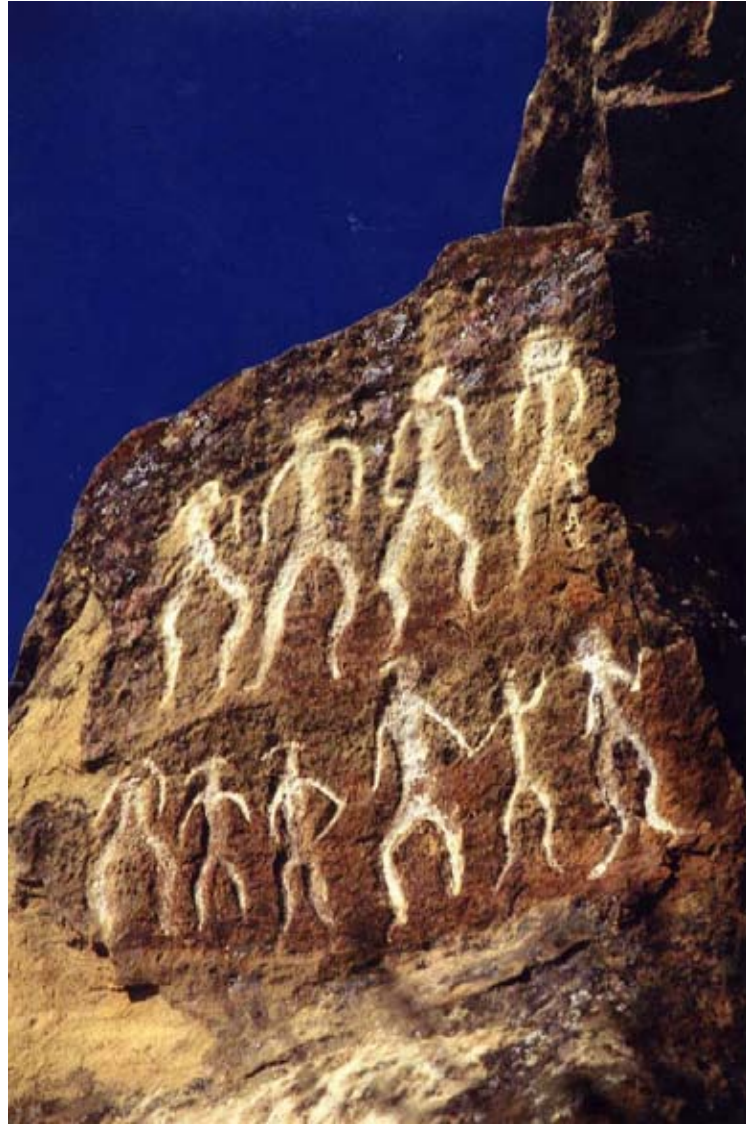


GOBUSTAN ROCK ART CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION DOCUMENT



Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve

**“Azerberpa” - Scientific Research Institute for
the Restoration of Architectural Monuments**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party	Republic of Azerbaijan
State, Province or Region	Absheron district of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Garadagh district of Baku city
Name of Property	Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	N 40° 7' 30" E 49° 22' 30"
Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property	<p>The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is located within the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve.</p> <p>The site consist of serial nominations, which are situated in the proximity of three mountains, namely Jinghirdagh Mountain-Yazylytepe Hill, Boyukdash Mountain and Kichikdash Mountain, as shown in the map attached.</p>
A4 (or "letter") size map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (if present)	The map is attached
Justification Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (text should clarify what is considered to be the outstanding universal value embodied by the nominated property)	<p>The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve is a rich historical cultural landscape that has developed through millennia of human evolution. The reserve, as a protected area, encompasses three rock art sites, where the concentration of rock engravings, associated with the quality of the images and its state of conservation, is absolutely outstanding.</p> <p>The place is a unique outdoors museum and is considered to be one of the first seats of the human civilization.</p> <p>The Gobustan has archaeological traces from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. The history of these ancient rock engravings starts since Upper Palaeolithic. The ancient inhabitants of this region maintained for millennia the tradition of engraving rocks, reflecting the living conditions and world-views.</p> <p>Gobustan is a gate of Europe, a meeting place between Europe and Asia during the course of millennia. As an area of transit, which has preserved the imprints of whoever has passed by it, is a point of great significance for reconstructing the roots of European and Asian civilizations.</p>

<p>Criteria under which property is nominated (itemize criteria) (see Paragraph 77 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>)</p>	<p>Criterion C (ii) Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design</p> <p>Criterion C (iii) Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.</p> <p>Criterion C (vi) Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.</p>
<p>Name and contact information of official local institution/agency</p>	<p>Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>4 Sh.Gurbanov Str. AZ 1009, Baku, Azerbaijan .</p> <p>Tel/Fax: (99412) 492 76 70 E-mail: unesco@mfa.gov.az</p>

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- 8.b** Official local Institution
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- 8.d** Official Web address

9. Signature on behalf of the State Party

ANNEXES

I. Legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments:

1. Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the conservation of historical and cultural monuments. 10 April 1998.
2. Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the implementation of the Law concerning the conservation of historical and cultural monuments. N. 725 of 13 June 1998
3. The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Culture. 6 February 1998
4. The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “About the changes and additions in some legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan” 22.11.2002.
5. Decision of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR about activities for protection of monuments of culture on the territories of mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash and the Yazili hill №1003 25 July 1950.
6. The Decision of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR about the organization of the Gobustan state historical-artistic reserve № 503 9 September 1966, Baku.
7. Decision of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR № 115 6 April of 1970, Baku
8. Decree of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR confirming the internal regulations of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve N. 366 of 29 July 1982.
9. The Order of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan № 30, 04.02.2003

II. Cultural Policy in Azerbaijan. Sections Museums and Heritage.

III. Record of archaeological sites at Gobustan under Decree of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 140 of 2 April 1968 (extracts concerning Baku City, 2 pages)

IV. Record of archaeological sites at Gobustan under Decree of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 145 of 25 April 1988 (full document, 56 pages)

V. Bibliography

VI. Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Map. Scale 1:10.000

NOMINATION FORM

Under the terms of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage called “the World Heritage Committee” shall establish, under the title of “World Heritage List”, a list of properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage which it considers as having outstanding universal value in terms of such criteria it shall have established.

The purpose of this form is to enable States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Committee nominations of properties situated in their territories and suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The form, completed in English, is sent in four copies to:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

1. Identification of the Property

Summary

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is situated in the Garadagh District of Baku City and Absheron District. It lies within the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve and is made of three rock art sites, namely Jinghirdagh mountain-Yazylytepe hill, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain, forming a Serial Nomination. All together the three sites cover an area of 537,22 hectares within a proposed Buffer Zone of 3096.34 hectares, totalling an area of 3633.56 hectares.

1.a Country

1.b Region

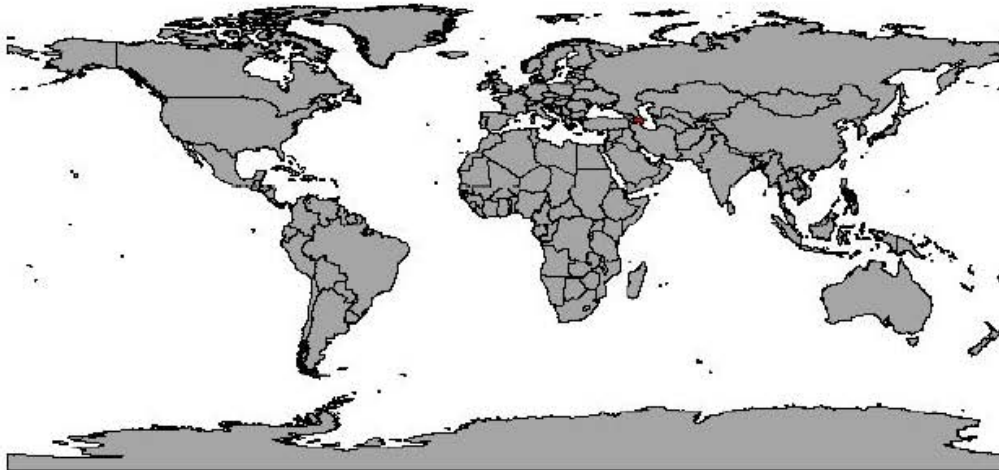
1.c Name of Property

1.d Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

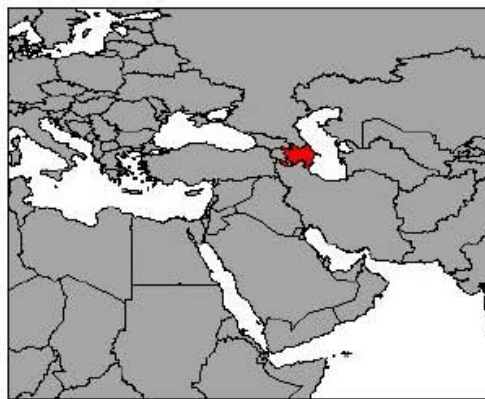
1.e Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

1.f Area of nominated property and proposed buffer zone





The World Map highlighting the Republic of Azerbaijan



The Republic of Azerbaijan
in its geographical context



Map of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1.a) Country

The Republic of Azerbaijan

1.b) Region

Absheron district of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Garadagh district of Baku city

1.c) Name of Property

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape

1.d) Geographical coordinates

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is located within the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve.

The Gobustan Reserve area is situated within the territories of two administrative districts, namely Garadagh district, included in the Baku city administrative territory, and Absheron district.

