

CENTRAL ASIAN DECLARATION
OF THE PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

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“Central Asian Declaration of the Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management” was globe discussed and unanimously adopted on the sidelines of the international conference **“Archeology and Tourism: Identifying Potential and Managing Heritage”** held under the auspices of UNESCO, on September 16-17, 2021, in Nukus, Republic of Uzbekistan, by the world-renowned scholars representing over 20 countries.

What are the objectives of this international initiative?

The diversity and richness of cultural heritage is a fundamental feature of any civilized society. They are an integrating component of the national and state identity. The concept of "cultural heritage" is a broad one. It includes a mentality that determines moral criteria, behavior stereotypes, and folklore systems - from the realm of imagery, to “migratory subjects”, to the pertinent musical harmony. The tangible part of cultural heritage is some sort of materialized memory of an ethnic group or a nation. The most important and quantitatively significant part thereof is the archaeological heritage, covering all types of archaeological sites: whether it be ruins of fortifications or settlements, sagged burial grounds, remains of ancient camps or towns, or spectacular monumental structures. Properly excavated, preserved, examined and documented by professionals, they visibly carry the information the bygone centuries, communities and even nations. The monuments that have not yet been studied make up invaluable arrays of data that belong to the humanity, serving as its indelible tangible memory.

At the same time, the archaeological heritage is a non-renewable resource of cultural wealth, and scientific potential. In being so, it requires especially careful protection. Therefore, the archaeological heritage sites are of extremely unique value, as they are potentially an integral part of the world cultural heritage.

While possessing a number of special qualities such as being hidden from view under the ground, antiquity (appurtenance to the past), fragility, exceptional historical and cultural value, scholarly importance and vast informative potential, high probability of accidental discovery, the very principles of conducting scientific archaeological research, and the need for taking special conservation measures, – do require that a special regime be established for their use and protection.

Relevance and timeliness of adoption of the Declaration.

In the twentieth century, there appeared such a concept as “archaeological heritage” and the entire multitude of organizational activities associated with the heritage, referred to as archaeological heritage management.

However, in Central Asia, due to certain objective circumstances, this process was not fully developed, nor implemented.

The archaeological heritage throughout the Central Asian region, owing to its fragility on one hand (after all, the vast majority of the monuments are architecture of earthen-brick or adobe-brick structures) and, on the other hand, due to their quality of being hidden from view (the archaeological monuments are buried under the thickness of soil strata and are not always easily discernible) undergoes extremely rapid destruction when exposed to both natural

elements and human touch. The number of monuments and sites, according to the scientific data and documentation, is rapidly decreasing.

The adopted document has, as its ultimate goal, the higher guarantee of protection of the archaeological heritage, the implementation of its standards shall not entail any negative legal, political or social consequences. The Declaration is, in effect, aimed at saving the archaeological heritage through development and implementation of competent and, most importantly, effective management mechanisms for this utterly important and capacious resource, which is absolutely fundamental for the national spirit and for the identity of each nation state.

The practical significance of the adoption of the Declaration

Adhering to the principles provided for by the Declaration, is sure to bring about a significant increase in the protection of archaeological heritage sites from the negative anthropogenic impact in the context of the upcoming intensification of development of territories. This will lead to the formation of a systemic approach to the interfaces among the governmental bodies, land users and organizations conducting archaeological research.

The positive consequences of adoption of the Declaration will be the increasing international prestige of the countries of Central Asia. These states shall be viewed as highly developed countries from the humanitarian standpoint, as they care about the existing tangible and intangible heritage of their cultures and ethnic groups that have inhabited the territory of this vast region for centuries. Furthermore, the effective integration of archaeological heritage sites into the economy of the nation states through development of the basic tourism infrastructure will ensure an increase in internal and external tourist flow, entailing an inflow of domestic and foreign investment in the hospitality industry, creation of new jobs and development of suburban territories.

Due to the fact that the Declaration of Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management is aimed at the qualitative development of public administration in this territory by increasing the efficiency of the existing system for the protection and use of historical and cultural values, introducing successful world experience, creating effective legal mechanisms to ensure conservation of the archaeological heritage, adopting this document and promoting it on the international arena, will bring the process of archaeological heritage management to a qualitatively new level.

The novelty of the proposed heritage management principles presented in the Declaration

Among the principles of the Declaration: are the standards and criteria of creation of the Unified Electronic Register and the State Reserve of Archaeological Monuments; provisions on the prohibition of illegal excavation and research using metal detectors and other search equipment without special permission; instructions on the financing of archaeological expertise and conservation and rescue operations on monuments that find themselves to be in the areas subject to planned development, at the expense of the customer of the area development; norms for the conservation and maintenance of the conditions and status quo of archaeological heritage sites and objects.

The requirement for strict scientific control over archaeological excavations and the need to carry them out in accordance with state-of-the-art technology of the archaeological science, as fundamental principles, were reflected in the Declaration.

The inclusion of regulations on encouraging the exchange of information on ongoing archaeological research and excavations, including international ones, and on prevention of illegal exchange and circulation of archaeological heritage items will also ensure the study and conservation of archaeological heritage sites at a qualitatively new level.

Prospects for further promoting the Declaration at the international level.

With the support of the governmental authorities of Uzbekistan and the international community, the document adopted by the Nukus conference is planned to be ratified in the form of a declaration or recommendation at the highest international level - the UNESCO General Assembly and General Conference. This initiative will not only bring international fame to such an important undertaking, but will also call on all the countries of Central Asia to unite their efforts in the careful management of archaeological heritage - the treasure bequeathed to us by our ancestors and which we will pass on to our descendants.

