



## Gelati Monastery WHS, Georgia

### State of Conservation Report

2019

საქართველოს კულტურული  
მემკვიდრეობის დაცვის  
ეროვნული სააგენტო



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR  
CULTURAL HERITAGE  
PRESERVATION OF GEORGIA



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF  
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS  
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

**(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)**

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party (ies)) (Identification number)

**Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710bis)**

**Date of Inscription: 1994**

**Significant modifications to the boundaries: 2017**

**Criteria: (iv)**

1. Executive Summary of the report

*[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]*

The present SoC report describes the works implemented by the State Party in order to ensure the proper protection of the Gelati Monastery WHS, based on the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies.

Considering the outstanding importance of Gelati Monastery WHS, the State each year allocates the funding to ensure the long-term preservation programme of the site. The state funding for conservation of Gelati Monastery has been stable over the last decade and will remain so in the forthcoming years till the completion of the all activities foreseen in the Conservation Master Plan reviewed and approved by the WHC and Advisory Bodies. Along with this, the international fund-raising continues to ensure necessary funds to the site.

The Gelati Monastery Conservation Master Plan updated in 2015 remains the main strategic document for implementing and planning the long-term rehabilitation and conservation of the property. Until today, the conservation projects on the Main Church of the monastery were conducted under the major Programme of the Restoration of Architectural Structure of the Church of the Virgin at Gelati Monastery. Georgian Arts and Culture Centre (GACC) in cooperation with Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts and professional NGO “Georgian Heritage” and under the supervision of the NACHPG implemented the project. The programme runs with financial support of US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and the World Bank funding through the Regional Development Fund of Georgia as well as the State budget. Further, since 2018, the drainage system of the Main church of the complex is being arranged and in 2019, the conservation works of the excavated cellar areas next to the Academy has been conducted, in conformity of the project developed in 2015.

In addition, in 2018 the detailed documentation through 3D scanning process, photo documentation and on-site preliminary assessment of the state of conservation of the wall paintings and mosaics located in the church of the Virgin, church of St. George and the Southwestern Gate, has been elaborated.

Since, 2017, the “Georgian Cultural Heritage Data Management Geo-Informational System and GIS Portal” within the Agreement on Cooperation between the NACHPG and Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage has been officially opened for the public access. The system is a new advanced tool for cultural heritage management. The full documentation about Gelati Monastery WHS, as well as about other WH Properties of Georgia are being systematically uploaded in the GIS.

Since 2019, to ensure the participatory process, the representatives from all the stakeholders, inter alia relevant municipalities and the Georgian Patriarchate, alongside with the field experts are represented in the Cultural Heritage Council of the NACHPG.

Based on the lessons learned as a result of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Service by UNESCO to Georgia 2015-2017 within the World Bank RDPIII, mainly, the experience gained towards the Capacity Building activities for improving the professional abilities of all related local Authorities, mainly in the direction of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the periodic meetings have been launched since 2018 in the region. This platform is also used to provide and share the information about the ongoing and planned activities to harmonise the overall commitment towards the proper conservation of the WH property;

Further, within the Economic Security Project launched by USAID since 2019, the harmonisation of the tourism strategy action plans with the cultural heritage needs to ensure the proper protection of the latter while increasing tourism in Georgia, having the focus on the World Heritage Properties.

Land rights were registered on the private property, on which a small part of the WH property is spread, and has been a subject of a discussion during the years, based on the archival documents on the ownership. The registration was issued only upon the official consent by the relevant stakeholders, inter alia the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia. In order to once again inform about the importance of the place and the procedures for the possible interventions, the NACHPG has held informational meetings with the owners

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

*[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]*

Decision 42 COM 8B.31

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 37 COM 7A.32 adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) which "Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2014, a request for a major boundary modification for the property to allow Gelati Monastery to justify the criterion on its own";*
3. *Approves the significant boundary modification of **Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, Georgia** to exclude Bagrati Cathedral, to become **Gelati Monastery, Georgia**;*
4. *Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:*

***Brief synthesis***

*On the lower southern slopes of the mountains of the Northern Caucasus, Gelati Monastery reflects the 'golden age' of medieval Georgia, a period of political strength and economic growth between the reigns of King David IV 'the Builder' (1089-1125) and Queen Tamar (1184-1213). It was David who, in 1106 began building the monastery near his capital Kutaisi on a wooded hill above the river Tskaltsitela. The main church was completed in 1130 in the reign of his son and successor Demétré. Further churches were added to the monastery throughout the 13th and early 14th centuries. The monastery is richly decorated with mural paintings from the 12th to 17th centuries, as well as a 12th century mosaic in the apse of the main church, depicting the Virgin with Child flanked by archangels. Its high architectural quality, outstanding decoration, size, and clear spatial quality combine to offer a vivid expression of the artistic idiom of the architecture of the Georgian "Golden Age" and its almost completely intact surroundings allow an understanding of the intended fusion between architecture and landscape.*