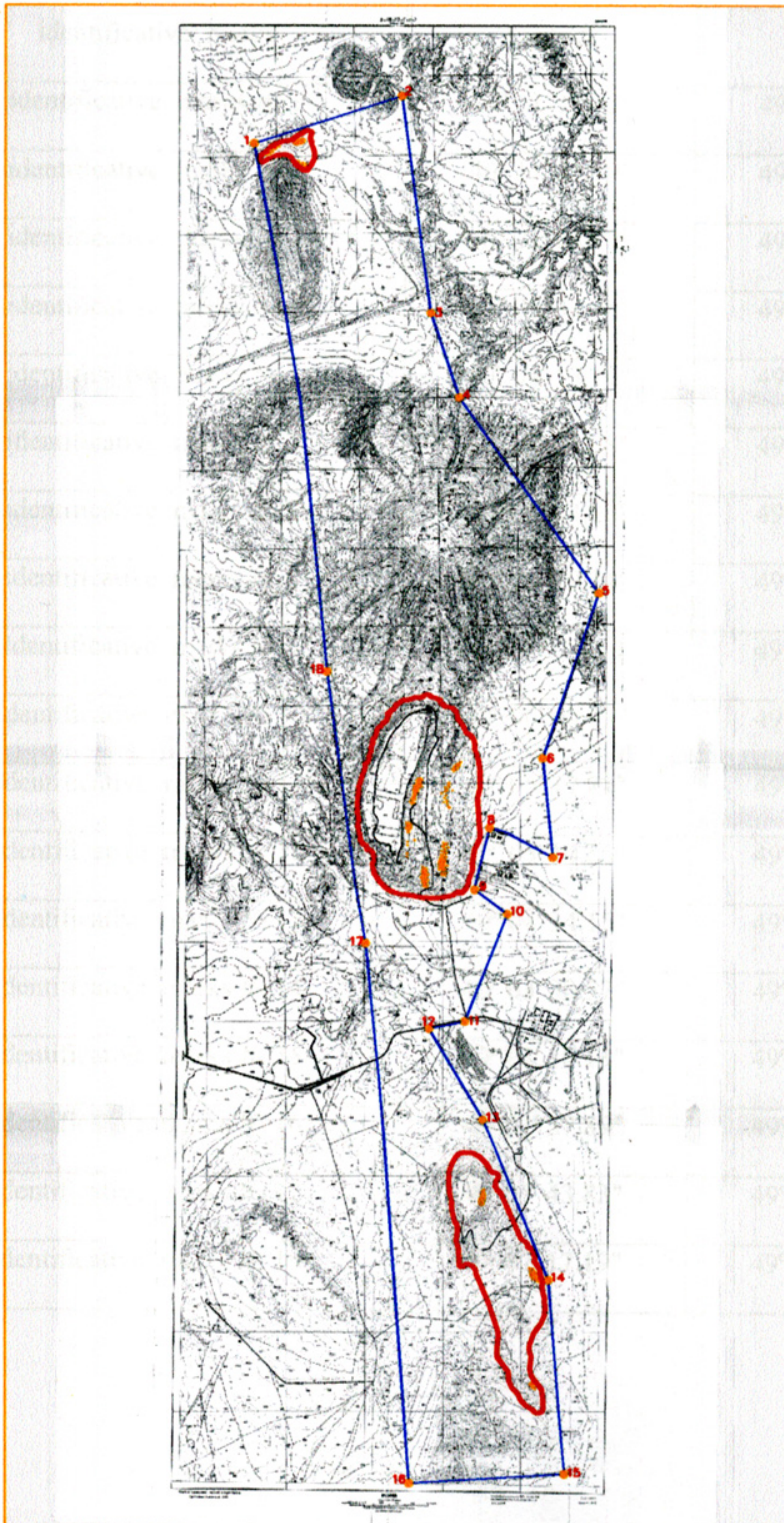
The archaeological areas are mainly composed by rock carvings and other archaeological, historical and cultural sites, which are situated in the proximity of three mountains, namely Jinghirdagh mountain-Yazylytepe hill, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain, as shown in Map 1.e.

Therefore three archaeological areas are identified as a World Heritage Site, forming a *Serial Nomination*.

The geographical location of each site's centre point is respectively:

Geographical coordinates	The approximate centre of nominated site	Jinghindagh mountain-Yazylytepe hill	Boyukdash mountain	Kichikdash mountain
Latitude	40° 7' 30" N	40° 12' 00" N	40° 7' 30" N	40° 3' 45" N
Longitude	49° 22' 30" E	49° 22' 15" E	49° 22' 30" E	49° 23 '00" E

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site Map



- WH Site Area
- WHS Buffer Zone/Gobustan Reserve
- Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Sites

The table of coordinates of identificative marks of Gobustan historical artistic reserve

№	identificative marks	Latitude	Longitude
1	identificative marks № 1	40° 11' 14.43"	49° 21' 21.45"
2	identificative marks № 2	40° 11' 33.79"	49° 22' 40.86"
3	identificative marks № 3	40° 11' 04.77"	49° 22' 55.40"
4	identificative marks № 4	40° 09' 31.78"	49° 23' 11.02"
5	identificative marks № 5	40° 08' 13.11"	49° 24' 25.74"
6	identificative marks № 6	40° 07' 04.78"	49° 23' 58.95"
7	identificative marks № 7	40° 06' 24.99"	49° 24' 05.67"
8	identificative marks № 8	40° 06' 29.34"	49° 23' 53.71"
9	identificative marks № 9	40° 06' 11.030"	49° 23' 23.83"
10	identificative marks № 10	40° 06' 00.63"	49° 23' 41.73"
11	identificative marks № 11	40° 05' 17.71"	49° 23' 19.98"
12	identificative marks № 12	40° 05' 14.26"	49° 22' 59.93"
13	identificative marks № 13	40° 04' 34.15"	49° 23' 31.94"
14	identificative marks № 14	40° 03' 30.57"	49° 24' 07.91"
15	identificative marks № 15	40° 02' 10.13"	49° 24' 18.33"
16	identificative marks № 16	40° 01' 57.89"	49° 23' 15.79"
17	identificative marks № 17	40° 05' 43.83"	49° 22' 29.44"
18	identificative marks № 18	40° 07' 17.19"	49° 22' 10.26"



The map of the Republic of Azerbaijan with indication of the Gobustan reserve.

1.f) Area of nominated property and proposed buffer zone

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve covers an area of 3,633.56 hectares. The total area of the World Heritage Site is 537,22 hectares, as following:

Jinghirdagh mountain – Yazlytepe hill	- 17,09 ha
Boyukdash mountain	- 323,27 ha
Kichikdash mountain	- 196,86 ha

The proposed Buffer Zone covers an area of 3096.34 hectares

The exact calculation of the area of property and its buffer zone has been updated by a Computer Aided Design software on topographic surveys, based on the topographical map in scale 1:10,000.



2. Description

Summary

Gobustan is a small geographical area in the East of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on the Caspian shore, 65 km far from the capital, the city of Baku. Hills and highlands covered with big lumps of stone, with almost no green, Gobustan is an outstanding rock art landscape, where over 6,000 engravings have been discovered and recorded, from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. In 1966, the rock art area, covering approximately 4,000 hectares, was declared a National Conservancy.

2.a Description of Property

2.b History and Development

2.a Description of Property

2.a) Description of Property

Gobustan, which means the “land of dry riverbed”, certainly displays the major concentration of rock art and archeological traces in the whole region. It is located between the south-eastern outcrops of the Greater Caucasus Range and the Caspian Sea, some 60 km south from Baku. The site is made of a rocky landscape, which is a part of the volcanic system of mountains and hills that rise at the eastern edge of the sub-desert plane called Shirvan Steppe, near the Caspian coast. The average attitude above the sea level is between 100 and 200 meters. Pirsaat and Sumgayit rivers border the area respectively on the North and West. These rivers are provided by atmosphere precipitations of the Greater Caucasus and small springs, flow rate of which in summer period considerably decreases. The most water-bearing is river Pirsaat and the most low-bearing river is Jeirankechmez. The last

one, as the river Sumagayit, is getting dry from the end on May till September. The water in Jeiranchekmez river is brackish and not potable.

A peculiar feature of the landscape are three flat-topped hills, named Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Jinghirdagh mountains, covered by large calcareous blocks (Absheron limestone), which were detached from the upper levels when the lower softer levels eroded.

These mountains stand by separate elevations among the mud volcanoes, called by the local population "Pil-pile. These volcanoes periodically erupted in ancient times throwing out million tones of mud and milliards of cubic meters of combustible gases, which blazed up from every spark caused by a collision of flying stones.

The mentioned mountains are situated not far from Caspian, in south-eastern part of Gobustan, approximately 5 and 10 km to the west from Gobustan and Sangachaly railway stations, and represents by itself the sort of flat mountains.

The upper plateau of Boyukdash and Kichikdash mountains is covered by a bed of shell limestone 10-15 meters thick, which is characteristic of the Absheron rocks. The upper plateau of Jingirdagh mountain is also covered by shell limestone but only 1-2 meters thick. In the course of the ages these limestone beds fractured and split into fragments under the action of natural forces, atmospheric precipitation, wind etc, and covered the slopes (predominantly eastern ones) and feet of the mountains dotting them with numerous large and small blocks and piles of limestone. During the same period of time big scarps about 10-15 meters deep occurred round the tops of Boyukdash and Kichikdash mountains. Later the tops of these mountains were used by local inhabitants as natural traps when hunting. Piles of stones looking like huge labyrinths appeared in some areas among the 'sea of rocks' giving the stranger a sensation of mysterious fear.

On the clumpy rocks one can see whimsical Aeolian relief forms, hollow mushroom-like join-tings, some of them with through openings, many of them with even smooth surfaces and lace and honey-comb patterns. They can all be rightfully regarded as classical specimens of geological and natural phenomena of this type.

It was here, in the area of this fantastic destruction of mountains, in the 'sea of rocks', sometimes under the heaps of stones (e.g. in the vicinity of Boyukdash mountain) that some 20 under-rock caves and rock shelters were formed, which could protect people from bad weather. Since time immemorial and up to the beginning of the 20th century the local population used to cover the stone blocks near the caves and the walls of the caves with images of human beings and animals and various signs. They hollowed semispherical bowl-like depressions to collect rain-water and sacrificed blood, and chopped holes to tether domestic animals. Now some of these stones are covered with lichen, greenish-gray, sometimes with large reddish-ochre or silvery white patches, under which vague images are hardly visible in slanting rays of sun.



It is evident that this particular shape of the landscape attracted, since the immemorial time groups of people from different regions, probably in transit between Europe and Asia. This phenomenon is testified by human traces left over the territory, mainly under the form of an outstanding rock art, which covers thousands of stone slabs, engraved with superimposition of different drawings. The reconstruction allowed by the analysis of the chronological sequence of styles and periods entails that different civilizations lived in the same settlements area spanning several millennia, from the Upper Paleolithic to the Middle Ages.