Famous scholars expressing their opinions on the adopted Declaration:

I strongly welcome the ground-breaking CENTRAL ASIAN DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT. This is a very timely Declaration, at a moment when the region faces the numerous challenges around the recovery from the pandemic, the need to build sustainable tourism, and the broader pressures of the climate crisis. The call for “national unified electronic state registers of archaeological sites”, including electronic archaeological maps, is of the utmost importance in providing a platform to proactively plan for the impacts of development at all levels. Archaeological sites are major scientific and cultural assets for Central Asia, and the Declaration affirms their importance, and their contribution to sustainable development in the 21st century.

Professor Tim Williams
UCL Institute of Archaeology, UK

A full ranged and scaled declaration that involves almost every fields of cultural heritage protection, conservation, preservation, archaeology, legislation, cooperation, monitoring and research of Uzbekistan and Central Asia countries; a milestone of the conservation and nomination for the Silk Roads heritage sites. My profound salutes and congratulations! And deepest greetings to all my colleagues in Uzbekistan, the imminent crossroad of the great Silk Roads!

Dr. Erwu Li
Director of Secretariat
ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an, China

The Central Asian Declaration of the Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management, unanimously adopted by scientists from more than 20 countries, within the framework of the International Archaeological Conference "Archeology and Tourism: Identifying Potential and Managing Heritage" under the auspices of UNESCO, held in Nukus, Uzbekistan on September 16-17, 2021, represents an extremely important, a professionally developed and, most importantly, relevant document for the entire Central Asian region. I am convinced that in the very near future the Declaration will be adopted by many countries as a fundamental document in the field of archaeological heritage management.

Professor Kazuya YAMAUCHI
Teikyo University, Japan

Having reviewed the CENTRAL ASIAN DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT, signed in Nukus, Uzbekistan on September 17, 2021, I believe it is of undeniable importance for charting a socially responsible and scholarly approach to movable and immovable cultural resources in Uzbekistan, and Central Asia. The declaration sets the framework for conscientious documentation, study, preservation, and management of all forms of the archaeological past, as well as the appreciation of cultural traditions that have profoundly impacted the world throughout history. I am delighted to see this declaration enacted and for its core principles to be adopted among communities of scholars, political leaders, and the public alike. The declaration will help preserve the past for future generations of Central Asian communities and is a fundamental act of human rights for all people to help communicate and share their common historical connection and heritage.

Dr. Michael Frchetti
Professor of Archaeology and Central Asian Prehistory
Department of Anthropology
Washington University in St. Louis, USA

The declaration adopted in Nukus is an important stage in the formation of a modern system for conservation of historical and cultural heritage. The timely tasks set in the Document respond to modern-day challenges, meanwhile highlighting priorities for identifying new directions. The document provides ample actionable opportunities for government agencies, research and academic institutions, public organizations in Central Asia and cross-border regions. It is beyond doubt that the emergence of this Declaration will be key for conservation of cultural heritage and development of tourism in the context of the current global trends, for many years to come.

Professor Airat Sitdikov
Director of the Institute Archaeology of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia Federation

For the first time in the history of Uzbekistan and Central Asia, an international conference "ARCHEOLOGY AND TOURISM: IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL AND MANAGING HERITAGE" was held under the auspices of UNESCO. The conference presented a fundamentally new document, which will raise the protection and use of the region's immovable archaeological heritage to new levels. The government of Uzbekistan quickly responds to the challenges of the time and makes wise decisions which are bound to ensure safety of our cultural heritage in the future. This document will serve as a model and example for other countries for the possible use and management of cultural heritage.

Rustam Suleimanov,
Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Central Asia experienced drastic changes during the last decades, many of which altered irreversibly the cultural landscapes and urbanscapes of this region. The regulation of the archaeological heritage not only represents a crucial step in the safeguard of national cultural heritages, but also a unique opportunity for local communities to consolidate the long-standing relationship with their native territory. The possibility to develop archeological tourism in Central Asian countries, including the creation of archaeological park around major sites, is also a tempting challenge that could bring benefits at different levels, and increase the global awareness on such a unique cultural and historical legacy. For this reason, I strongly support the proposal of the CENTRAL ASIAN DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT.

**Professor Simone Mantellini,
University of Bologna, Italy**

This event, which was hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan, was a timely one. The conference has brought together many experts from various countries of the globe: archaeologists, restorers, architects and others. It is attended by many experts from the region as well. I believe its main positive effect is the Declaration, which offers a solution to the main problem common to the Central Asian countries – the conservation of the cultural heritage, of our past. Many issues were discussed, for example, the boundaries between fundamental and applied science, impact mechanisms, methodology of applying archeology for the development of tourism, while producing related economic results. Once the declaration is enacted, the development of tourism will directly depend on proper conservation and management of historical and cultural heritage. The cultural heritage sites appeared each at their time regardless of their current state pertinence. By the same token, tourism should have no borders. Of course, we need to do a lot for personnel training, to reach our goals.

It is very important that the declaration should be adopted by all countries of this region, and that the states should put it on their priority agendas. A similar event should be held by every nation state in Central Asia.

**Bauyrzhan Baitanayev,
Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Comparatively, Central Asian states have a very good legislation in terms of protection of archaeological heritage. Nevertheless, we often see the instances of neglect and destruction, often done in the name of development. There seem to be a lack of awareness or understanding of the legalities. A declaration that you are proposing could serve a great purpose and help the specialists communicate the requirements for protection better. It will explain the ideals of protection and care rather than complex legal requirements. I therefore wholeheartedly support the idea of developing a commonly agreed text that will streamline the approaches across the region.