*Gelati was not simply a monastery: it was also a centre of science and education, and the Academy established there was one of the most important centres of culture in ancient Georgia.*

## ***Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines***

*King David gathered eminent intellectuals to his Academy such as Johannes Petritzi, a Neo-Platonic philosopher best known for his translations of Proclus, and Arsen Ikaltoeli, a learned monk, whose translations of doctrinal and polemical works were compiled into his Dogmatikon, or book of teachings, influenced by Aristotelianism. Gelati also had a scriptorium where monastic scribes copied manuscripts (although its location is not known). Among several books created there, the best known is an amply illuminated 12th century gospel, housed in the National Centre of Manuscripts.*

*As a royal monastery, Gelati possessed extensive lands and was richly endowed with icons, including the well-known gold mounted Icon of the Virgin of Khakhuli (now housed in the Georgian National Museum) and at its peak, it reflected the power and high culture of Eastern Christianity.*

***Criterion (iv):*** *Gelati Monastery is the masterpiece of the architecture of the “Golden Age” of Georgia and the best representative of its architectural style, characterized by the full facing of smoothly hewn large blocks, perfectly balanced proportions, and the exterior decoration of blind arches. The main church of the monastery is one of the most important examples of the cross-in-square architectural type that had a crucial role in the East Christian church architecture from the 7th century onwards. Gelati is one of the largest Medieval Orthodox monasteries, distinguished for its harmony with its natural setting and a well thought-out overall planning concept.*

*The main church of the Gelati Monastery is the only Medieval monument in the larger historic region of Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus that still has well-preserved mosaic decoration, comparable with the best Byzantine mosaics, as well as having the largest ensemble of paintings of the middle Byzantine, late Byzantine, and post-Byzantine periods in Georgia, including more than 40 portraits of kings, queens, and high clerics and the earliest depiction of the seven Ecumenical Councils.*

### ***Integrity***

*The whole monastic precinct is included in the property and contains all the main 12th century buildings as well as those added in the 13th century. All the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value are present and included in the area. No important original feature of the monastery from the 12th and 13th centuries have been lost during the centuries, and its landscape setting remains largely intact. Not all buildings are in a good state of conservation.*

*Some development pressures exist, in the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property but the level of threats is low and the processes are currently under control.*

### ***Authenticity***

*Overall, the architectural forms, spatial arrangement and decoration fully convey their value. For a long period, major parts of the mural paintings were in a bad state of conservation. With the repair of the roofs, the process of degradation has been slowed down and restoration work undertaken although some remain vulnerable.*

*The Academy building which was roofless in 1994 at the time of inscription was re-roofed with reversible material in 2009. The extensive buffer zone allows a full appreciation of the harmony between the enclosed monastery and its natural setting.*

### ***Protection and management requirements***

*Gelati monastery has been a Listed Monument of National Significance since the Soviet period and was listed in the Georgian National Register of Monuments by presidential decree in 2006. The cultural protection area was enlarged beyond Gelati Monastery to encompass the buffer zone in a Decree of the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection in 2014. The buffer zone is protected for its monuments but also for visual attributes. The natural values of the surrounding landscape are regulated by the Forest Code of Georgia, the Law on Soil Protection, the Law on Environmental Protection and the Water law that constitute the legal framework for the management of the forests and the rivers in the area. Applications for new constructions or reconstructions, including the infrastructure and earthworks within the buffer zone require the approval of the Cultural Heritage Protection Council, Section for Cultural Heritage Protected Zones, and the Agency of Urban Heritage.*

*Conservation work is guided by the Conservation Master Plan, produced by the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports of Georgia in collaboration with the Orthodox Church of Georgia. This plan covers conservation of the built structures as well as proposals to support the revival of monastic life that started in the 1990s and the needs of visitors. Adequate resources for long-term conservation programmes need to be sustained. A system of documentation for all conservation and restoration work and tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring of the overall stability of the various monastic buildings need to be put in place.*