The area of Gobustan has not been fully explored as yet. Ancient rock carvings and other archaeological settlements and monuments were found only in its eastern part, in the sites of Buyukdash, Kichikdash, Jinghirdag-Yazilitepe, Shikhgaya and Shongar. At present, there are more than 1,000 known rock with carvings and the drawings number more than 6,000. as a result of archaeological investigations, a large number of engravings were discovered on 104 small-size stones within the archaeological levels. Pictures found in the same context as archaeological materials are of great importance as provide a more precise chronological determination of the rock art of this region. According to the results obtained from the investigations, we should seek the motivations for the creation of these rock art carvings in the desire to reflect and glorify the material world, the visual environment, the everyday lives, and worldviews of the ancient inhabitants of Gobustan.

Gobustan rock art cultural landscape nomination consists of the following cultural qualities:

- rock art, more than 6000 petroglyphs
- shelters, ancient settlements, burial sites
- sacred sites
- evidence of a very long cultural continuity within many of engraved rock shelters

Rock art

I. Ancient, Early stage – period of High Pleistocene and Early Holocene.

This period, in its turn, divides into 4 styled groups: (according A.Leroi-Gouran, 1965)

I style (approximately 34000 year B.C.): image of the ox's head on the site Gaya-arasi of Kichikdash mountain as well as the images of the ox's head on the separate stones from the sites Okuzlar-2, Kaniza from the upper terrace of Boyukdashand Shongar mountains and supposed woman sign from the low terrace of the Boyukdash mountain.

II style (approximately 19000-15000 year B.C.): The images of the ox with short legs in naturalistic size, inversely bas-relief women images.

III style (approximately 15000-XIII year B.C.): The images of the ox with short legs and stretched bodies, clave-formed signs, as on the upper terrace of Boyukdash mountain

IV style (approximately XIII-VIII year B.C.):

1. Inversely bas-relief images of men-hunters and images of hunters with bows and arrows
2. The images on the some stones discovered from the cultural layer of such settlements as Okuzlar-2 and Kaniza on the upper terrace of Boyukdahs mountain, Gaya-arasi of Kichikdash and Shongar mountains. Here, basically, the images of hunters, women, ox and ships are represented.

The stated materials allow us to come to the next conclusions. In the Upper Pleistocene the main targets of hunting were big animals leading gregarious habits. The hunting was collective, man alone could not hit the animals. On Gobustan rock images the leading place take animals, which were the main source of living: ox, wild horse etc. But in the end of Pleistocene – beginning of Holocene the climate changes took place and accordingly the hunting targets changed too. In that period in rock art the images of modern, Holocene fauna appeared (images of deers, wild boars, birds etc). This period could be dated by means of archeological equipment, discovered from the upper-paleolith cultural layers from Gobustan shelters, such as “Ana-zaga”, “Kazina” on Boyukdash mountain, “Gaya-arasi-1”, “Gaya-arasi-2”, “Firuz-1”, “Firuz-2” on Kichikdash mountain. Some layers of the above-indicated settlements of Kichikdash and Boyukdash mountains, dated by the period of the Upper Paleolithic, kept the petroglyphs on some stones of the same style as the petroglyphs on the walls of the caves. Accordingly, these images on some stones had been made before the cultural layer in which they were discovered. It could happen that the images on the walls were covered by the sea-sand layer, as, for example, on the settlement “Jeyranlar”, 500-600 meters to the North from the settlement “Firuz-1”. Some images were discovered below the sea-sand level, indicating that in one historical period the sea level was below the World ocean level and in other period up to 128 meters above the World Ocean level. Transgressions and regressions of the Caspian Sea also helped to establish the age of some rock images (M.Farajova RASI Congress 2004, the 10th IFRAO, Rock Art Research: Changing Paradigms. Simposium I., Agra 2004, p.18; M.Farajova, 2005, pp. 254-259).

II. Late period – Neolithic stage (about VII-VI year B.C.): The images of the wild ox and koulan hunting (The shelter of hunters on the upper terrace of Boyukdash mountain, stone N 45, realistic images of the domesticated oxes at the same place (stone N 45), petroglyphs with ritual-magic sense (round-dances, the scenes of sacrifice etc., upper terrace of the Boyukdash mountain, stone N 67).

III. Later period – Eneolithic stage (VI-IV year B.C.):

1. Numerous deer and goat images, which are given in real size. There are also the wild boar and domesticated animal images (Jingirdagh mountain, hill of Yazili, stones N 4, 9, 92, 33, 54; Boyukdash mountain, upper terrace - stone N 46, low terrace – stone N 10)
2. Conventionalized people images in hunting and ritual-magic scenes, the upper terrace of Boyukdash mountain, stone N 59.

IV. The Bronze Age (IV-III year B.C.) Rock images of Azerbaijan are divided into 2 groups:

I group: deer images on Kichikdash mountain and goat images on Jingirdagh mountain (Jingirdagh mountain – stones N 13, 33, 36, 63, 54; upper terrace of Boyukdash mountain, stone N 42 (southern side))

II group: animal images in Kelbadjar, on Gemigaya (stone N 21) and in Absheron, goat images with horns, rolled up into circle – polar sign (Gemigaya, stone N 21), carriage images etc.

In this chapter are rated rock images beginning from the second part of II year B.C. and ending by Late Middle Ages (according to I.Jafarzade, 1973). The concerned period is characterized by significant changes in rock art of Gobustan. The images are becoming even sketchier. The new stylistic manner of image drawing is appearing. Among the petroglyphs the new motives, carriage and rider images are appearing. For graphic manner the body dismemberment of animals by numerous geometric figures is characterized, the analogy of which can be met on Mongolian petroglyphs of Bronze Age (E.A.Novgorodova, Moscow, 1984, 9.82, picture 27). The scenes of deer cattle-pen are shown (hill Yazili, stones N 9, 38, 40, 92, 136, upper terrace of Boyukdash mountain stone N 103). To this period also some geometrized images, individual cross-shaped inscriptions or inscribed in circle petroglyphs are relevant. The comparative analysis with similar petroglyphs of Zabaikalya, Lena river (A.P.Okladnikov, V.D.Zaporojskaya, Moscow-Leningrad, 1959, pp. 131, 129), Priamurya (A.I. Mazin, Novosibirsk, 1986, tables 91, 92, 93), as well as discovered archaeological equipment in Gobustan and dome stones with similar images from these cultural layers allow us to date the analyzed images by the Bronze Age.

V. The Iron Age (II-I year B.C.): The scenes of deer pennage (hill Yazili, stones N 9, 38, 40, 92, 136; upper terrace of Boyukdash mountain, stone N 103; Gemigaya stone N 54). The detail of no small importance of this period is the presence of armless anthropomorphic figures. The characteristic feature, which is followed on images, is the sacrifice images (hill Yazili, stones N 24, 25).

VI. The Middle Age and Later (I-XVIII century): The camelade images (lower terrace of Boyukdash mountain, stone N 155), armed with lances riders, signs and tribe signs, inscriptions and images with religious Islamic themes (arch-mehrab on the lower terrace of Boyukdash mountain, Arabian and Persian inscriptions). This period is characterized by appearing of horse hunting scenes in new manner of performance (M.Faradjeva, Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis journal, N 5-6, Baku 2004, [http: www.ab/az](http://www.ab/az), M.Faradjeva, The international scientific conference of UNESCO, Navoi 2004, p.62-65, M.Faradjova, RASI Congress 2004, the 10th IFRAO, Rock Art Research :Changing Paradigms. I.Symposium, Agra-2004, p.18; M.Faradjova, Moscow 2005, pp. 254-259).



Shelters, ancient settlements, burial sites

The most ancient settlements and shelters, dated by the Upper Paleolithic period, are located on the upper terraces of Gobustan mountains. These are shelters “Gaya-arasi”, “Jeyranlar”, “Firuz” on Kichikdash mountain, “Kaniza”, “Ana-zaga”, “Ovchular-2” on Boyukdash mountain. It is linked to the fact that in Upper Paleolit (end of Upper Pleistocene) the level of historical Caspian Sea (geological name is Xvalin) was considerably higher. Gobustan mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash, Jindirdagh were washed by the sea. The above-mentioned sites were discovered approximately on the height of 127 meters above the World Ocean level. From these sites the implements from stones, bones and obsidian were discovered, which have similarities with upper Paleolithic culture of Russia (such as Kokorevo, Afoniova mountain, Kostenki), Malta, Prjemosti (Moravia), as well as with typical audio-points from the western France, with ibero-mauritanian cores from the site Ushtata (Tunis) and with capsian cultures. From these cultural layers the remains of extinct flora and fauna were discovered, that was a very useful material for the reconstruction of geographical environment of ancient epoch.

On these sites Mesolithic, Neolithic and Eneolithic cultural layers were also discovered.

On the lower terraces of Gobustan mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash, Jindirdagh fixed and registered some settlements as “Daire-1”, “Daire-2”, and large quantity of burial mounds, dated by the Bronze Age. From these settlements and burial mounds the skeletons and bones of extinct animals, some stones with petroglyphs, archeological equipment of Bronze Age and antropomorphous stone stella were discovered. More than 15 burial mounds were studied and explored.

It is important to note that the most ancient rock images registered only from the sea side and on the upper terraces of mountains Boyukdash and Kichikdash. As a result of recent archaeological exploring on the territory of Karadagh, Absheron and Gobustan districts the petroglyphs, dated of Middle Age, were discovered.

The conducted researches let to bring closer the Upper Paleolithic culture of Gobustan with well-known Paleolithic properties of Western and Central Europe, but regardless of some features of similarities with European examples, they have their own specific particularities. The rock images of Azerbaijan in different areas also have the specific styled features, typical only for that place. Advancing from Gobustan to the western (Kelbadjari, Gemigaya) and to northern-eastern (Absheron) regions, the images are becoming more sketchy, that indicates to the possibility of succession of art traditions between art of Gobustan and Kelbadjari, Gemigaya, Absheron. The stylistic particularities of Gobustan Paleolithic art allow speak about its local originality.

