



Islamic Republic of Iran  
Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism  
Organization-ICHTO  
Deputy of Cultural Heritage

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Date:

*In the name of God*

**Subject:** Submission of requested reports regarding the "State of Conservation of Masjed Jame Isfahan", "HIA report of Masjed Jame Isfahan", "Management Plan of Masjed Jame Isfahan", "Management Plan of Shahr-i Sokhta" and "Updated Management Strategies for the Persian Qanat" World Heritage Sites

Dear Ms. Dr. Rössler,  
Director  
World Heritage Center

I would like to express my appreciation for the continued efforts of the World Heritage Center for the Promotion and Preservation of human values.

Here I write to respond the enquiries regarding "State of Conservation of Masjed Jame Isfahan", "HIA report of Masjed Jame Isfahan", "Management Plan of Masjed Jame Isfahan", "Management Plan of Shahr-i Sokhta" and "Updated Management Strategies for the Persian Qanat" World Heritage Sites, the details of which is provided in individual reports.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammad Hassan Talebian

Deputy of Cultural Heritage & Secretary for the Iranian World Heritage Sites  
Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization

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**ICHHTO**



**Extending the Management Strategy and Plans**  
**The Persian Qanat World Heritage Site**

*UNESCO*  
*World Heritage Convention*  
*Tehran 2017*

*In the name of God*

## **Introduction**

The Persian Qanat World Heritage Site is consisted of 11 active qanats, spread within the central area of Iran, where human settlements formation was dependent on ways to bring the water inside the arid plains with no major superficial water resources. These sites can be determined as a cultural-natural site since it associates a variety of natural factors such as water resources, natural land topography, specific animal and plant species, etc. as well as diverse traditions, customs and events. These human genius is based on different technologies and management system in each region.

Nowadays, these resources are still active and in use for agricultural purposes and everyday use of the locals, playing a great role within the sustainable economic development of rural and urban areas fertilized by its water.

After the inscription of these 11 qanats as a serial nomination in 2016, many efforts made to engage the stakeholders and specially the local communities to advance an integrated management system. Following is a brief report on the activities carried out after the inscription of the Persian Qanat on the World Heritage List and an addition to the plans proposed within the management plan on 2016 to include sustainable tourism management and risk management.



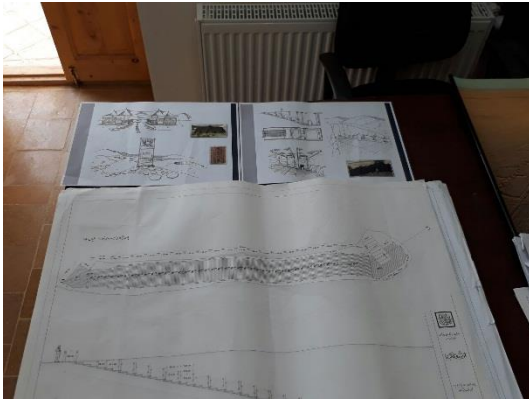
- **collecting data related to each qanat in the regional offices of ICHHTO and making it accessible to members of the local communities**

In order to achieve the capacity building goals within the local community, engaging them in the management procedure of the world heritage site and benefiting from the intangible capacity of the social orders, and raising the awareness regarding the qanat structures, their outstanding universal values and their importance in the sustainable development of the area, several documentation centers, accessible to the public is established in the world heritage bases settled within the boundaries of the 11 qanats inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The documentation centers are also accompanying with a database center for supporting international access to the information which are still under developing.

The information, however, are collected globally regarding the entire nature of the qanats and also specifically regarding each qanat inscribed as a serial nomination of “The Persian Qanat”.

As it is mentioned in the management plans, the improvement and development of these centers are among the priorities in both short and long-term plans.



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- **Extending the management strategy and plans to include a risk preparedness strategy and a comprehensive tourism strategy for all property components,**

The management plan which was proposed at the time of inscription, has examined several times according to the current needs of the 11 qanats and the results achieved by the monitoring processes. Some of the plans are already fulfilled, as it is reported in the following sections, and some has to be altered in order to accomplish the overall goals and to fully comply with the objectives intended for the world heritage inscription. The updated plan is proposed and adopted by the technical committee of each base, following is the final plans added to the plans proposed at the time of nomination:

### ***Short Term***

Presentation of traditional culture-agricultural events such as different harvesting seasons, traditional productions, etc.

Transferring polluting functions out of the buffer zone;

Installation of risk facilities along the qanats to be utilized in case of natural disasters;

Installation of risk facilities inside the galleries for be used in case of risk and disasters, such as oxygen masks, torches, etc.;

Reorganization and improvement of signboards along qanats as the world heritage sites and in several common languages;

Reorganization of visitor path inside the galleries of Qanats;

Reorganization of lighting inside the galleries for providing secured visits underground;

Blocking impermissible wells within the core and buffer zone of the qanats;

### ***Mid-term***

Cooperation with advertising agencies to produce brochures, booklets, posters, etc. on the OUVs of The Persian Qanat and its importance within the area in several common languages;

Cooperation with Travel agencies and transportation companies, whether public or private, to encourage underground visits, by using fun, adventurous and distinct offers, and engaging them in the advertisements and promotions;

Producing documentary and short films in different levels for the awareness raising and capacity building of local communities and professionals on the OUVs of qanats, its technology and their importance in the development of the region;

Developing tour packages along with other world heritage sites on the associated provinces by cooperating with travel agencies and other active institutions on this area;

Signing MoUs with Medical Science University for providing emergency service within the vicinity of qanats;

Signing MoUs with Police force to locate several stations along the qanat route in specific distances to provide security for the site and the visitors, specifically within the desert areas;

Signing MoUs with the risk preparedness organization, to provide support on account of emergency;

Holding educational programs for the locals on the pros and cons of active tourism on the sustainable economic growth of the area and its basics;

Encouraging the local community to engage in establishment of tourism facilities, Eco-lodges, hostels, etc.

### ***Long Term***

Planning tours according to the agricultural calendar of each region;

Reorganization of garden-paths along the qanats and their cultural landscape by cooperation with the owners and other stakeholders;

Assisting owners and other stakeholders for the regular maintenance and preservation of private and public historic structures within the core zone of the qanats;

Periodic monitoring of the galleries and wells surfaces to assure their stability on account of an earthquake, and persistent maintenance in case of negative outcomes from monitoring analysis;

Periodic monitoring the water discharge level and the quality of water to avoid pollutants enter food cycle of the locals;

Avoiding land-use alteration according to the rules and regulations;

Engaging legal division of stakeholder organizations to support rules and regulations in the vicinity of the qanats also to mitigate intentional damages and vandalism;

Holding educational events for the local communities, farmers and other stakeholder on the methods to improve the efficiency of traditional management and techniques, presenting the new irrigation systems, soil enhancement, proper crop selection compatible with traditional methods and approaches and engaging the local community for the better utilization of qanat water within the sustainable economic development of the region;

### **- Extending the monitoring system to identify the responsible authority for each key indicator,**

The Persian Qanat World Heritage Base as the trustee for guiding all the stakeholders in the management of all the 11 qanats, according to the MoUs signed between the stakeholders, provided in the World Heritage Dossier, has held several meetings in the headquarters and provincial levels to achieve a mutual understanding on the management approaches and monitoring systems of the interventions to be beneficial for the essence of the qanats, their traditional management and local communities. Currently, several key indicators are proposed by different stakeholders and are under debate for the final decision.

Here is the initial draft to be adopted by the mutual committee:

<b><i>Intervention</i></b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<i>Protection of the world heritage site boundaries and its OUV</i>	Number of conservation projects Number of development projects Number of land-use alteration	every 6 months every 1 years every 1 years	ICHHTO

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Iteration</b>	<b>Organization</b>
	Budget rate Number of experts		
<i>Technical conservation and maintenance of the qanats by association</i>	water discharge rate number of unauthorized wells water pollution rate local council activity rate Budget rate Number of experts	seasonal monthly weekly monthly	Agriculture Ministry
<i>Qanat related studies, investigation and its traditional knowledge, its presentation and monitoring the issued permissions</i>	Number of published papers, books, etc. number of authorizations Budget rate Number of experts	monthly monthly	Energy Ministry
<i>Continuity of traditional management system</i>	water division methods water discharge farmers' consent agricultural product efficiencies soil fertility traditional land-use Budget rate Number of experts	seasonal seasonal seasonal every 6 months every 6 months every 6 months	local qanat councils

- **permanently marking the boundaries of property components and buffer zones on the ground;**

Boundaries of the qanats are marked by permanent steel elements for the core (red elements) and buffer zone (Blue elements) with the dimension of 900\*120 mm which makes it visible for the passerby from distance. These elements are placed on the specific spots of the core and buffer zone's path, where the surrounding environment make it possible for the elements to be erected and within the more visited areas. The procedure is still running within the short term plans and is yet to be finalized due to the large areas to be covered.



Following are of other activities carried out within the Persian Qanat World Heritage Site:

- Dredging

Due to the soluble salts within the soil compositions, shifting dunes and road development activities, the inner surfaces of galleries require periodic dredging which enhance the water flow. Thus, carries out periodically by the world heritage bases located in each region;





- Defining Tourism paths as well as reorganization of access ways (Payab), water cisterns, water mills and other historic elements on the path;







- Reorganization of lighting and pavements;





#### - Monitoring

Monitoring sessions is being performed for different aspects of the Qanats, from the water discharge, the quality of water and the associated architectural structures of qanats to the structure of galleries;



In some regions, the monitoring process of the water carries out by the ministry of energy, therefore a close cooperation is set to collect the outcomes from different stakeholder;





- Reorganization of signs and signboards, to guide the tourists towards the visit paths and the OUV of qanats;



- Training tour guides, local communities (specifically teenagers and youths) for direct and indirect capacity building amongst the stakeholders;





- Holding sessions in decision making levels to engage the stakeholders within the integrated management of the Qanats;









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- Cooperation with travel agencies and other active institutions to promote visiting the underground structures of qanats;



- Producing documentaries, short films, etc. to raise the awareness of the local community and professional in different levels;





- Assigning a national day for cleansing the World Heritage Sites in Iran with the cooperation of locals, NGOs and other stakeholders;



- Cooperation in preventing negative biological growth