*A Memorandum on Collaboration on Cultural Heritage Issues between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has been agreed for all properties of the church. Day to day management of the property is entrusted to the monastic community who live in the property. Longer term interventions are implemented by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. Its local representative agency is the Kutaisi Historical Architectural Museum-Reserve who is also responsible for visitor reception.*

*The Management Plan 2017-2021 reflects contributions of the Church, and relevant government bodies and community groups who were involved in the consultation process. It aims to set out a shared vision for the property. The Plan was developed in harmony with the Conservation Master Plan, with the Imereti Tourism development strategy, and with the 2014 management plan for the Imereti Protected Areas that includes the valley and canyon of the Tskaltsitela River in the buffer zone. It needs approval to become fully operational and enforceable by relevant authorities. A Management Committee for the property remains to be appointed and it is necessary for key roles and responsibilities to be established.*

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

**a) Ensuring adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings:**

Considering the outstanding importance of Gelati Monastery WHS, the State each year allocates the funding to ensure the long-term preservation programme of the site. The state funding for conservation of Gelati Monastery has been stable over the last decade and will remain so in the forthcoming years till the completion of the all activities foreseen in the Conservation Master Plan reviewed and approved by the WHC and Advisory Bodies. Along with this, the international fund-raising continues to ensure necessary funds to the site. The Gelati Monastery Conservation Master Plan remains the main strategic document for implementing and planning the long-term rehabilitation and conservation of the property. In 2015, the Conservation Master Plan was updated in order to meet current and future needs of the monastery complex (reviewed and approved by the WHC and Advisory Bodies).

In 2010-2019 the State Party implemented step by step rehabilitation of the Gelati monastery complex based on the comprehensive studies in cooperation with different international institutions and donors in conformity with the Conservation master Plan, reported through the previous State of Conservation Reports and other correspondence to the WHC and Abs.



- Since 2017, the conservation projects on the Main Church of the monastery were continued under the major Programme of The Restoration of Architectural Structure of the Church of the Virgin at Gelati Monastery. The project is implemented by the Georgian Arts and Culture Centre (GACC) in cooperation with Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts and professional NGO “Georgian Heritage”, under the supervision of the NACHPG.

The programme ran with financial support of US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and the World Bank funding through the Regional Development Fund of Georgia as well as the state budget. The works were conducted in accordance to the strategy elaborated by the conservation and engineering groups in collaboration with international consultancy. The project included the rehabilitation and conservation of the stoned surfaces, including heavily damaged cornices, rehabilitation of roofing using the renewed historical ceramic glazed tiles (see annex 1). The stone conservation part of the project has been methodologically led by international well-known expert-conservator Stefano Volta.

- Furthermore, in 2018-2019, the rehabilitation of roofing using the renewed historical ceramic glazed tiles on the St. George Church has been completed.



*St. George Church, left photo: 2015, right photo: 2019*

- Since 2018, the drainage system of the main church of the complex is being arranged, integrating the remains of the historical drainage, completed by the end of the 2019. During the ground-works large archaeological remains have been found next to the St George Church, which has been scientifically studied (see annex 2).



*Recently excavated archaeological object, next to the St. George church*

- In addition, the “Oil-mill” building, located near the bell-tower, has been restored, including the conservation of the walls and the rehabilitation of the roofing, including the ceramic tiles, in conformity to the Infrastructure and conservation project developed in 2015.



*Rehabilitated Oil-mill on the right*

- Furthermore, in 2019, the Tkibuli municipality, in close coordination with the NACHPG and in conformity to the Infrastructure and conservation project developed in 2015, has launched the rehabilitation of the old pathway connecting the village to the complex from the southwestern side.



*Old pathway, left photo: 2015, right: photo 2019*

- Since September 2019, the rehabilitation of the road and the arrangement of the support wall of the road has been started within the immediate setting of the WHS. While entire project (submitted to the WHC and Abs) proposed the arrangement of the gallery type supporting structure, to integrate the space for exposing the archaeological findings, due to the urgent risk of landslide, the arrangement of the road support wall and repairing of the road, is being implementing at this stage.
- Further, in 2018 the detailed 3D scanning documentation and on-site preliminary assessment of the state of conservation of the wall paintings and mosaics located in the church of the Virgin, church of St. George and the Southwestern Gate, has been elaborated (see annex 3). As a result,



high-resolution model of the paintings and mosaics, preliminary state of conservation assessment report for each piece of the murals has been developed and integrated within the National Cultural Heritage Data Management GIS System.

The above-mentioned activities fully correspond to the recommendations of the Conservation Master Plan and NACHPG closely monitors them to ensure the highest quality of works. The all aforementioned demonstrate the commitment of the State Party towards the long-term conservation of the property.