Sacred sites

The rocky lumps of Gobustan, situated closely to each other, formed the caves, which over thousand years were used for ancient settlers as a living place and religious sanctuary, where ritual and magic ceremonies, ancestor and mountain worship and mountain took place. Till now in the environs of Gobustan the tradition of worship is kept. Apparently, these are kept remains of the ancient form of mountain worship. The materials in the sphere of studying of Azerbaijani rock art, cumulative for the last years, allow make a supposition about the link of rock art with cult of mountains and stones. According to the ancient conception, the mountain cult is the place of humidity accumulation, sacred place and the closest place to the Heavens (M.Faradjova, Baku, 2002, pp.37-43). In Gobustan, Gemigaya in Nakhichevan, Kelbadjari district the ancient painters were leaving their drawings on the high rocks, so they were visible from far away and attracted the attention of people by their sizes and beauties. Esteemed mountains, apparently, in the past considered as ancestral protectors, turned into sacred mountains. That is why, not without reason, the Jindirdagh mountain in Gobustan the local population calls “Jingir-baba”. If we take the more ancient pronunciation of Jingir mountain it would be like “Dengri”. Tengri is ancient Turkic means High Divinity. From Albanian historians we know that “Tangrikhan” was the High Divinity For Huns. Tangri khan had the stoned statue and horses and other animals were sacrificed to him (M.Seidov, Baku, pp. 98, 209-210, 223). The ancient myths and legends which existed in environs of Gobustan mountains (the verbal reports of local population of Big Gobustan, in particular, population of Gobustan settlement), in Ordubad about Gemigaya mountain kept the conception about the link of rock art with mountain cult (M. Faradjova, Baku, 2002, pp. 37-43).

The ensemble of Pirs (sacred place) in Gobustan environs fit in panorama of mountains with their flat alp. On the mountain Kichikdash there is a Pir Gara-atli. The sanctuary is situated in the rock. On the lower terrace of Boyukdash mountain there is a stone with deepening, which was thought to be a footprint of Imam Ali. Not far from this stone, on the rock N 117 the arch-altar is pictured, which reminds the mehrab. The practice of creation of rock images on the stones of Gobustan mountains was connected not only with cult conception of mountains, but also of stones. On the Kichiikdash mountain, not far from Pir Gara-atli, there is a rock with natural deepening. People are coming here to make a “niyat” (to make their wish to come true) to gather the confidence in the coming important events. To make their wish to come true they normally tie up the rags on the rock or branches of the cult hackberry tree (“dag-dagan”, hackberry Caucasian – *Celtis caucasia Wiii*).

In environs of Gobustan near of rocks many remains of sanctuaries were discovered. Close to sanctuaries on the walls of the stone lumps the rock images are recorded. On the most ancient the ox images and solar signs, on the most recent the goat images are given. Near to the small deepenings on the lower terraces of Gobustan mountains the images of goats without head were discovered, that proves the fact of using of these places as a sanctuary.

The Yazili hill, where the big quantity of rock images is concentrated, had a magic and cult meanings for a long time. The documentary evidence in that case is the stone with sacrifice images. Also people in prayerful pose with hands up are illustrated. On many stones heavenly bodies, swastikas, crosses

and other cult and religious signs are given. Mentioned text of Persian inscription of XIII-XIV centuries (stone N 91) gives the evidence of the fact that the hill kept its cult importance even in the Middle Age.

All these facts give the evidence that zone of Gobustan, where the rock images are concentrated, have the cult importance till present time. Many of these Pirs (Sofu Novruz baba, Sofi Gamid, Xuri Giznar) are visited till present time.

2.b) History and Development

Gobustan cultural landscape is one of the richest archaeological sites of the region. After initial discoveries in 1939-40, systematic explorations were conducted by I. M. Djafarsade from 1947 onwards; he registered and analyzed more than 3.500 images and signs on about 750 rocks. This inventory was taken over and expanded by J.Rustamov and F.Muradova, who made new discoveries of engraved rocks with more than 1500 images and carried out archaeological excavations.

The archaeological excavations were conducted by above-mentioned scientists with support of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan. At the present time there are more than 1000 rocks with rock images the number of which exceeds 6000. Besides that, the above-mentioned scientists carried out the archaeological excavations on more than 20 ancient settlements and discovered more than 40 mounds of the Bronze Age period.

All the discovered rocks with images, rock carvings and signs were included in the list of properties taken under state protection in 1966, 1988 and 2001.



On the purpose of ensuring the protection and popularization of rock images, having the historical-artistic and cultural importance and situated on the territory of Gobustan, the territory of Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Djingirdag mountains was declared as the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve by the decree of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR in 1966 (decree is attached, annex N 1.6). For the strengthening of the reserve's activity the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR approved in 1982 the "Regulation of Gobustan Historical-Artistic Reserve" (regulation is attached, annex N 1.8).

From the moment of the creation of the reserve onwards, the researchers of the reserve carry out the researches of the properties on the territory of the reserve. Beginning from 2003 the employees of the reserve have been participating in international training-courses organized with the support of UNESCO in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in the sphere of data creation and petroglyph's conservation. At the present time Gobustan reserve participates in international project CARAD (Central Asia Rock Art Database) with the support of UNESCO. Besides that, on the initiative of the direction of the reserve and with the support of ARAC (Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre) the numeral database of the properties of Gobustan has been created in the MapInfo program, in which the rock images are registered, given the description and physical state of petroglyphs. This database is expanded on a regular basis. In November 2004 the first international seminar on rock art took place on the basis of Gobustan reserve on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and with the support of Moscow office of UNESCO.

Rock images and other relevant to them archaeological sites of Gobustan are the important complex of the ancient culture's properties which at the same time is of interest of number of questions in the sphere of geology, botany and others.

The first settlements on the territory of Gobustan appeared in the period of upper Palaeolithic, on which testify not big in size settlements, situated among the rock gorges and caves on the coast of ancient Caspian Sea. Obviously, they were first settlements following the Great migration way. The arms from stones, flint, obsidian, river pebble, bones, traces of hearts and cultural layers in under-rock shelters are the remains according to which we can witness about the life and household of these ancient inhabitants.

Considering that Caspian Sea at that time was connected with Black Sea, ancient people had more possibilities to make long voyages from different parts of Europe. The boat images on the rocks give an evidence of using of that advantage quite regularly. The most ancient of them are linear ones, counted for 2-4 people and dated by Mesolithic period. At the stern of others are represented the shining sun images. These were quite big boats and according to the images they could contain up to 40 people. This kind of images is popular in the countries of historical Mesopotamia. Such images are represented on the rocks of Egypt and Algerian Sahara and dated by VII-V year B.C. The boat images of Gobustan are dated by more ancient period. They are forerun of the boats, illustrated in other parts of the world.

The undisputable masterpiece of Gobustan rock gallery is the image of woman in full face and profile. In one of the caves only tattooed women (Boyukdash mountain, the upper terrace, the cave "7 Beauties"), in others women images in combination with other objects (Kichikdash mountain, combination of images of women and bull), in thirds – pregnant women are represented (Boyukdash mountain, the upper terrace, stone N 46 the east side, stone N 49). The tattooed woman is the widespread subject in Gobustan. These images have some resemblance with stone statues discovered in upper Palaeolithic cultural layer of kaniza in Gobustan.

The archaeological inventory discovered in settlements and shelters of Gobustan are the important materials for resolution of some problems concerning the date of rock carvings. The inventory

consists of trapezium, segments, scrapers, piercing, prismatic and cylindrical nucleuses, knife-edge and cutter plates. On these levels some stones with the images of animals, women, men-hunters and ships were discovered. The analogical petroglyphs can be met on the upper terrace of the Boyukdash mountain and on the Kichikdash mountain. From these cultural layers the decorations from the sea shell *Didachna and Cauri* were also discovered.

During the appearance of the first settlements on the territory of Gobustan these places had had completely different geographical landscape.

During the Quaternary on the territory of Azerbaijan the radical changes of the earth relief took place, which was the consequence of the active tectonic (H.A.Aliyev, H.A.Budagov, Baku 1973, p.45) and volcanic activity (A.T.Zaroostrovstev, Baku 1966, pp. 150-152; K.K.Gul, Caspian Sea, 1956, p. 28). In the upper Pleistocene in Gobustan the mountain-formation process was occurring. Due to different geological occurrences, the oscillation of the world ocean's level was happening, which in its turn was changing the outlines of land and seas. At that period the present Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Djinghirdagh mountains were washing by desalinated Khvalin Sea (H.A.Aliyev, H.A.Budagov, Baku 1973, pp. 32-37) with *Didacna* (D.N.Rustamov, Baku 1966, pp. 3-5). In the upper Pleistocene the last big transgression in the area of the Caspian pit occurred and the Khvalin Sea was formed.

The next not big sea transgressions happened in Holocene, not going outside from the modern frontiers. The last Caspian transgression dated approximately of 1000 B.C. (S.A.Kovalevsky, N 2, Baku 1933, pp. 1-129). According to the results of the modern Caucasian flora's analysis (Grossgeym, 1948) the number of hot inter-glacial periods should be accepted. The rock images of the hunters in loincloth confirm the version of Grossgeym.

In the place, where today extends the burned by sun semi-desert, during the period of the initial settlement of Gobustan the drought-resistant sparse growth of trees with pistachio, hawthorn, *Pirus Salisifolia*, *Juniper* and *Punica Granatum* was extended. The natural conditions in the upper Pleistocene with damper climate were very close to the forests of the tugai type (gallery forests). The analysis of the fossilized pollen samples, taken from the remains of the hearts in the cave Ana-zaga of the Boyukdash mountain of Gobustan, showed that here grew pines and oaks (J.Rustamov, 1992). All of that suppose the presence of the areas with pine-oaken forests in the close environs of Gobustan and on the coast of Caspian Sea. That confirms growing of the pines till present times on Kichikdash mountain close to Gara-Atli Pir (sacred place).

Pirus salisifolia, *prunus microcarpa*, *punica granatum*, *lonicera Vitis conf.silvestris* discovered in 10 km to the north from Baku binagadian kir-bitum deposits till the recent times were growing in Gobustan.

The tree and shrubbery species grow in crevices and among the piles of boulders, stones and rocks. Juniper, willow pear, wild rose, dwarfish cherry, Iberian honeysuckle, stone tree, wild fig, pomegranate and grape can be met.

The presence of the mentioned species, including relic ones, confirms that thousands years ago the climate of Gobustan was more damp, the atmosphere precipitations fell in enough quantity, the rivers and springs were abounding in water.

