the WH property include: (i) the Law on the Protection of National Treasures, 1930; (ii) the Law

on the Registration of National Treasures, 1973; (iii) the Legal Regulation about illegal excavations, 1979.



- The property is administered by ICHO with advice and support from many national agencies and institutions.
- A Research Centre is to be established as an independent authority for the site and its surroundings.
- "The lack of a permanent management plan as well as a resident manager to control the conservation requirements of the site has always constituted a problem."

- To this purpose, a management plan is in preparation which will include greater administrative presence on site to improve security and raise local awareness of its significance.

#### Present State of Conservation

- High rainfall has a damaging effect on original adobe structures.
- Maintenance of the site was not possible during the Iran-Iraq war.
- Conservation activities were sporadic until 1998 when a Conservation & Restoration Plan was adopted by ICHO with support from UNESCO Japan Funds in Trust and CRATerre.
- Local materials & traditional methods are now used.
- Notable works include: (i) repairs to the Ziggurat, (ii) conservation of adobe structures, (iii) clearing of historic drains, and (iv) construction of emergency drains.

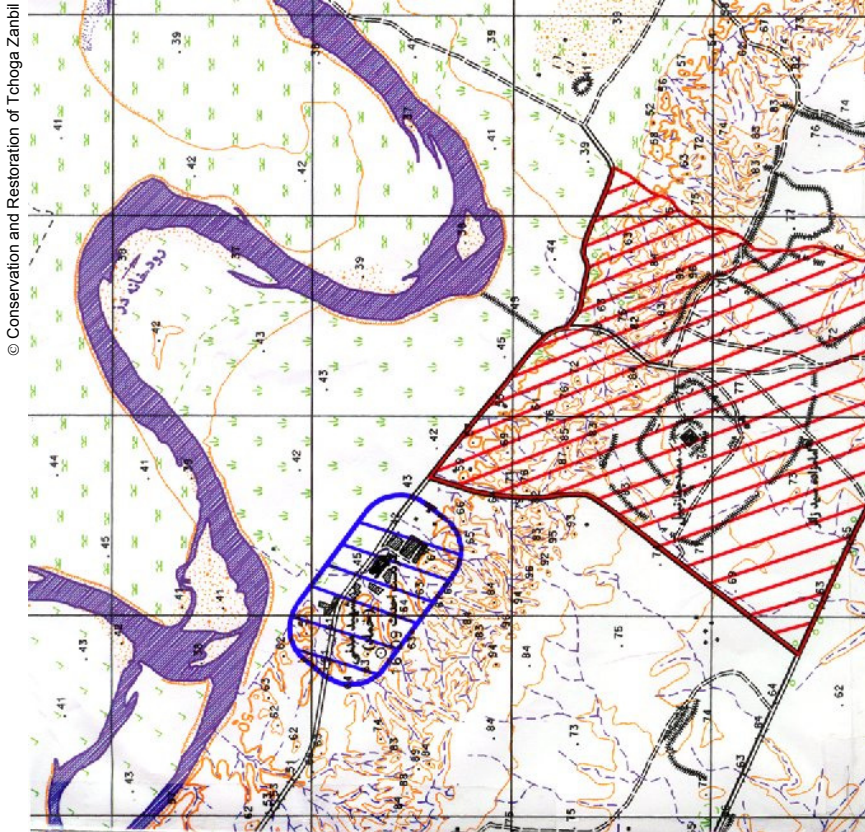
#### Staffing and Training Needs

- There are 17 professional staff on site, 16 craftsmen, support staff and guards, and 76 technical advisers associated with the site.
- Staff levels are considered adequate.
- Training needs are identified in conservation, traditional skills, site management, English and IT.

## Financial Situation

- Around 1,100,000,000 Rials (US\$137,500) are made available to ICHO for Tchoga Zanbil via the Iranian Planning and Budget Organization. The sum is considered inadequate and cannot be used for

- There is a need for improved information and guiding arrangements.
- There is a tourism management plan. Landscaping and emergency evacuation plans have been implemented.
- Inscription on the WH List has boosted visitor numbers, as well as national and international awareness.