While no major development projects have been implemented within the buffer zone of Gelati Monastery Property, in 2017, a project for repairing of the downgraded existing visitor's infrastructure of Motsameta Monastery has been developed, which is under the implementation since 2018. The both stages are being funded through the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia within the World Bank loan under the RDP II. The project envisages only the rehabilitation of the existed structures, inter alia: parking, engineering communication systems, visitor center, pathways (See annex 4). All aforementioned activities serve to improve the visitors' safety and accessibility to the Motsameta monastery. Thus, the implementation of the project highly contributes to the improvement of the appearance of the other heritage sites placed in the buffer zone of Gelati Monastery WH Property.

***b) Developing a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work:***

Since, 2017, the “Georgian Cultural Heritage Data Management Geo-Informational System and GIS Portal” within the Agreement on Cooperation between the NACHPG and Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage has been officially opened for the public access. The system allows the improved online communication between the central and regional offices of the NACHPG, as well as between the different State authorities and self-government bodies. GIS System offers to the country a new, structured informational space for management, study and protection of cultural heritage, as well as for sustainability of regional development planning and decision making in respect of cultural heritage values.

The GIS System has been established as an instrument for documentation, planning, administration, monitoring and research of cultural heritage resources; making the data accessible and exchangeable for both management and scientific reasons. The central and regional management bodies of the project are the territorial units (18 units): museum- reserves and central office of the NACHPG, which are responsible for identification, registration, monitoring, expert review and other activities related to cultural heritage management within the relevant territories.

The main actors/users of the GIS System are: State agencies of different levels (from the Governmental bodies to the local Authorities), field agencies, scientific and educational institutions, interested groups/persons, etc.

GIS System allows uploading the wide range of related documentation about heritage properties, such as the monitoring reports, conservation project designs/reports, results of any activities, etc.

The GIS System comprises information on existing CH monuments/sites in the country, their protection zones, murals, stone carvings, as well as movable CH, protected at museums and museum-reserves under NACHPG, and became the instrument for planning, administration, inventory, monitoring and research of CH resources while making the data accessible for wider society and exchangeable with different state, scientific and educational institutions. The system also provides an improved access to the information on the cultural heritage assets of Georgia for public via online GIS portal. (<http://memkvidreoba.gov.ge/>).

To ensure the proper use and accessibility, the training on the use of the GIS System Portal, for the staff of relevant stakeholders, is permanently arranged by the NACHPG, since 2016.

The full documentation about Gelati Monastery, as well as about other WH Properties of Georgia are being systematically uploaded in the GIS. This comprises the projects, reports, drawings, 3d models, inventory cards, protection zones, WH Committee decisions, related legal acts and etc. While the basic information is accessible for wider public, the full documentation is available for the limited access for the management purposes.

*c) Putting in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery:*

In conformity with the recommendations of the ICOMOS evaluation mission (January, 2015) the Georgian Arts and Culture Centre (GACC) within the WB/MDF funding has established the permanent digital monitoring system for the Church of the Virgin that will allow the recording, study and monitoring of the structural stability and the behavior of the sensitive areas of the monument.

*d) Approving and implementing the management structure for the property with clear responsibilities for the various agencies and organisations involved in its management:*

The General responsibilities of different stakeholders, agencies and institutions, regarding the heritage properties are clearly defined by the Georgian Law on Cultural Heritage, therefore, the all possible interventions on the monuments or activities within the protection zones, are subject of the approval by the NACHPG.

#### **Owners:**

Major part of the WH property is owned by the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia; while, a small part of the WH property is spread on the private property, but none of the components of the property is located on this area.

- The owner is responsible on day to day maintenance and the management;
- Any activities/developments are subject of permission by the NACHPG.

**The Municipality of Tkibuli**, where the WH property is located, is responsible to the activities within the Buffer Zone, upon the approval by the NACHPG.

Further, on any intervention/activity to the WH Property should be permitted by **the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia**.

Since 2019, to ensure the participatory process and according to the Order # 02/36 (20/05/2019) of the Director-General of the NACHPG, the representatives from all the stakeholders, inter alia relevant municipalities and the Georgian Patriarchate, alongside with the field experts are represented in the Cultural Heritage Council of the NACHPG.