In the Upper Pleistocene, on the basis of the discoveries of the remains of tree vegetation on the Apsheron, the savanna landscape was developed. Discovered in Binagadi the thick piece of *Vitis conf.silvestris* supposes the presence of the above-indicated tugai forests. The fact of the increasing of the humidity at that period confirms the sources of the big enough freshwater stream entering into the sea (V.A.Petrov, v.3, 1939, pp.100-107). This supposition corresponds with the fact that during

the Quaternary the transgression frontiers of desalinated Khvalin Sea reached the Mingecheur reservoir (now situated 300 km to the west from Baku).

The precipitations of the sea with semi-freshwater fauna of molluscs were discovered even under Ural and Kazan (N.K.Vereshagin, Leningrad, 1959 p.80). In the upper Pleistocene on the slopes of Gobustan foothills the grass vegetation was dominated (I.M.Gromov, 1952, p.341), which we can see at present times in some places with increased humidity in Gobustan. However, many deer rock images show the existence of the well-developed tugai forests, most probably later destroyed by people. On the basis of the tree vegetation's remains in Upper Pleistocene in the foothills, the savanna landscape was developed, but formed differently from African savannas. There north savannas represented the light forests, formed by trees with winter fall of leaves (V.A.Petrov, v.6, 1939, pp. 100-107).

That was the general picture of the Upper Pleistocene landscape-geographical flora of Gobustan, which is in our opinion corresponds more to those few facts which are known from the Binagadian Pleistocene. The general desertion of open landscapes because of glacier recession affected the degradation of the north savanna, development of semi-steppes and semi-desert plants on its place and strengthening the processes of alkalinization (M.Faradjova, Baku 2003, pp.292-294).

The analysis of paleofaunistic materials (Binagadi, Kir-Maku, Gobustan) and animals rock images give some information about the past climate. The wild fauna clearly divides into two groups. To the first refer the specimen of tugai and bush thickets (*Gervus elaphus*, *S.scrofa* L.). The second group represent the specimen of open steppe and desert landscapes and foothills (*Bos primigenius* Boj, *Equus hemionus*; *Equus hidruntinus* Ros, *O.ammon*; *O.orientalis* Gmelin, *Gazella subgutturosa* Guld.). Faunistic remains of these specimens are characteristic not only to settlements of internal districts, but also to the properties of ancient pre-Caspian terrace. According to the definitions of researches the bones of animals from Gobustan settlements and burials belong to *Bos primigenius* Boj, *Gazella subgutturosa* Guld, sheep, goat and bird. The majority of them are the extinct species for this territory - ox, koulan, goat, steppe sheep. During the archaeological excavations the jaw of jeopardy was discovered. In the area of Big Gobustan there were already extinct *Bos Primigenius* Boj, *Gazella Subgutturosa*, *Equus hemonionus* Pall, *Carpa aegagrus* Erlx., *Gervus elaphus maral*, *S.apsheronicus* Burtsch and *Dzhaf*, jeopards and lions. The biggest gathering of ox and scene of ox hunting rock images are on the Boyukdash and Kichikdash mountains of Gobustan. On the territory of Azerbaijan the contour and linear images already domesticated ox could be also met on the more late rock images of Gobustan, Apsheron, Gemigaya mountain, Kelbadjar.

The animal world of Gobustan has become very poor lately. Before construction of railway station Baku-Tbilisi in 80th of XIX century and even a bit later there were herds of *Gazella subgutturosa* Guld and mountain goats. The area was the favourite hunting place for the local elite. With the construction of the mentioned railway line and wide distribution of fire-arms in the life of local population the number of *Gazella subgutturosa* Guld and mountain goats became to decrease quickly. With the aim of protection of the a little number of *Gazella subgutturosa* Guld and other animals and birds the hunting on them was prohibited by the decree of the Government of Azerbaijan.

There are also *Vulpes vulpes* L , *Canis Lupus* L., jackals, *Lepus eropeus* L. etc; and among the wild fowl – jungle fowls, turtledoves, larks etc.



Hydro-climatic description

The main climate-forming factors of Gobustan are the atmosphere circulation and physical-geographical peculiarities of adjacent regions, in particular, the main Caucasian range, which is a natural obstacle for cold air masses interfering into the area from the north. The close location of the Caspian sea creates an increased humidity and softens winter colds.

According to the climate classifications, the climate of the above-mentioned region belongs to the type of semi-desert and dry steppe, which is characterized by weak humidity, warm winter and dry hot summer.

The winter period is warm. As it rarely snows (but snow doesn't remain), there are snowstorms only once a year in average. The spring temperature rises in March. The spring period is unstable and is characterized by frequent returns of cold. The summer is hot, autumn is warmer than spring with a difference of $3/4$ °C.

According to the quantity of precipitation the region belongs to dry and a little moistened regions. Annual quantity of precipitation is 188 mm in average. According to the character of fall there often downpours till 1 mm for 24 hours.

As the rocks of Gobustan are permeable and there are no constant running waters during fall of abundant rains, the precipitation wash away and transfer products of thermal and wind erosion and it promotes quick partition of the relief.

Humidity of air in the territory of the reserve is high, it is 70 % per a year in average. Vaporization in a certain degree is characterized by humidity of the area. The precipitation in the area is very meager and it increases in the cold semester.

The wind in the area of Gobustan reserve is typical. In summer months sea breezes blow here. The northern and north-eastern winds are prevailing. The speed of winds is 6,0 m/s. The maximum wind speed is 20 m/s.

The average yearly size of atmospheric pressure is 1010,6 mb. The average yearly cloud is 5,4 marks.

A muddy-hill relief is developed in the area of the reserve, where mud volcanoes are of a great significance. Mud volcanoes can be huge and high, like the Turagay (407 m. on the sea level), but also small as the group of mud volcanoes on the south of the reserve. These volcanoes, being one of the most interesting attractions of the area, are very visited by tourists.

In the north-east the reserve borders on the ravine of the river Jeyrankechmez.

Mainly the upper, middle and *post Pleocene* sediments take part in geological formation of Gobustan. Alluvial-demovial and salty formations which collapse very easily are widely developed here.

Soils and vegetations

Soils of Gobustan are brown and grey-brown, sometimes light-chestnut, sparse and more or less salty.

The vegetation of Gobustan is of desert and semi-desert type. It consists of ephemeral herbs and shrubbery of perennial salt marsh and wormwood. Mainly, herbs get green in October-November and in early spring.

At the beginning of heat they are completely scorched. Only a salt marsh and wormwood vegetation survive here. At the beginning of summer Gobustan already looks like a desert. However, wood-shrubbery species grow here between the rocks where humidity survived. These are juniper, willow, pear, wild rose, dwarfish cherry, Iberian honeysuckle, stone tree, wild fig, pomegranate and grape.

Fauna

Gobustan reserve occupies a specific place in faunal variety of desert (semi-desert) ecosystems. Desert and semi-desert spaces of the seaside zone are characterized by great variety of land mollusks and insects including relict ones, Frogs and toads of different species are present.

Inside of the territory live a large number of reptiles, total 24 species and subspecies, among them are remarkable lizards, snakes (including the poisoned) and tortoises. Mammals are presented by various species of insectivorous, cheiroptera, rodents, predators.

Ornitofauna (including territories beyond the coastal zone) is presented by hundreds of species and subspecies of settled, flight-nesting, wintering, flight and bird of passage, more 65 % of which are waterfowl and near-water groups.



3. Justification for Inscription

Summary

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, which embodies Eurasian human history from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages, is a site of great significance for reconstructing the roots of civilizations in the European and Asian geo-cultural context. Its authenticity, associated to the integrity of the site, the uniqueness of the different sequences of its rock art and the comparison carried out with other similar properties, justifies the nomination for inclusion in the World Heritage List, following criteria C (ii), C (iii) and C (vi) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

3.a Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

3.b Proposed statement of outstanding universal value

3.c Comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)

3.d Integrity / Authenticity

3.a) Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

The Gobustan reservation site is proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List as an **associative cultural landscape** (according to paragraph 39 (iii) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention).

The site displays today its significant distinguishing features in its present material form such as rock

engravings and other archaeological sites by associating its religious, artistic and cultural values with the natural element.

The archaeological findings testify the initial, social, economic and spiritual aspects of civilizations over a span of millennia.

The nomination is based on the following criteria:

Criterion C (ii)

Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design

The site exhibit the interchange of human values over a span of millennia, precisely from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages, by displaying an outstanding range of rock engravings as well as other archaeological finds.

1. The excavations have shown that Gobustan was the place of residence for people for more than 10,000 years. The rock carvings are the witnesses of long historical period (Anati E., with J. Rustamov, F. Muradova, M. Farajova contributions, *Gobustan Azerbaijan*, Capo di Ponte, 2001. p.9.)

Criterion C (iii)

Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

The site embodies an exceptional testimony of the civilizations which have lived in the area since 40,000 years. Their cultural traditions are remarkably represented by engraving the rocks of Gobustan.

The rock art sequence of Gobustan is exceptional not only for its length but also because it is a testimony of human adventure, it is a source of history covering millennia which reflects the intellectual life of different populations (E.Anati. p.83.)

Criterion C (vi)

Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

The Gobustan rock art is directly and tangibly associated with the events, living traditions, ideas and beliefs of the populations which have lived in the area for more than 10,000 years.

The ancient sanctuaries indicate that Gobustan was an important place of worship. The mountains, which in the past protected clans and tribes, acquired the status of holy places. Even today, during wedding ceremonies, local people ascent the Boyukdash Mountain for worship. (E. Anati, *ibidem.*, p. 13)

Gobustan emerges as a key area for the research of artistic expressions in Asia and Europe displaying a wealth of elements from both. (E. Anati, *ibidem.*, p. 37)

At the same time Gobustan rock art illustrates the curiosity and ability of mankind to discover new areas and reflects a unique human characteristic: the necessity to record and memorise. (E. Anati, *ibidem.*, p. 85)

Three horizons are characterising the Gobustan area: the first one concerns the earliest known parietal images of “primordial mothers”, horizons II and III represent the conceptual elaboration of hunting societies seeking a harmony and synergy with the spirits of their prey. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p. 83)

3.b) Proposed statement of outstanding universal value

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve is a rich historical cultural landscape that has developed through millennia of human evolution. The reserve, as a protected area, encompasses three rock art sites, where the concentration of rock engravings, associated with the quality of the images and its state of conservation, is absolutely outstanding.