Dr Gai Jorayev, UCL Institute of Archaeology, UK

Declaration, with our joint international support, can become another effective measure to strengthen the principles of managing the archaeological heritage of our vast region.

Dr. Bakyt Amanbaeva

National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic

The worldwide recognition of the Central Asian Declaration for the Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management is a milestone in achieving the long term conservation while managing change. Bringing communities as the heart of well managed archaeological landscapes will bring economical opportunities contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The Declaration reflects the know-how and state-of-the-art of a shared vision of the academic community and practitioners that will undoubtedly serve as a guidance for national Central Asian governments while improving the heritage legal and management framework.

Dr. Ona Vileikis. University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology, UK

Declarations and guidelines regarding the management and protection of archaeological heritage are substantial references for the international standardization of archaeological heritage preservation in countries with such rich past and cultures.

Authorities should consider the adoption of declarations and recommendations within their legal framework in order to strengthen their institutions on implementation of cultural policies. The preservation of archaeological heritage is essential for the consolidation of cultural identity.

For the use of archaeological heritage sites it is important for the governmental institutions to adopt cultural policies regarding delimitation of protection areas and the habilitation of archaeological parks for cultural heritage dissemination, education and touristic promotion. Countries like Mexico have adopted the 1990 ICAHM Charter and the 1990 ICOMOS Declaration of Mexico, from which policies have being implemented for the development of the National Network of Archaeological Zones Opened to the Public and the Federal Declarations of Archaeological Monuments Zone, identifying and overlapping several protection legal frameworks for the preservation of archaeological heritage. Such initiatives are possible and needed in Uzbekistan and surrounding region with a substantial declaration as the Central Asian Declaration of the Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management.

Important during the current urban era that several countries in the region are experiencing, special regime for land use within the boundaries of the archaeological sites is necessary measure to be implemented within legal frameworks. After the definition of special protection areas and boundaries, the regularization of the land use will help in the development of social infrastructure and tourism regarding the preservation of archaeological heritage. These protection measures are the core element of the Declaration.

Dr. Eduardo Escalante Carrillo

Director of the Museum of Anthropology and History of Mexico City, Mexico

Central Asian Declaration of the Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management

International Archaeological Conference "Archeology and Tourism: Identifying the Potential and Managing Heritage" under the auspices of UNESCO,

considering its strong conviction that the archaeological heritage sites, while possessing a number of special qualities such as being hidden from view under the ground or under water, antiquity (appurtenance to the past), fragility, exceptional historical and cultural value, scholarly importance and vast informative potential, high probability of accidental discovery, the very principles of conducting scientific archaeological research, and the need for taking special conservation measures, – do require that a special regime be established for their use and protection,

acknowledging that the national archaeological heritage sites enrich the entire humanity,

emphasizing the particular vulnerability and irreplaceability of archaeological heritage,

recalling that, despite the general technological advancement facilitating the development and dissemination of knowledge and concepts, the numerous factors accompanying this technological advancement, including urban growth and economic development of new territories, lead to the catastrophically rapid loss of archaeological heritage,

considering the features of development of the Central Asian region,

also recalling that a corpus of UNESCO standard-setting documents, including conventions, recommendations and charters exists on the subject of conservation of historic areas, all of which remain valid, and among which are such international documents as:

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 1954.

- Recommendations on international principles applicable to archaeological excavations, 1956.

- International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice Charter). Venice, 1964.

- Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works. Paris, 1968.

- UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

- Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).

- UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection, at a national level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972.

- International Cultural Tourism Charter. Brussels, 1974.
- The Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of. Historic Areas. Nairobi, 1976.
- The Washington Charter: Charter on the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas, 1987.
- ICAHM Charter: Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage, Lausanne, 1990.
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage. (Revised). Valetta, 1992.
- The Nara Document on Authenticity. Nara, 1994.
- Principles for the Recording of Monuments, Groups of Buildings and Sites. Sofia, 1996.
- The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paris, 2001.
- UNESCO Declaration Concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage, 2003.
- Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes (Vienna Declaration), 2005.
- Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. Paris, 2011.
- The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas. Valletta, 2011.
- The Menorca Declaration on Development and Use of Best Practices in Management of Archaeological World Heritage Sites. Menorca, 2012.
- Salalah Guidelines for the Management of Public Archaeological Sites. New Delhi, 2017.

adopts the following principles set out in the Central Asian Declaration of the Principles of Archaeological Heritage Management:

This declaration defines the general principles of management of archaeological heritage for nation states whose archaeological heritage is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Central Asian region. The Declaration is intended to promote the convergence of the legislative and methodological foundations of the Central Asian States in the field of archaeological heritage management.

(1) Sites of archaeological heritage

The archaeological heritage

For the purposes of this Declaration, the term “archaeological heritage” means material evidence of the life of the communities of the past (movable or immovable properties), preserved in the natural conditions on the ground, underground, or under water, requiring the use of archaeological methods for their identification and research.

Immovable archaeological heritage

Immovable archaeological heritage are the sites and places that have still keep traces of human habitation and settlement, which make it possible to record any manifestations of the historical activities of people.

Immovable archaeological heritage of any type, regardless of its functional purpose, including individual elements and structures of archaeological nature, as well as their groups; isolated archaeological sites, groups and complexes of archaeological monuments, places of archaeological sightseeing¹, are all regarded as archaeological monuments.