To strengthen the process, and according to the valuable recommendations provided by ICOMOS in the matter of Mtskheta Historical Monuments WHS, and on the basis of the Governmental Decree # 676 dated by December, 31, 2019, the administrative procedures on the establishment of the “World Heritage Protection Council of Georgia” is ongoing (predicted to complete the process till the end of February 2020), which will be targeted only to the matters related to the Georgian World Heritage Sites and their buffer zones. The Council will be established at the NACHPG and will be represented by the field experts (archaeologists, architects, conservators, art historians, urban planners, etc), as well as by representatives of all related stakeholders: representatives from municipalities, ministries, the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia, ICOMOS Georgia.

Based on the lessons learned as a result of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Service by UNESCO to Georgia 2015-2017 within the World Bank RDPIII, mainly, the experience gained towards the Capacity Building activities for improving the professional abilities of all related local Authorities, mainly in the direction of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the periodic meetings have been launched since 2018 in the region. The main topics of the meetings are targeted to the needs of sustainable urban development to ensure the OUV of the Gelati WHS; This platform is also used to provide and share the information about the ongoing and planned activities to harmonise the overall commitment towards the proper conservation of the WH property;

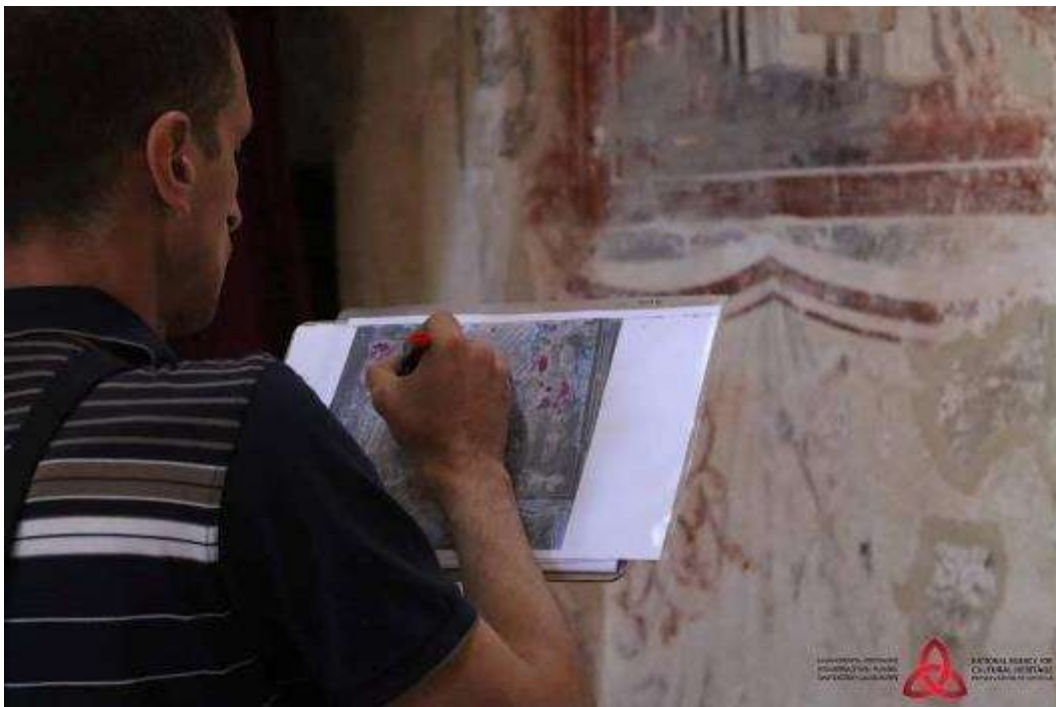


*NACHPG meeting with the local authorities*

In 2018, the special trainings for the local staff of NACHPG of Kutaisi Museum Reserve, as well as for the representatives of the Tkibuli, Tskaltubo, Kutaisi and Terjola municipalities was arranged. The training curricula covered the wide spectrum of guidelines started from the basic legislative acts to the GIS based monitoring and documentary. The trainings also provide some field exercises to strengthen the gained knowledge and experience in practice.







*Traning process*

*e) Setting up a Coordinating Committee for the property with representation from key stakeholders:*

Since 2019, to ensure the participatory process and according to the Order # 02/36 (20/05/2019) of the Director-General of the NACHPG, the representatives from all the stakeholders, inter alia relevant municipalities and the Georgian Patriarchate, alongside with the field experts are represented in the Cultural Heritage Council of the NACHPG.