The place is a unique outdoors museum and is considered to be one of the first seats of the human civilization.

The Gobustan has archaeological traces from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. The history of these ancient rock engravings starts since Upper Palaeolithic. The ancient inhabitants of this region maintained for millennia the tradition of engraving rocks, reflecting the living conditions and world-views. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p.7)

Gobustan is a gate of Europe, a meeting place between Europe and Asia during the course of millennia. As an area of transit, which has preserved the imprints of whoever has passed by it, is a point of great significance for reconstructing the roots of European and Asian civilizations. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p.85)

Despite the abundance of comparative elements one of the curious aspects of the sequence of the Gobustan rock art is in its uniqueness. (E.Anati, *ibidem.*, p.37)

3.c) Comparative analysis

It is possible to make the comparisons of Gobustan with other rock shelter art sites around the world. Rock shelter art sites are not arbitrary – they rely on certain geo-cultural features and are quite distinct from ‘open air’ rock art on boulders and rock faces. In Azerbaijan sites extend from the west to the south-eastward, including Middle Caucasian mountain ridge in Nakhichevan. The other regions of the location of the rock carving art are: 1. not far from Baku on Absgeron peninsular; 2.in the west, in Kelbadjar region at the feet of Delidag mountain; 3. in the south-west, in Nakhchivan, 60 kms far from the city Ordubad, on the highest peak of the Small Caucasus-Gapijik. They are not comparable with Gobustan in terms of density of petroglyphs, cultural continuity, variety and preservation of images and environmental values.

It would be logical to compare patterns of Gobustan rock petroglyphs sites with those of other significant regions of shell rock shelter art such as Pindal, Niaux and Magdalenians Caves (Western Europe).

In some cases comparisons in the technique of petroglyphs performance can be found. Resemblance of some Azzerbaijani petroglyphs with well-studied ancient properties of Europe in terms of

technique and style attracts particular interest. The amazing resemblance have Gobustan oxen with rock images de Foz-Coa Valley (Portugal) and bone engravings from Laugerie – Basse (France). Gobustan images of tattooed women to some extent reflect some resemblance with Paleolithic Venus from Mezin, Pindal, Niaux and Magdalenians Caves and archaeological materials of Kostenki, village of Malta near to Irkutsk, Telman (Russia, Sibir), early Gatsian (location of Gafs, North Africa), Kokorev (on the coast of the Enisey river), Pavlov, Afontov (Afontov mounatin) in Sibir, Dolni Vestonitse (Moravia) cultures.

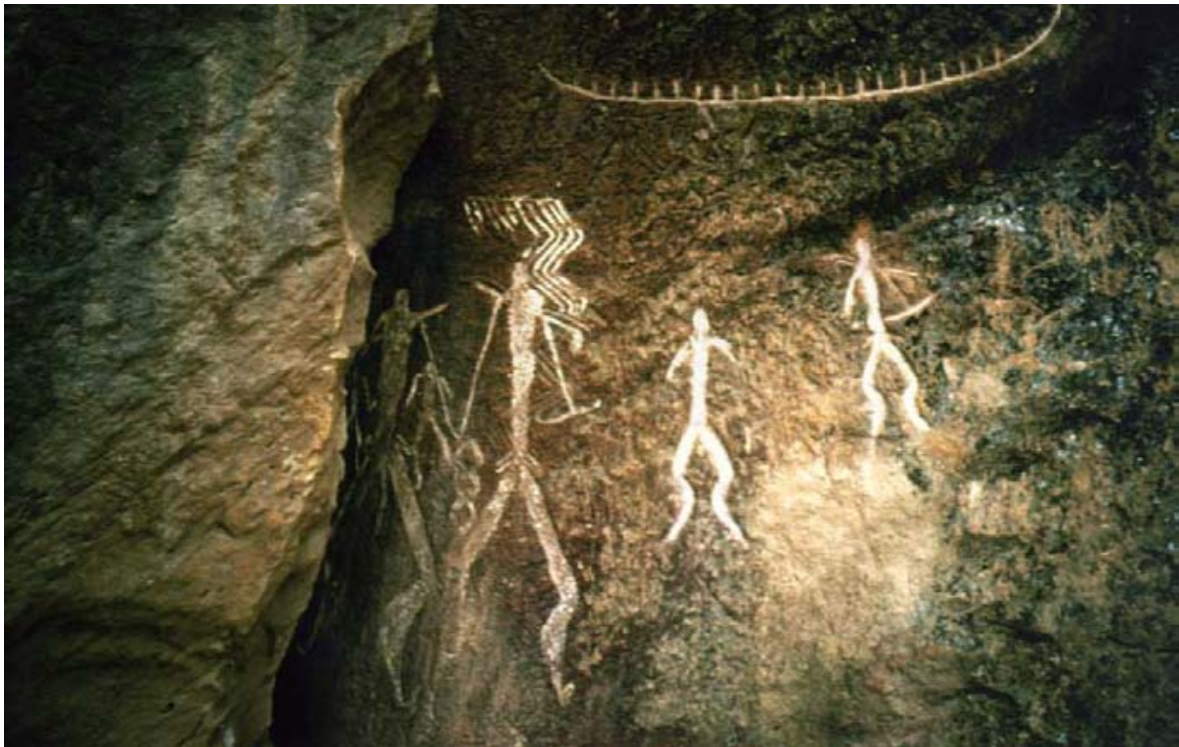
Some of the phases of the Early Hunters, which include animal figures of large size, display stylistic analogies to Western Europe parallels. Paradoxically, Gobustan rock art shows similarities with iconographic complexes attributed to the Solutrean culture.

It is unquestionable that Gobustan area contains a major corpus of rock art, which, like other bodies of shell rock art, survives in various stages of preservation. Although empirical data on site densities in major rock art regions is sparse, it is clear that the stated density of distribution (20 shelters in an area of 4 400 hectares) is comparable with other significant regions of shell rock art such as Pindal, Niaux and Magdalenians Caves, the Cosquer Cave near the Marseille, Prehistoric Rock Art Sites in Coa Valley.

Although many rock shelters are rich cultural repositories, it is unusual for them to preserve sequences as lengthy as the Gobustan shelters in combination with rock art. Though there are a number of World Heritage listed prehistoric sites, those suitable for comparison have remarkable evidence of human evolution and a long cultural sequence, but lacks the element of parietal art. There are more 20 properties with rock art features inscribed on the World Heritage List but they are very diverse.

During the Bronze and Iron Ages the rock art acquires features which are familiar to the cultures around the Black Sea and, especially, to the Kurgan culture. In this regard the big interest from the research point of view represents the comparative analysis of kurgans of Bronze Age of western and (on examples of Gobustan) and eastern coast of the Caspian Sea. In some regard these kurgans on funeral ceremonies, orientation, availability of ochre and partly on ceramics have some similarities. The kurgans on both regions are represented in the form of stony mound and stony ring, containing ground pit and stony box. The dead are buried in writhe, with the head mainly to east or north-east. The ceramics, discovered on the sites of eastern coast of Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan is without ornamental pattern or with poor geometrical ornamental pattern. In Gobustan burials of Bronze Age are discovered the implements to some extent analogical to those discovered on the sites of eastern coast of Caspian. A specific comparative analysis between Gobustan Reserve Rock Art sites and Spanish Levante rock art has been carried out by Dr. G. Burger (University of Tubingen, Germany, 1999).

Although other World Heritage properties also have rock art of very substantial antiquity, it appears that few have confirmed *cultural contexts*, which compare in antiquity or continuity, with those nominated at Gobustan.



The horizons of Early Hunters are concentrated in Gobustan: this indicates its fundamental role as a transit area along the great migration routes of Eurasia.

Considering that fact, the researches of the last years allow to bring closer Gobustan with well-known Palaeolithic properties of Western and Central Europe, but in spite of some features of similarities with European patterns, they have their specific peculiarities. The rock images of Azerbaijan in different areas also have the specific styled features, typical only for that place. Advancing from Gobustan to the western (Kelbadjari, Gemigaya) and to northern-eastern (Absheron) regions, the images are becoming sketchier, that indicates to the possibility of succession of art traditions between art of Gobustan and Kelbadjari, Gemigaya, Absheron.

The images, which were revealed in 1970s in the area “Agdash duzu” (means “Whitestone plain”) close to the popular areas Merdakan-Shuvelan, are especially interesting among the rock images of Azerbaijan. The quantity of the blocks with the images of the scenes of hunting, separate cult rituals, humans and different animals reaches 100. Themes and style of these images are different. There are the compositions carved like the bas-reliefs. There are more than 200 carvings on the numerous Apsheron’s limestone blocks. In 1968 Nakhichevan’s archeological expedition of the Institute of Academy of Science of Azerbaijan led by archaeologist V.Aliyev conducted a research in the mountain zone, 60 kms far from the city Ordubad (Nakhichevan) to the north, on the mountain. Gemigaya, translation of which is “mountain ship”, is a mythical name of the highest peak of Small Caucasus – Gapijik, consists of tufa. The peak of the mountain was demolished in the tertiary period. Big blocks scattered all over the south and south-western slopes and during the next millenniums their surface polished by the landslides and glaciers and got an unruffled glitter.

Thousands of items of petrography (120 stones with carvings were registered) reflecting the glance of human of Neolithic, Eneolithic, Bronze and Iron ages to the world surrounding him, were revealed on these rocks. The petrography items are dated by VII-I millenniums B.C. The human, goats, oxen,

ibices, deers and other animal images, as well as different written signs were carved on the rocks of Gemigaya.

In 1967 the rock carvings were revealed on the feet of the mountain zone “Delidag”, on Kelbajar region of Azerbaijan. Numerous carvings were revealed in the hollow “Alagel”, which is 3000 meters high above sea level. A big quantity of them is situated in the high-mountain pastures in the zone of Alpine grasslands, in the places of the congestion of the black basaltic blocks. The congestion of the rock carvings was registered mainly at the coasts of the high-mountain lakes, a part of which is taken up by the craters of the extinct volcanoes. The area around such lakes is rich in the deposits of the flints, shales, soft porous tufa, granite etc. The scenes of hunting, cultivation, the images of deers, realistic performance of the leopards were carved on the rocks of Kelbajar regions. There are about 4000 rock images in that region, which are dated by the Bronze Age (III-II millenniums B.C.).