Areas with archaeological potential² around the identified elements of an archaeological site is immovable archaeological heritage and is subject to protection as the territory of an archaeological site until the borders of the identified archaeological site have been approved.

Movable archaeological heritage

Movable archaeological heritage includes archaeological finds (individual archaeological items, archaeological collections, massive archaeological material, as well as ancient human remains associated with the archaeological site (anthropological material), remains of animals and plants, the soil (osteological, carpological, paleobotanical materials, etc.) discovered in the process of conducting legal (authorized) archaeological research, or obtained as a result of illegal excavations or illegal search, as well as hoards, treasures and random finds showing signs of archaeological heritage.

(2) Use of archaeological heritage sites

The objects of the archaeological heritage are used for scientific, interpretational, educational, and tourist purposes, as well as for the revival and development of the spiritual, historical and cultural traditions of the nations of the Central Asian region.

By the basic purpose, all archaeological heritage monuments and items act, in the first place, as objects of scientific research. Upon appropriate scientific examination and

¹ Places of archaeological sightseeing – are purposefully created or naturally developed archaeological landscapes, being areas where archaeological monuments, as the main landscape-forming elements, are in close relationship with the natural environment

See also Art. 1 of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

² See Section 7 of this Declaration, “Areas with Archaeological Potential”

research, archaeological finds are transferred to museums, and are further used as museum exhibits (museum collection items).

Individuals and legal entities may be allowed to use objects of archaeological heritage, subject to the abovementioned objectives, in function to their nature and original purpose, provided that their protection requirements are met.

The use of objects of archaeological heritage for other purposes, in breach of the requirements of national and / or international legislation is prohibited and punishable by law.

Special Protection Areas

Ensembles and clusters of archaeological sites of special historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value may be declared an Area of Special Protection (reserves, museums, archaeological parks) and act, along with other archaeological sites, as objects of tourism (tourist resources).

Archaeological parks

Archaeological parks are protected, managed, exhibited archaeological sites, which are, in effect, archaeological landscapes formed in antiquity (during the past centuries), where archaeological sites, being the main landscape-forming elements, are closely interconnected with their natural environment. These are objects of scientific research and sources of dynamic updating of the archaeological data, thanks to the latter, serving as instruments of modern perception and interpretation by visitors of the common past of the mankind, thereby sustaining the conscious preservation of heritage.

(3) System of measures for the protection of objects of archaeological heritage

The system of protection of archaeological heritage sites consists of legal, administrative, financial, property-related, informational and other measures taken by the competent authorities³ aimed at identifying and recording of archaeological heritage sites, preventing destruction or harm that might be caused to them.

The system of measures for the protection of archaeological heritage sites includes, but is not limited to:

³ Competent authorities are bodies and organizations of various level of government, institutions authorized to perform certain actions within their areas of competency, e.g. in the field of archaeological heritage management. This competency is, in effect, a set of legally established powers, rights and obligations that determines the place and role of the institution within in the system of government.

1) ensuring compliance with national and international legislation on the protection and use of archaeological heritage;

2) authorization-based procedures being in place prior to carrying out any field archaeological research, or scientific restoration work at the archaeological sites;

3) ensuring identification of objects of archaeological heritage;

4) state documentation and registration of objects of archaeological heritage;

5) creation of the National Reserve of Archaeological sites;

6) ensuring compliance with the requirement for mandatory archaeological examination of lands subject to development;

7) ensuring that salvage and rescue archaeological works are carried out;

8) imposing restrictions (encumbrances) on ownership or other legal title to the plots of land where an archaeological site is located, setting forth requirements for its conservation, for observing a special procedure for its maintenance and use, for ensuring access to the archaeological site and other requirements (protection obligation);

9) establishing specific and definite responsibility for any possible damage, destruction or annihilation of an archaeological heritage site, for its movement, theft, plundering, looting of an archaeological heritage object, causing damage to an archaeological heritage object and taking actions that may have entailed other negative changes to the archaeological heritage;

10) establishment of the special regime and conditions for the use of lands within the boundaries of the territory of the archaeological site; a special regime for the use of the land plot, where the archaeological site is located; a special regime and conditions for the use of the part of the water body where the archaeological site may be located; establishing regimes and conditions of land use within the boundaries of the archaeological site protection areas, and ensuring observance thereof;

11) setup of conventional provisional borders for the archaeological site and areas of its protection to ensure the operation of protection regimes of land use within these borders until the actual physical boundaries of the archaeological site have been approved;

12) establishing the boundaries of the territory of the archaeological site as a site of urban planning activities under special regulation; establishment of protection requirements for urban planning regulations within the boundaries of the territory of the archaeological site and within the boundaries of the territories of protection areas of the archaeological site, and ensuring observance thereof;

13) installation of informative plaques and signs on the archaeological monuments;

14) carrying out conservation⁴ for movable and immovable archaeological heritage;

15) implementation of measures to ensure the preservation of the archaeological site in the course of surveying, exploration, engineering, construction, economic, forest management and other activities;

16) approval by competent authorities of the project design documentation required for carrying out protection, salvage and restoration operations, works on the preservation and research of the archaeological site – the documentation should be developed by the prospective contractors;

17) approval of reporting documentation on the work being carried out or having been completed along the lines of preservation and research of the archaeological heritage site;

18) development and implementation of obligatory standards for storage of movable archaeological property at relevant facilities or with specialized companies;

19) ensuring safety of movable archaeological property after restorative and conservative measures, through strict regulation and standardization in the field of collection storage. This calls for introduction of a requirement for specialized organizations engaged in further safekeeping of the movable archaeological heritage to be staffed with scientific restoration professionals;

20)“Organization, support and development for the museum complexes at the archaeological parks, which would include exhibition spaces, storage facilities, conservation and restoration laboratories, lodging for researchers and staff and conference halls.”