Map of Tchoga Zanbil showing core (in red) and development (in blue) zones

expensive items such as research and staff accommodation.

- Income could be boosted by a share of admission fees, local taxation, support from national agencies, commercial sponsorship and international agencies.
- “The Conservation and Restoration Project of Chogha Zanbil”, 1998-2001, valued at US\$500,000, was organized between UNESCO Japan Funds in Trust, Saitama University, CRATerre and ICHO.
- \* International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1986, US\$20,000 Technical Assistance, Photogrammetry Equipment

## Access to IT

- There are 6 PCs on the site.
- There is no email or Internet access.
- A GIS is being used for detailed mapping.

## Visitor Management

- 32,661 visitors in 2001, of which 2,384 were foreign tourists.
- Tourist facilities include night illumination, guides, and site signage.

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Due to heavy rains damage, exposed mud structures.
- A change in the course of the Dez River threatens the outer walls.
- Sugar cane cultivation and processing have altered traditional land use and increased aerial pollution.
- Deforestation of river valleys.
- Aerial fall-out from the Iraq-Kuwait war.

### Counteractive Plans

- There is no emergency plan, but a mechanism for emergency decision-making.
- There is a proposal to generate a greenbelt around the site, to reorganise local traffic routes across and around the site, and to establish a climatologic station.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- Daily, monthly and annual monitoring was introduced under the Conservation & Restoration Project, with support of the Iranian Meteorology Organization and the Iranian Environment Organization.

### Monitoring Indicators

- Excavation records and current observations are studied to monitor deterioration of structures.
- Environmental conditions are recorded and reported.

## II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- “Considerable improvement has been made in the overall preservation of the site, but the continuous effects of environmental factors cannot be ignored”.

- The Conservation & Restoration Project should be continued with independent financial means, and its research base should become a permanent regional centre.
- The authorities should propose an extension of the WH site to protect its surroundings. Conservation activity should continue, and the site surrounded by a protective fence.



*Earthen wall of Tchoga Zanbil before restoration*



*Earthen wall of Tchoga Zanbil after restoration*

- Further technical research and training should be developed. The future programme plan will be finalised by October 2003.
- Assistance from the WHF may be needed for international courses, equipment & conservation.

### \* State of Conservation Reports

1995 A ICHO/ICCROM mission made 6 key recommendations: (i) Preparation of an Area Master plan to control neighbouring settlements; (ii) Adoption of a management plan to regulate maintenance works and introduce monitoring; (iii) Completion of legal protection and definition of buffer zone; (iv) Regulation of land ownership on site; (v) Improvement of visitor services; (vi) Improvement of water and electricity supply on site.

1995 WHC-95/CONF.201/4 A joint ICHO- ICCROM mission of February 1995 observed that in spite of the use of traditional methods of conservation, (mud and straw mixture), the site has continued to deteriorate where exposed to heavy rainfall. The mission also noted movement of the walls of the Ziggurat. UNESCO urged the deployment of a technical team to define measures required, and finalise a project document for funding. The Bureau requested the authorities to inform the Committee on the state of conservation through systematic monitoring and reporting.

The 1998 ICCROM mission made 6 key recommendations: (i) Visitors should be prevented from climbing on the Ziggurat; (ii) No new visitor facilities should be located in sight of the Ziggurat; (iii) First aid, water, electricity and telephone facilities should be provided; (iv) Increase the number of site guardians; (v) Moisture content of the core of the Ziggurat should be monitored; (vi) Consolidation work should not prevent further archaeological study in the future.

1998 WHC-98/CONF.201/3B. It was noted that the ICCROM mission of 1998 would report to the next Bureau.

2000 WHC-2000/CONF.202/5. It was noted that an ICCROM/ICOMOS mission visited the site in 1999 and would report to the next Bureau.