The stylistic particularities of Gobustan Paleolithic art allow speak about its local originality. It should be noted that images of Paleolithic art are localized only in south-eastern part of Azerbaijan – in Gobustan. In any other place of Azerbaijan and Caucasus, in whole, the rock images of Upper Paleolithic are not discovered.

In conclusion it should be pointed out that the comparative analysis with other similar properties highlights the extraordinary value of Gobustan rock art and its uniqueness in its geo-cultural context.

3.d) Integrity/Authenticity

The authenticity of the Gobustan cultural heritage is proven by scientific research and archaeological excavations.

After initial discoveries in 1939-40, systematic explorations were conducted by I. M. Djafarsade from 1947 onwards; he registered and analysed more than 3.500 images and signs on about 750 rocks. This inventory was taken over and expanded by D. Rustamov, who made new discoveries of engraved rocks and carried out archaeological excavations in some caves. In one of this caves he founds layers of human habitation in an outstanding stratigraphy of over two meters in depth, extending back from recent times, through the Bronze Age and Neolithic, to Mesolithic layers, characterised by bladelets and geometric microliths, likely to date back some 10.000 years. Within this layers were several engraved rock fragments: one of these, depicting large anthropomorphic figures, had apparently fallen from the adjacent wall. This stone, found in Mesolithic level, constitutes a *terminus ante quem*, because if the fragment fell to this level, it would have been decorated before the formation of the layer in which it was found.

The tracings made by Djafarsade are schematic and were mostly obtained by tracing photographs. They show only the main and most evident figures, but they provide an excellent overview of the themes and styles of Gobustan rock art.

The rock art of Gobustan does indeed appear as an “historical archive” with numerous figurative styles overlapping each other in a succession of periods and phases. Djafarsade’s proposed chronological succession was intuitive, his hypothesised succession of styles and themes being confirmed, to a large extent, by modern recording systems and technical analyses.

The three main concentrations of rock art, in Buyukdash, Kichikdash and Jinghirdag-Yazilitepe, reflect similar topographic characteristics. (E. Anati, *ibidem.*, p. 21)

Nowadays, the three sites present a low degree of alteration, due to the isolation of Gobustan and to the protective measures put in place since the Seventies: therefore, their degree of integrity is quite remarkable. At any rate, differences can be noted between Boyukdash mountain, which is, to date, the richest site in terms of rock art, and the other two areas, because of the accessibility to Boyukdash, served by a road and therefore more visited.



4. State of conservation and factors affecting the property

Summary

The nominated site is protected from external development pressures by its legal status. Internal pressures are limited since there are no inhabitants within the site and its proposed buffer zone. The lack of knowledge about cultural heritage values can cause threats to the integrity of the area.

4a Present state of conservation

4b Factors affecting the property

- (vi) Development pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
- (vii) Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification)
- (viii) Natural disasters and risk preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
- (ix) Visitor/tourism pressures
- (x) Number of inhabitants within the property and buffer zone

4.a) Present state of conservation

Regular monitoring is held for the determination of the state of the rock images and landscape. It is necessary to note that beginning from the second half of 2003 till nowadays the job for the determining the physical state of rock pictures and rocks themselves, on which these pictures are graved is held.

187 rocks, containing more than 1200 pictures are studied in details and a database with them was created.

4.b) Factors affecting the property

The nominated site is protected from external development pressures by its legal status. Internal pressures are limited since there are no inhabitants within the site and its proposed buffer zone.

i) Development pressures

There are no remarkable external manmade pressures recorded in the area, due to the fact that there are no inhabitants living within the boundary of the Reserve. Some industrial settlements are surrounding the area, but there is no risk, to date, for the integrity of the site. The stone quarries on the top of Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain have been closed in the early Seventies.

A new oil pipeline is foreseen to cut the North-Eastern edge of the Reservation, in the proposed Buffer zone, with a low environmental impact on the area and no impact on the recorded archaeological sites.

ii) Environmental pressures

The environmental pressures are limited to a series of factors, which affect the property slightly.

The climate change, associated with the air pollution, is accelerating the natural rain and wind erosion of the rocks in which the drawings are engraved.

A solid waste dump next to the jail, created before the establishment of the reservation, poses the problem of the reclamation of the area.

iii) Natural disasters and risk preparedness

Concerning natural disasters and preparedness, there is only one threat within the area, the Volcano of Canzia; the volcano, which lies within the buffer zone, is still active: the latest eruption has been recorded in 1998. It is necessary to note that there are no rocks with images in the slit-covered zone in the result of the convulsion. The nearest scale pictures are situated 600-700 meters from the zone of convulsion.

The environmental pressures are limited to a series of factors, which affect the property slightly.

The climate change, associated with the air pollution, is accelerating the natural rain and wind erosion of the rocks in which the drawings are engraved.

A solid waste dump next to the jail, created before the establishment of the reservation, poses the problem of the reclamation of the area.

iv) Visitor/tourism pressures

The phenomenon of tourism is not representing a pressure for the site. There is a number which varies from 2002 to 7260 visitors per year (estimation carried out during the period 1998-2005). Tourists are normally accompanied by the tour guides during the excursion to the site, in order to monitor the impact of the visitors on the area. During spring the visits organized by schools pose the problem of graffiti on the rock carvings.

v) Number of inhabitants within the property and the buffer zone

There are no inhabitants living within the property and its proposed buffer zone.



5. Protection and Management of the property

Summary

The nominated site is State-owned. Its preservation is secured by the Ministry of Culture by a set of international and national legal acts. The site is managed by the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic reservation authority and the Department for Protection, Restoration and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Monuments. These two bodies work in partnership to secure the ongoing conservation and preservation of this outstanding rock art cultural landscape.

5.a Ownership

5.b Protective designation

5.c Means of implementing protective measures

5.d Existing plans related to municipality and region in which the proposed property is located (e.g., regional or local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)

5.e Property management plan or other management system

5.f Sources and levels of finance

5.g Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

5.h Visitor facilities and statistics

5.i Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

5.j Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

5.a) Ownership

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is included within the boundary of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve and the entirety of the property is State-owned. The reserve is under dual subordination of the Ministry of Culture and Executive Power of Baku. Day to day management and its protection is carried out by the direction of the reserve whereas the Ministry of Culture implements the strategic management of the reserve. The Department for Culture of the Executive Power of Baku finances the reserve and resolves the technical problems connected directly with landscape and territory of the property

5.b) Protective designation

The protective measures to the preservation of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve are enforced by the application of the following:

International Legal Acts

1. Convention for Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Military Conflicts. May 14, 1954, The Hague. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in April 21, 1993.
2. UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. November 14, 1970, Paris. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in September 30, 1997.
3. UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. November 16, 1972, Paris. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in December 16, 1993.
4. UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. July, 1995, Roma. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in March 2, 2000.
5. The Second Protocol of the Hague Convention on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Military Conflicts. March 26, 1999. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in December 12, 2000.
6. Revised European Convention on Protection of Archaeological Heritage. January 16, 1992. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in October 20, 1999.

Legal Acts of CIS (Community of Independent States)

1. Agreement on Cooperation in the Cultural field. May 15, 1992, Tashkent.
2. Agreement on Cooperation of the Customs Services in Seizing and Returning of Illegally Imported and Exported Cultural Property. April 15, 1994, Moscow.
3. Agreement on Establishing the Council for Cultural cooperation of States-members of CIS (Community of Independent States). May 26, 1995, Minsk.

Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1. Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic. Adopted at the national referendum in 1995.
2. Decree of the President of Azerbaijan Republic N. 725 of 13 June 1998, concerning the implementation of the Law N. 470/98 concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments (See Annex 1.2)
3. The Law of Azerbaijan Republic About the Culture 6, February 1998 (See Annex 1.3)
4. The President's Decree on Changes in Rules of export and import in Azerbaijan, March 30, 1998
5. Law on Architectural Activity. May 15, 1998.
6. The President's Decree on Implementation of the Law on Architectural Activity, July 13, 1998.
7. The President's Decree on establishing the Commission for Implementation of the Convention on Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of military actions, November 13, 2001
8. Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on "Alterations and additions in some legislative acts of the Azerbaijan Republic", 22 November 2002
9. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic N. 204 of 15 October 1998, concerning the protection of cultural properties, illicit traffic and rules of utilization

10. The Cabinet's Decision on Special Authorization of archaeological excavations. November 30, 2000.
11. Regulations for the Experts Commission on defining historical, art and scientific cultural property, carrying out the special art examination and granting safeguard certificate of protection. Order No. 98 of the Ministry of Culture. April 12, 2001.
12. Regulations on the National Advisory Commission for Implement of Principles of the Convention on the Means of Prohibition and Preventing illicit export, import and transfer of ownership of cultural objects. Order of the Ministry of Culture (No. 137). May 5, 2001.
13. The Cabinet's Decision (No. 105) on Adoption of Regulations for export and import by private persons non-commercial and non-industrial objects. May 31, 2001
14. Rules of registering objects of copyright. (Adopted by the Commission for Copyright, May 3, 2001).
15. Regulations for inventorying and protecting cultural property of State Museums of Azerbaijan Republic. (Order No. 217 of the Ministry of Culture. October 14, 1996).
16. Order of the Ministry of Culture (N 69) on establishment of the Experts Commission on defining historical, art and scientific cultural property, carrying out the special art examination and granting safeguard certificate of protection and a passport. March 22, 2001.
17. Order of the Ministry of Culture (No. 87) on establishing of the National Advisory Commission for Implementation of Principles of the Convention on the Means of Prohibition and Preventing illicit export, import and transfer of ownership of cultural objects. April 10, 2001.
18. Regulations for the Experts Commission on defining historical, art and scientific cultural property, carrying out the special art examination and granting safeguard certificate of protection and a passport. Order N 202 of the Ministry of Culture. August 22, 2001.
19. The Order of the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Republic (N 30), February 2003 (See Annex 1.9)

Legal Acts concerning Gobustan

1. Decree of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR of 22 April 1950, declaring that the site of Gobustan, namely Jinghirdagh mountain-Yazylytepe hill, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain, be under special control of the State authorities with restriction of usage in their territories, taking into account the fact that they consist of a wide range of sites. The Decree states the closing of all stone quarries in the area.
2. Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 1003 of 25 July 1950, concerning protective measures for the cultural properties in Jinghirdagh mountain, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain.(See Annex 1.5)
3. Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 503 of 9 September 1966, stating that the territories of Jinghirdagh mountain, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain, be declared as the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve. (Establishment of the Reserve).
4. Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 326 of 22 June 1968, concerning the definition of the boundary of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation and the closing of the stone quarries in Kichikdash mountain and proposed closing of the stone quarries in Boyukdash mountain. Furthermore it states the preparation of the project documentation on the development of infrastructures in the territory of Gobustan.
5. Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 115 of 6 April 1970, concerning the preservation, rehabilitation and promotion of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation. The Decree states the closing of the stone quarries in Boyukdash starting from 1st January 1971. (See Annex 1.7)
6. Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 366 of 29 July 1982, confirming the internal regulations of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation. The internal

regulations concern the protection and utilization of the Gobustan cultural property. (See Annex 1.8)

5.c) Means of implementing protective measures

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve is a protected area under Azerbaijan Law.