21) monitoring by competent authorities of ensured safety of movable archaeological property at the various stages (identification, research, restorative and conservative operations, further storage, exhibiting) by scheduled inspections.

(4) Integration of the provisions of international law into national legislation

To create additional guarantees for the fulfillment by the Nation-States of their international obligations arising from international agreements, including the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972 and the Operational Guidelines for its implementation, it is necessary to implement (introduce) the norms and provisions of international law in the national legislation.

To ensure the implementation of international standards, it is recommended that:

- the terminology used in the national legislative acts to be brought in line with the notions and the conceptual framework used in international documents, including in the

⁴ See Section (13) of this Declaration “Measures for the conservation of archaeological heritage”

documents of the World Heritage Committee and the operational guidelines for the Implementation of the 1972 Convention,

- direct integration of the conceptual framework, principles and of the most efficient mechanisms of legal regulation in the field of archaeological heritage management into the national legislation;

- implementation of the norms of international law through their adaptation and adoption by the state of the new norms, while amending, and / or abolishing the existing norms of the national law.

(5) Special regime for land use within the boundaries of the archaeological site

Within the boundaries of the territory of an archaeological site, a special regime of land use should be established, allowing to provide for the necessary conditions for the preservation of the site integrity, its historical authenticity, and cultural value.

Protection measures

A special regime for the use of lands within the boundaries of the territory of an archaeological site calls for the following protection measures:

- 1) the creation of favorable environmental conditions for the preservation of the archaeological site, including the provision of a favorable hydrogeological environment and the favorable temperature and humidity conditions, cleanliness of the air-shed and reservoirs, protection from dynamic influences (vibro-acoustic, electromagnetic), protection from the effects of chemically active substances and other negative factors;

- 2) ensuring the invariability of the appearance of an archaeological site (insomuch as it is possible given the comprehensive character of the archaeological operations) by protecting it from damage, destruction, annihilation, plundering of cultural layers, historically valuable site, uncovered archaeological structures, archaeological finds and the interrelation among these elements, including protection from damage and distortion which might occur during their research;

- 3) creation of favorable conditions for the viewing of the archaeological site;

- 4) bans on the placement, design, operation of facilities that may negatively affect the safety of the archaeological site;

- 5) prohibiting exploration, land management, earthwork, construction, reclamation, general labor, forest management and other activities, with the exception of works aimed at research and preservation of the archaeological site, conservation of its historical, cultural and natural environment.

- prohibiting agricultural and any other economic activities on the territory of the site, with the exception of activities for the improvement of the territory of the archaeological

site, which allow to ensure its functioning in the modern conditions, and does not contradict the requirements for ensuring the site conservation;

- prohibiting the movement of vehicles, self-propelled units and mechanisms, with the exception of specialized equipment used for the research and conservation of the archaeological site, subject to the requirements for the conservation of the archaeological site.

Approvals of work methods and plans on the territory of the archaeological site

Work methods and plans contemplated to be carried out by way of research and conservation of the archaeological site within the boundaries of its territory, as well as work methods and plans on improvement of the territory of the site are subject to prior approval by the competent authorities in the field of archaeological heritage management.

Work on the research and conservation of an archaeological site, as well as general labor activities aimed at improvement of its territory, carried out within the boundaries of the archaeological site and affecting the areas of the cultural strata, archaeological structures, may only be allowed with the obligatory presence of a professional archaeologist who would carry out the relevant archaeological supervision.

(6) Buffer and conservation zones for protection of archaeological sites

In order to create conditions conducive to the conservation of archaeological sites, protection zones are established (for the archaeological site):

- buffer zone⁵;
- zone of regulation of urban development and economic activity⁶;
- zone of protected natural landscape⁷.

Outside the protection zones, the implementation of urban planning, economic and other activities shall not have any direct or indirect negative effect on the conservation of the

⁵ Protection area zone is a territory within where, to ensure the preservation of an archaeological monument in its historical landscape environment, a regime of land use is established prohibiting development and construction. Exceptions are made where special measures are aimed at conservation and study of the monument and its surroundings, and improvement of the territory, following the requirements of modern use, but not marring the historically valuable cultural environment and natural landscapes;

⁶ The development regulation zone is a territory where such a regime of land use is established which prohibits or restricts construction and development, and ensures a harmonious perception of archaeological monuments within modern urban planning or natural environment.

⁷ A protected natural landscape area is a territory where such a regime of land use is established which prohibits or restricts any activity that may occasion changes to the essence of the natural or artificially created landscape, associated by the overall artistic composition with the archaeological monuments, or changes to particular parts or elements thereof.

archaeological site, its historical and cultural surroundings and the natural landscape, otherwise the territory of the protection zones shall be expanded to ensure reliable protection of the archaeological site.

The boundaries of the protection zones of an archaeological site are to be documented in the historical and architectural urban development master plan, and recorded on the schematic map of the corresponding area, where the location of archaeological sites, other historical and cultural monuments and newly identified objects of historical and cultural heritage is recorded.

(7) Area with archaeological potential

An area with archaeological potential is an area around or near the identified elements of an archaeological site, where there is a high probability of further discovery of objects of archaeological heritage.

(8) The provisional borders of the archaeological site and its protection zones.

The provisional borders of an archaeological site are established in order to ensure the protection of newly identified archaeological sites, in relation to which no work has been carried out to determine the boundaries of the site territory.

Provisional boundaries are established on the territory of a zone with archaeological potential around a certain point where archaeological elements of the identified archaeological site had been recorded.

The provisional borders of an archaeological site are established from the moment of its discovery. A special regime for the use of lands within the boundaries of the territory of an archaeological site shall be in place within the provisional borders until the moment when the actual boundaries of the territory have been approved.

The provisional borders of the protection zones are determined as relative to the conventional boundary line of the archaeological site. The corresponding protection regimes for the use of lands shall be effective within the provisional borders of the protection zones until the actual boundaries of the territory of the archaeological site and the zones of its protection have been approved.

The competent authorities shall carry out or organize and manage works on the designation of the provisional borders of archaeological sites and zones of their protection in the event that it is impossible to carry out work to establish the actual boundaries of an archaeological site in the current year from the day the archaeological site was discovered.

(9) Unified electronic state register of archaeological sites

In order to effectively organize the documentation, registration, and protection of objects of archaeological heritage, the relevant authorities shall maintain the Unified Electronic State Register of Archaeological Sites.

Information to be published in the register

The register is a state information system containing the following data on immovable archaeological heritage: the name of the archaeological site, location, category, type, dating, information on geographical boundaries, protection zones, protection obligations and other data. Uniqueness and comparability of records is ensured through common principles of formation, methods, and forms of maintaining of the register.

Electronic archaeological maps and register of lost sites

An integral part of the Unified Electronic State Register of Archaeological Sites is an electronic archaeological map, as well as a register of lost archaeological sites. This register stores all information about archaeological sites excluded from the main register due to their destruction or research completed as a result of archaeological protection, salvage, and restoration work.

(10) National Reserve of Archaeological Sites

In order to preserve for future generations the integrity, authenticity, and value of archaeological sites as the most vulnerable and irreplaceable part of historical and cultural heritage, a National Reserve of Archaeological Sites is created.

The National Reserve of Archaeological Sites can include entire archaeological sites or individual elements of particular sites.

The protection policy - for archaeological sites included in the National Reserve of Archaeological Sites is based on programs of regular inspection, preventive care and maintenance of the archaeological sites, and on a strategy of minimal intervention. This involves prohibition of archaeological research by destructive methods that may affect the integrity of the sites, the authenticity of their design (appearance, decor), materials, operation, or environment. These prohibitions are established for long-term protection of the sites.

The criteria for the selection of archaeological sites, as well as the procedure for their inclusion in or exclusion from the National Reserve of Archaeological Sites are determined by national legislation.

(11) Archaeological examination of lands and water bodies during economic development of territories and the allotment of land and water holdings

In order to ensure the preservation of archaeological heritage during development of land and water territories, archaeological examinations are carried out before development commences. This work must be undertaken when such studies have not been carried out on the territory previously, or if the information received as a result of the previously conducted research requires further clarification.

Allotment of land and water plots for any type of urban development is granted only if a statement of archaeological examination has been issued declaring an absence of archaeological heritage objects in the territory.

Should the archaeological statement confirm the presence of archaeological heritage objects, allotment of the land or water plot will be denied, and urban development work will not be permitted.

Allotment and development of a land or water plot can be allowed in the future only if conditions are provided for the preservation and/or archaeological study of any archaeological sites identified in the territory. This can be accomplished by introducing prospecting, land management, earthwork, construction, reclamation and other general labor activities, or relevant amendments and modifications approved by the competent authorities.

Archaeological expert assessment is carried out at the expense of the customer for the development of the territory.

(12) Security and rescue archaeological work

Security and rescue archaeological work is carried out on archaeological sites that fall within an economic development zone and are subject to destruction through exploration, land management, earthworks, construction, reclamation, economic and other works, or on archaeological sites that are in emergency condition (emergency monuments).

Security and rescue archaeological work is included in the system of measures for the protection of archaeological heritage sites. This special type of archaeological research generates a complete archaeological study of a site and associated archaeological finds, thus creating scientific knowledge about the life of previous generations and their communities.

Principles for implementation of protective, salvage, and restorative archaeological work

Protective, salvage, and restorative archaeological work is carried out following a set of scientific principles.

When carrying out protective, salvage and restorative archaeological work, partial study of the archaeological site is not allowed. Exceptions are made when works are carried out on a complex archaeological site where several objects of immovable heritage are considered to be separate sites. The decision for full or partial study of a complex archaeological site is made on the basis of the research methodology for carrying out protective, salvage, and restorative archaeological work.

Protective, salvage, and restorative archaeological work is an urgent operation. During the related development work, a complete study of the archaeological site must be carried out. This means that the site has to have been studied over the entire area and throughout the depth of the cultural layers, entailing a complete physical loss of the archaeological site.

Protective, rescue, and restorative archaeological work on archaeological sites included in the World Heritage List

Carrying out protective, salvage, and restorative work on archaeological sites included in the World Heritage List is prohibited, except for cases where it is impossible to eliminate the threat of destruction, or when more than seventy percent of the monument is already lost or destroyed. The decision to carry out protective, salvage, and restorative work on emergency archaeological sites included in the World Heritage List is made by the competent state authorities, with obligatory notification of the World Heritage Committee.

Financing of protective, salvage, and restorative archaeological work

Protective, salvage, and restorative work on emergency archaeological sites is carried out at the expense of national budget funds, at the expense of extra-budgetary funds, or at the expense of persons found guilty of the emergency state of an archaeological site.

Protective, salvage, and restorative archaeological work on sites falling into a zone of economic development is carried out at the expense of the customer for the economic development of the territory.

(13) Principles of Archaeological Research

- carrying out archaeological research on the basis of adherence to the principles of science, reliability, completeness, integrated approach, and required expertise;
- field archaeological research should be carried out in accordance with the procedure and within the framework of national legislation, and in compliance with the scientific research methods developed and approved by the competent authorities, taking into account the available modern-day international expertise in scientific research;
- only persons (scientific organizations, museums, individuals) who have special permits issued by the competent authorities, taking into account the applicants' qualifications,

experience of archaeological work, the availability of the materials and technological means, etc., could be permitted to conduct field archaeological research on archaeological sites;

- archaeological research should be carried out by scientific methods, involving the use of the latest standards of science and technology, and particularly with non-destructive research methods where possible;
- data obtained as a result of field archaeological research must be reliable, complete, accurate, informative, objective, and illustrative. To that end, both the process of conducting the field archaeological research and the entire set of archaeological heritage objects recovered must be subjected to detailed documentation in situ. All data obtained as a result of the field archaeological research must be reflected in the research project report;
- after the completion of field archaeological research, measures should be taken to preserve and maintain the state of the archaeological heritage site;
- conservation of the discovered archaeological elements and structures should be carried out, preferably in situ;
- earth dumps should be removed from the territory of the archaeological site to ensure good visibility of the archaeological site;
- restoration of the land cover should be carried out in cases when contemporary restorative and interpretive work is not planned, in order to ensure safety and preserve the original natural and cultural landscape;
 - it is preferable to leave archaeological finds in their location (in situ) if possible, to ensure their safety and preservation;
- for movable archaeological heritage objects withdrawn from their original locations, storage facilities must be provided with appropriate conditions to ensure their safety and conservation;

Accessibility of the results of field archaeological research

The results of field archaeological research should be made accessible and available to the scholarly and general public through publication in research project reports, specialized scientific research papers, catalogs, compilations, corpuses etc.

Procedure of scientific appropriation of results of archaeological research

Development of a national regulatory procedure for appropriation of results of archaeological research into scientific circulation is encouraged, including the introduction of temporal standards for bringing new archaeological data into scientific circulation;

standards regulating the copyright in the field of archaeological research, including the rights of first publication, the rights of a discoverer, etc.

Research project report

The research project report is the main document containing the results of field archaeological research in textual and graphical forms, including the results of photographic documentation. The research project report must contain an inventory of the identified archaeological finds. A research project report is part of the mandatory scientific documentation and is subject to indefinite term of storage.

(14) Prohibition of field archaeological research at archaeological heritage sites in absence of special permits.

Governments, authorities, organizations, and institutions involved in the management of archaeological heritage sites should endeavor to prevent any illegal excavation and seizure of elements of the archaeological heritage:

- Any search for artifacts on the surface or within the cultural layers of an archaeological site, including the use of metal detectors or other special technical means of search, as well as the use of earth-moving machines at sites of archaeological heritage, by persons without special permits must be prohibited, and be punishable by law;
- Archaeological items obtained in the course of illegal excavations are subject to transfer to relevant authorities of the state in the manner prescribed by national legislation.

(15) Measures for the conservation of archaeological heritage

Conservation of archaeological heritage sites is a set of measures necessary to maintain archaeological heritage sites in a state of good physical preservation, including regular inspections, permanent or periodic maintenance, conservation measures after the completion of field archaeological research, organization and implementation of scientific restoration (conservation, restoration (reconstruction)) of archaeological sites, as well as conservation, restoration and reconstruction of movable archaeological heritage.

Conservation of archaeological sites

Conservation is a set of measures that protect an archaeological site from further destruction and ensure the consolidation and protection of structural parts and decorative elements without changing the historical appearance of the monument. Conservation also includes emergency response work, consisting of measures to ensure the physical safety of the monument, and work on the remediation of excavations and pits.

Any field archaeological research involving the removal of cultural layers, opening of archaeological structures (apart from protective, salvage, or restorative operations), must end with the conservation of the archaeological site or its elements. The absence of such measures for comprehensive conservation of a site in research methods statements is a basis for competent authorities' refusal to grant a permit for archaeological research.

Restoration of archaeological sites

Restoration is a set of measures that ensure the preservation, restoration, and exposure of the historical, architectural, and artistic appearance of an archaeological site by freeing it from layers that have no value and that may be distorting the appearance of the site. It may also include reproducing lost elements on the basis of scientifically grounded data using historical restoration technologies.

Restoration work on monuments included in the World Heritage List or in the Tentative World Heritage List is allowed only if the original state of the archaeological site is restored (for a multilayer archaeological monument - subject to restoration of the state of the monument belonging to a certain stage of its past life) on the basis of a historical and critical analysis of the available scientific data, excluding assumptions (hypotheses). The materials and decorative fragments used to reconstruct the lost elements of the archaeological site, in their external appearance, should be noticeably different from the original ones (per the relevant standards and best practices generally accepted for international reconstruction projects).

Reconstruction of archaeological sites

Reconstruction is a set of measures to recreate a lost archaeological site, or lost parts thereof. The process is realized through new construction, based on scientifically grounded data.

Reconstruction is not permitted on archaeological sites, except in the following exceptional circumstances⁸:

1) when reconstructing a lost monument or parts of a destroyed archaeological site from its own surviving materials, scattered fragments using construction methods corresponding to the original (anastylosis) in the presence of accurate and comprehensive documentation data on the lost archaeological site (or its parts). The method of anastylosis allows for the use of the necessary minimum of modern materials or elements, which are noticeably different from the original ones, to ensure the restoration of the site's original form;

2) if within the framework of the restoration process, individual elements and details of a monument are recreated in order to restore and reveal the historical, architectural, and artistic appearance of an archaeological site at a certain time in the past, in presence of

⁸ See also p. 86 Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, 2017

accurate and comprehensive scientific data on the parts, elements, and details of an archaeological site that have not survived to present;

Conservation, restoration and reconstruction of movable archaeological heritage

The conservation, restoration and reconstruction work (including 3D-modelling) of movable objects of the archaeological heritage can only be carried out by qualified personnel with appropriate education and experience. The activities are aimed at restoring the original appearance of the individual objects and archaeological collections in order to obtain new scientific data, exhibit, and protect them from further destruction.

The materials used in restoration to reproduce the lost elements (parts), individual fragments, decorative elements of movable archaeological heritage in their external appearance should differ significantly from the original ones according to the standard adopted in international practice.

Restoration passport of movable archaeological heritage

The restoration passport is the main document containing a detailed description of the process and results of restoration and conservation activities in textual and graphical forms, with attachment of detailed photographs of the restoration process. The restoration passport is drawn up in two copies (one is kept at an institution (museum) that provides further storage of movable archaeological heritage that have undergone restoration or conservation; the other copy is kept in the restoration laboratory) and refers to mandatory scientific documentation and is subject to indefinite term of storage.

Availability of results of restoration and conservation

The restoration and conservation results should be available to the scientific and general public through publication in research project reports, specialized scientific research papers, catalogs, etc.

Principles of Scientific Restoration (Conservation) of Archaeological Heritage Sites

When carrying out restoration and conservation activities on archaeological monuments (hereinafter referred to as Monument) and on movable archaeological heritage item (hereinafter referred to as Item), the following principles must be applied:

- maximum preservation of the original materials of the monument / item;
- restoration of a monument / item in its original form (for a multilayer archaeological monument - subject to restoration of the state of the monument belonging to a certain stage of its past life);
- identification and documentation of historical and artistic values of the monument (item);
- certainty and scientific validity of the restoration intervention (availability of accurate and comprehensive documentary fixation of the monument / item, the validity of the applied restoration and conservation techniques, a complete study of the historical context and the

environment, presence of chronologically and artistically close analogies of the monument / item, etc.);

- minimal interference with the historical materials of the item and proven consistency of such interference;
- application of well-proven techniques;
- reversibility of the applied techniques.

(16) Interaction of governing bodies with the national and international community

Enhancing professional competencies of officers and workers in the field of archaeological heritage management

The effectiveness of the management process in Nation-States should be ensured by enhancing the professional competencies of the government officials, employees of specialized institutions, and scientists involved in the management and conservation of archaeological heritage through organization of appropriate focused programs and increasing the level of engagement in these events.

Focused programs

Focused programs dedicated to management of archaeological heritage may include:

- development of educational courses (refresher courses) on archaeological heritage management;
- inclusion of issues of archaeological heritage management in educational programs for all levels;
- organization of a personnel training system in the field of restoration of movable archaeological heritage;
- reforming the system of personnel training in the field of museum affairs and museology;
- preparation and holding of scientific and practical conferences, symposia, seminars, thematic exhibitions, and presentations on protection, conservation, use, and interpretation of archaeological heritage sites;
- other events.

Outreach programs and stimulation of public interest in archaeological heritage

Improving the quality of management of archaeological heritage is achieved through stimulation of public interest in archaeological heritage and enhancing public awareness of the historical value of archaeological sites and existing threats through the following activities:

- ensuring access to archaeological heritage sites for scientific, cultural and other purposes through the museumification (representation) of archaeological sites, creation of archaeological parks, exhibiting archaeological finds, and monitoring compliance with the requirement for public accessibility of archaeological heritage;

- improving the quality of perception of archaeological sites by creating special viewing points or platforms, ensuring lighting in the dark, installing special signs, information plaques and boards;

- increasing the level of national and international tourism for historical sites, through dissemination of tourist information about the archaeological heritage both domestically and abroad, the development of tourist routes including archaeological sites, archaeological parks, historical and cultural monuments, and historical and cultural reserves;

- increasing interest of the community in archaeological science, in the challenges of conservation and use of the archaeological heritage through sufficient coverage of these issues in the media, including through issuance of popular science literature, informative, reference and advertising publications, creation of television and radio broadcasts, films - and videos.

(17) International cooperation

International cooperation in the management of archaeological heritage should be based on intellectual and moral solidarity of the human community of Earth, ensuring freedom of scientific research, equality in the field of scientific, methodological, and technological achievements in archaeological science, in interdisciplinary research including the international exchange of experts (specialists, educators responsible for further professional training), exchange of accumulated knowledge (technologies, books, and archives), scientific and technical assistance, and active mutually beneficial interaction in the field of international historical tourism.

(18) Final clauses

Governments, authorities, organizations, and institutions involved in the management of the archaeological heritage are guided by the principles of this Declaration, and should ensure their implementation and dissemination among organizations, institutions, and individual researchers involved in the processes of identifying, studying, preserving, interpreting, or popularizing archaeological heritage in the territory of their states and beyond.

This declaration is intended to act as the basis for the development of normative legal acts of national legislation and binding international agreements concerning certain areas of archaeological heritage management. This in turn could become a unified methodological basis for the implementation of state control in the field of protection and conservation of

archaeological heritage, in the field of scientific research, in the domain of management of archaeological sites pertaining to the tourism industry, etc.