To strengthen the process, and according to the valuable recommendations provided by ICOMOS in the matter of Mtskheta Historical Monuments WHS, and on the basis of the Governmental Decree # 676 dated by December, 31, 2019, the administrative procedures on the establishment of the “World Heritage Protection Council of Georgia” is ongoing (predicted to complete the process till the end of February 2020), which will be targeted only to the matters related to the Georgian World Heritage Sites and their buffer zones. The Council will be established at the NACHPG and will be represented by the field experts (archaeologists, architects, conservators, art historians, urban planners, etc), as well as by representatives of all related stakeholders: representatives from municipalities, ministries, the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia, ICOMOS Georgia.

*f) Putting in place a mechanism that will allow the Management Plan, or part of it, to have status in planning processes:*

The Gelati Monastery Conservation Master Plan, that represents the important part of the Gelati Monastery Management Plan, remains the main strategic document for implementing and planning the long-term rehabilitation and conservation of the property. In 2015, the Conservation Master Plan was updated in order to meet current and future needs of the monastery complex (reviewed and approved by the WHC and Advisory Bodies).

The monitoring and maintenance program is a part of the NACHPG working agenda and is provided by the local staff of the Kutaisi museum-reserve;

The training platform has been established by the Information Systems Unit of NACHPG and serves for increasing the professional abilities of the related professionals/institutions in management, monitoring, research and documentary.

Within the Economic Security Project launched by USAID since 2019, the harmonisation of the tourism strategy action plans with the cultural heritage needs to ensure the proper protection of the latter while increasing tourism in Georgia, having the focus on the World Heritage Properties. Further, for the basis of the action plan upgrade, the results of the workshop implemented with the support of the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism programme in 2017.

*g) Registering as soon as possible the land rights in order to avoid land disputes:*

Major part of the WH property, based on the Constitutional Agreement signed in 2002 between the State of Georgia and Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia is owned by the Patriarchate of Georgia. While, a small part of the WH property is spread on the private property, but none of the components of the property is located on this area. This particular plot of private land was a subject of a discussion during the years. Based to the archival documents on the ownership, in 2016, the land rights were registered on the private property. The registration was issued only upon the official consent by the relevant stakeholders, inter alia the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia. In order to once again inform about the importance of the place and the procedures for the possible interventions, the NACHPG has held informational meetings with the owners.

*h) Submitting full details of proposals for covering excavated cellar areas next to the Academy, outlining the new visitor access arrangements and location of new domestic quarters for monks, including the archaeological profile of the chosen area, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines:*

- In 2019, the conservation works of the excavated cellar area next to the Academy have been conducted, in conformity of the project developed in 2015. Conservation works have been implemented and the temporary roofing has been finally dismantled. The works included following: injection of the cracks, cleaning of moved/dislocated masonry stones and tiles and putting them on the suitable places using lime-based mortar. Stabilization, strengthening of the broken architrave stone and arched exits and the vault, and the arrangement of the protective layer only on the top of the walls where there is no masonry anymore. The pavements were arranged for the safe access of the visitors (see annex 5).



*Excavated cellar areas next to the Academy*

- The visitor access arrangements are defined in the updated conservation master plan (2015), which has not been arranged yet due to new archaeological findings; it is planned to update it considering the new archaeological circumstances;
- In agreement with the Apostolic Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Georgia it has been decided not to establish any new domestic quarter for monks, but just to continue using the already existing buildings existing within the territory.

*i) Augmenting the monitoring indicators to reflect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;*

Due to the lack of knowledge and experience regarding the augmenting the monitoring indicators, the NACHPG is still seeking for possibilities for the international methodological assistance to develop the instruments for setting the proper monitoring instruments. For this reason, in 2018, NACHPG applied to the Embassy of Italy to Georgia on the possibility to provide the methodology assistance, who has a special programme for assistance Georgia in the fields of culture and heritage; At present, the NACHPG is discussing the possibility to use a EU TAEX instrument for advisory service on the matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, which operates with EU funded assistance programmes for Georgia within the EU Association Agreement.

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2019 a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.
3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value  
*[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]*
4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the

buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

All the development projects within the buffer zone of Gelati Monastery WHS are submitted for reviewing and approval to the NACHPG through the municipal authorities. The NACHPG reviews the projects proposals. In case the projects are considered acceptable, the State Party in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* submits them to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for reviewing prior to any decisions being taken. In 2018-2019, 4 project proposals were assessed by the NACHPG Council and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for further reviewing, prior to the final decision by the State Party.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

*[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].*

The State Party gives its consent to upload the present SoC Report for public access without annexes.

6. Signature of the Authority

**Nikoloz Antidze**  
Director-General



National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia