

## UZBEKISTAN

# Historic Centre of Bukhara

### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1993

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Ministry of Cultural Affairs  
30, Navoi Street  
700129 Tashkent  
Uzbekistan  
Tel: + 998 71 144 5820  
Fax: + 998 71 144 3894  
E-mail: meros2002@mail.ru

### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C ii, iv, vi

#### Statement of Significance

- The twenty-five centuries old city of Bukhara with its 462 architectural monuments is an open-air museum, combining the city's long history in a single ensemble.
- The old structures, particularly the public and religious buildings like the mosques, madrasahs and mausoleums, remain high despite the more modern constructions outside the historic city centre, the latter being of outstanding significance as an exceptional example of a Central Asian medieval Muslim city.

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- "Borders of the historical centre and its buffer zone in Bukhara are kept within the limits of 450 ha, reconsideration at this given stage of development of the city is not required."

*"Earthquakes are a major risk to the property, Bukhara being in a zone of high seismic risk (force 8 to 9)."*

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage value is considered to have been maintained. No changes are foreseen.
- "Complex and systematic works" on each monument and the whole historic city lay-out have prevented negative alterations.



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### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

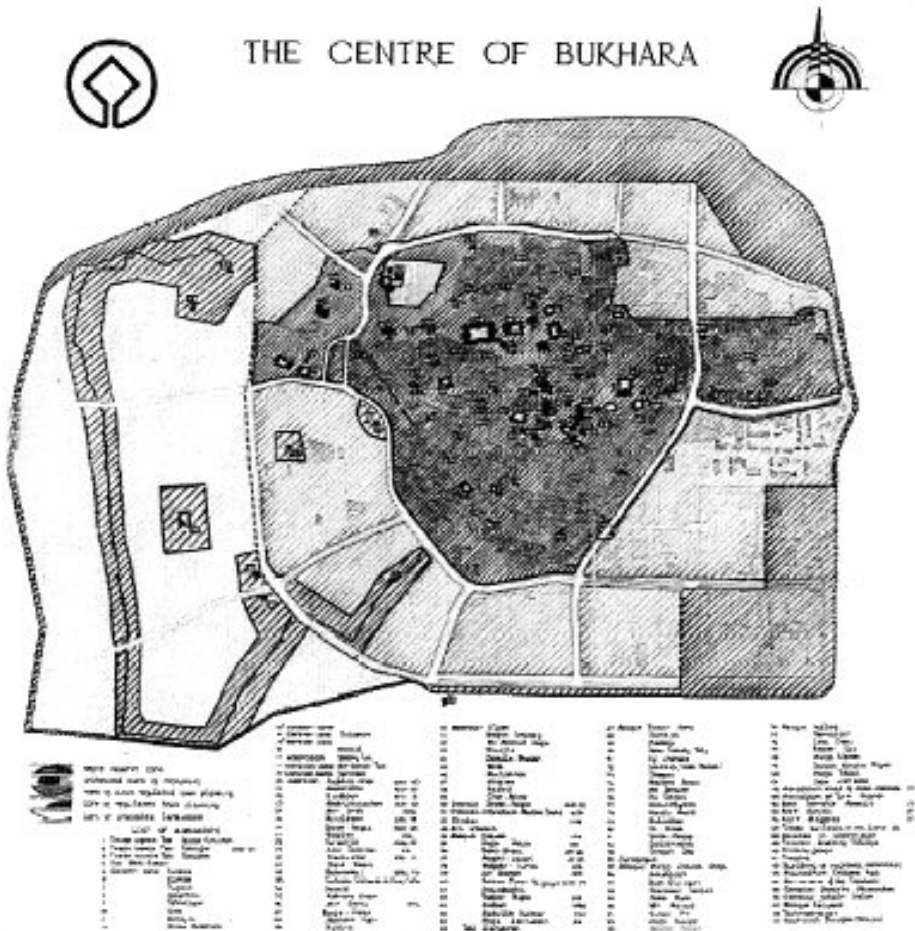
- Relevant national laws and regulations concerning the World Heritage property include: (i) The Law on Protection and Exploitation of Cultural Heritage Properties, 2001; (ii) The Law on Architecture and City-building, 1995; (iii) The Instructions on Rules of Recording, Safeguarding, Maintaining, Utilisation and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1986; (iv) The Instructions on Organization of Buffer Zones for Historical and Cultural Monuments, 1986.
- The officials who maintain and protect the monuments are responsible for the safety of cultural heritage within the Historic Centre of Bukhara. They are under the supervision of the Administration of the State Historic and Architectural Museum and Reserve of Bukhara.

#### Present State of Conservation

- During the preparation and realization of the 2500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city under the aegis of UNESCO, complex scientific research works on significant architectural monuments were carried out. On the basis of their results, measures of safety improvement were taken.
- In order to improve the state of conservation of the Historic Centre of Bukhara, the following measures – including preventive works on the basis of scientific research and studies – were implemented on 15 monuments: (i) reinforcement of the walls basis; (ii) preservation of outdoor and indoor facade designs; (iii) restoration of roofs and domes; (iv) cleaning and conservation of channels, marble floors and panels in bath-houses.
- "Occurrence of main negative factors affecting the condition of monuments in the historical part of the city, such as industrial pollution, vibrations, unorganised visiting of sites, and vandalism, are now eliminated."

#### Staffing and Training Needs

- No information provided.



Historic Centre of the City of Bukhara

## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Earthquakes; Bukhara being in a zone of high seismic risk (force 8 to 9)
- Water in the ground resulting in moisture problems and unstable foundations.
- Urban modernisation and development. “257 monuments out of 462 are the historical apartment houses, which are mostly private property. They are more subject to changes in the socio-demographic patterns of urban life and also to growth of the modern requirements to comfort of living.”

### Counteractive Plans

- Measures for the development and improvement of road coverings in the foot zone, as well as rational drainage system installations are helping to overcome the negative effects of moisture and underground water infiltrations.
- “It is necessary to speed up the preparation and adoption of the new ‘Law on the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Monuments’, in which modern legal mutual relations and requirements resulting from the growing social life of populations are taken into account.”

### Financial Situation

- 770.5 million so'm (US\$ 3.85 million) were spent on the protection and preservation of Bukhara's monuments between 1996-2000.

### Access to IT

- No information provided.

### Visitor Management

- More than 300,000 local & 15,000 foreign tourists visit the site every year.
- WH inscription has promoted an “increase of responsibility”, the “growth of measures on the preservation of cultural monuments in the historical part of the city”, and “the inflow of tourists.”
- The main monuments of the historical part of the city are regularly cleaned and their safety reinforced so as to allow the “best possible visiting conditions”.

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- Regular scheduled inspections on the state of conservation of monuments in the historical centre of the city are carried out by the Administration of the State Historic and Architectural Museum and Reserve of Bukhara.
- Supervision tasks and general maintenance of the site is also delegated to the urban services of Bukhara.
- Official bodies in charge of the management of the World Heritage property have started working on a “State Cadastre of Cultural Heritage Monuments”.

### Monitoring Indicators

- No information provided.

### II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

#### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- The actual state of conservation and protection of the Historic Centre of Bukhara fulfils the requirements of the WH Convention criteria of authenticity and integrity.
- Further improvement of the technical measures used for protection and monitoring of the cultural heritage is necessary.
- Within the limits of the State Historic and Architectural museum and reserve of Bukhara, it is necessary to improve and develop tourist facilities.
- “The above-stated measures will be executed according to the ‘Program of complex measures on protection, preservation and presentation of cultural monuments’, by the appropriate bodies and organizations. Due to the necessities, international organizations are involved as far as possible in the implementation of this Program.”

#### \* State of Conservation Reports

1997 WHC-CONF.207//2 The Secretariat has received reports that major refacing and rebuilding of historic monuments and replacement of traditional architectural elements with inappropriate modern materials are being carried out at both Bukhara and Itchan Kala, this despite arrangements between UNESCO and the concerned authorities on the use of traditional materials for purposes of restoration. These works, being conducted for the 2500 Jubilee celebrations, are altering the appearance of the two sites and affecting the value of the properties. The Secretariat and ICOMOS will report on the reactive assessment mission to Bukhara and Itchan Kala during the session. The Bureau decided it would examine information provided at the time of its session and take appropriate action thereupon.

1997 WHC-CONF.208//8Brev The Bureau was informed by the Secretariat, ICOMOS and ICCROM of reports that major refacing and rebuilding of historic monuments and replacement of traditional architectural elements with inappropriate modern materials are being carried out at both Bukhara and Itchan Kala, as well as in Samarkand. The Bureau was informed that ICOMOS had been requested by the Secretariat to carry out a reactive assessment mission and that this would take place in early 1998. The Bureau decided to consider the findings of the ICOMOS mission at its twenty-second session in June/July 1998, and take appropriate action thereupon.

1998 WHC-CONF.201/3B After having decided that it would consider the findings of the ICOMOS mission at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session in, the Bureau decided it might recommend appropriate actions to the consideration of the State Party and the Committee.

1998 WHC-CONF.203/4 The Bureau took note of the report presented by ICOMOS and expressed concern over the development projects within the two sites, and urged the State Party to give special attention to the upgrading of street surfacing and furniture in the vicinity of the major monuments, to the control over nonlisted buildings in the historic centres, and in the case of Bukhara, to the clearance of blocked cisterns and channels so as to lower the water table.