It was proclaimed as a State Historical-Artistic reserve by Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 503 of 9 september 1966.

The archaeological sites of Jingirdagh mountain – Yazylytepe hill, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain forming the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, are included within the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic reserve.

The three sites, proposed as a Cultural Landscape Serial Nomination to the World Heritage List, are protected by a law as a cultural property by the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic.

5.d) Existing plans related to municipality and region in which the proposed property is located (e.g., regional or local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)

The “General Plan of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic and Landscape Reserve” is the only tool in force to date. It is a plan mainly designed to develop the area and equip it with tourist facilities, with the exception of some restriction areas.

A comprehensive site analysis is contained in the document called “Explanatory Note”, paragraph 1-5. The development of infrastructures and facilities is contained in paragraphs 6-10.

The plan’s Explanatory Note has been prepared by the “ASGOSPROJECT” Azerbaijan State Head Project Institute (Director T.A.Abdullayev).

The plan has been adopted by order N.321 of the Minister of Culture on 11 august 1980.

The document is written in Russian; a translation of the content is provided in the following:

Content of the plan:

1. Introduction	p.5
2. Importance of the Gobustan Reserve	p.7
3. Hydro climatic features	p.17
4. Engineering and geological conditions	p.27
5. Conclusions on the natural features	p.30
6. Soil, plants and plantation project	p.32
7. Existing conditions and sanitary features	p.32
8. Architectural and planning solutions	p.38
a. Location, restriction zones, basic schemes	
b. General plans	
c. Schemes of buildings	
d. Illustrations	
e. Scheme of tourist routes and transportation services	
9. Engineering equipment	p.47

- a. Water supply
- b. Sewage system
- c. Electric supply
- d. Heat supply
- e. Gas supply
- f. Communication
- g. Vertical planning

10. Issues of organization of resort areas

p.57

5.e) Property management plan or other management system

Property management plan exists and was prepared in 2003 by UNESCO World Heritage Center consultant Dr. Angelo Fossati (Italy) with financial support of WH Center. The specialists of State Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture, Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve and the Institute “Azerberpa” (Scientific research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural monuments).

This Management Plan was completed by additional information and is attached separately to the nomination dossier in 4 copies.

5.f) Sources and levels of finance

The financial resources for the Gobustan reserve are supported by the Ministry of Finance not directly, but through the Baku city Executive Power. Finances cover all the expenses of the reserve: salary, insurance, transportation, telephone and post, water, electricity, heating, furniture, office etc.

Until the end of 2002 the revenue came in from the tickets, sales of goods and services, fundraising, donations and others (the property is used, in exceptional circumstances, as a scenery for cinema/TV shooting) remained to the reserve itself. According to the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Alterations and additions in some legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan” (November 22, 2002), the above-mentioned revenue to the budget of the reserve was stopped (the short resume of the law is attached).

Beginning from the 2003, the certain part of the entries going to the state budget was given back to the needs of the reserve. The annual budget given to the needs of the reserve by the Executive Power of Baku for the last 7 years is reflected in the following table:

Year	In local currency (manat)	In \$ (USD dollars approximately)
1999	88.500.000	19.000
2000	65.525.000	14.000
2001	97.871.000	20.000
2002	115.844.000	24.000
2003	124.106.000	25.000
2004	135.838.000	28.000
2005	156.091.000	33.932

Besides the mentioned budget finances insignificant funds come in from the sales of the tickets that are spent to the territory improvement, maintenance needs of the small museum etc.

Together with the mentioned financial entries, in 2004 and 2005 some purposeful finances were allocated for concrete projects which are reflected in the following table:

Year	Name of the project	Donor	Fund allocation (in USD dollars approximately)
2004	International seminar on rock art on the basis of Gobustan	UNESCO Moscow Office	5.000
2005	Issue of CD "Rock Art of Azerbaijan"	UNESCO Moscow Office	4.000
2005	Issue of CD "The virtual Gobustan"	"SOROS" Foundation	7.000

5.g) Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

Reserve's management ensures the training of the personnel. Since 1996 five employees of the reserve attended several workshops on tourism and museum management organized by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan. The director of the reserve attended the courses at national and international levels on site management. The Azerberpa Institute and the Department for Protection, Restoration and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Ministry of Culture with the assistance of the Gobustan reserve and Steering Committee of the Gobustan reserve are at the preparation stage for the creation of a Conversation Plan (within the framework of the General Management Plan), major programme for conversation of the rock art and archaeological materials that will foresee the training programs for the reserve's staff. The lack of the funds does not allow to the reserve to send its staff to the training courses abroad.

The first international seminar on rock art "The dialogue on the early stage of humanity" was organized on the basis of Gobustan reserve with the support of Moscow office of UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan. The seminar was devoted to the problems of conservation and management of the territories on which there are rock images.

5.h) Visitor facilities and statistics

The Gobustan reserve's direction provides the site with the following visitor facilities:

1. Visitor Centre, including:
 - a permanent exhibition of archaeological finds , historical photographs and dioramas;
 - staff room;
 - store rooms;
 - custodian room.
2. Lavatories
3. Paths
4. Car parking

5. An interpretation service through guides, publications, promotional literature and signage

The museum building, constructed in the early seventies and fully repaired in 2005 (June-July), is situated on the Boyukdash mountain just in front of the rock art site that is usually presented to the public and tourists. The main hall of the museum contains a permanent exhibition with an introduction of the rock art with photographs and drawings of the engraved figures. Archaeological finds – pottery, metal tools, and grave goods – are exposed in show-cases as well as in some dioramas regarding the prehistoric life on the rocky hills (hunting scenes, family life...





The most visited part of the reserve is the eastern inclination of the Boyukdash mountain. Some measures on territory and touristy routes improvement were taken also were taken in June-July of 2005.

The attendance statistic of the property for the last 8 years is reflected in the following table:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Foreign visitors	802	410	142	162	772	658	789	1162
Local visitors	1200	933	898	849	1546	1654	4729	6098
Total	2002	1343	1040	1011	2318	2312	5518	7260

5.i) Policies and programmes related to` presentation and promotion of the property

The presentation and promotion of the property is carried out by the implementation of the Cultural Policy in Azerbaijan. This Cultural Policy was prepared by Deputy of Minister, Dr. Sevda Mamedaliyeva and Dr. Nigar Akhundova under the supervision of Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Republic Polad Bulbulogly. The sections of Cultural Policy concerning museums and heritage are attached in the Annexes (Annex II). Main directions of the Policy are realized by the management of the Gobustan Reserve and they are taken into account in the Management Plan.

5.j) Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

The staff of the reserve consists of 40 employees. The staff is composed of:

The Directorate

- Director
- Researcher
- Chief keeper
- Secretary-typist
- House keeper

Fund Department

- Senior researcher
- 3 Junior Researchers
- Photographer
- 7 Custodians

Excursion Department

- Chief of Department
- Senior researcher
- 2 Junior researchers
- 4 Guides
- Painter

Scientific-expositional Department

- Chief of Department
- Senior researcher
- 2 Junior researchers
- 2 Curators of museum

Technical staff

- Electrician

- worker
- 2 Drivers
- Security guard
- Stocker
- 2 Charwomen

Due to the computer and technical equipment, since 2004 the staff of the reserve carries out the inventory of the rock images, prepares the map according to GIS standards. The employees of the reserve attend regularly the courses on improvement of their professional and technical knowledge organized by the Ministry of Culture. At the present time the negotiations are conducted with BP on organization of specialized trainings, seminars for the staff of the reserve with the attraction of international specialists on art rock and archeologists.

6. Monitoring

Summary

Baseline data for much of the site already exists in the form of records held by the Gobustan Reservation authority. The World Heritage Site Management Plan will lay down a detailed and strategic system of key indicators for future monitoring of the site's condition.

- 6.a** Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
- 6.b** Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
- 6.c** Results of previous reporting exercises

6.a) Key indicators for measuring state of conservation

Baseline data for much of the site already exists in the form of records held by the Gobustan Reservation authority. The World Heritage Site Management Plan will lay down a detailed and strategic system of key indicators for future monitoring of the site's condition.

Today key indicators of monitoring of condition of the rocks with images and the degree of impact of the environment are realized in the next directions:

1. Dimension of the temperature during a day in the summer period (morning and afternoon);
2. Dimension of the temperature on the surface of the stone;
3. Dimension of the temperature in the depth of 5-10 cm from the surface;
4. Daily measurements off relative air moisture;
5. Amount of precipitation;
6. Chemical composition of atmospheric precipitation;
7. Micro flora – availability, % from the area of the surface;
8. Macro flora – availability, height, % from the area of the surface;
9. Acidity of the soil;
10. Substance of the water-soluble saline in the soil;
11. Distribution of the water flow on the flank (in the spring period);
12. Formation of the enclosures under the surface (sound of futility during the tapping);
13. Photographing with the purpose of comparative analysis of the change of the condition.

Besides that systematic monitoring of the visitors is also held, the base for which was made in 1966 during the creation of the protected zone.

The program of the monitoring of the visitors contains next purposes:

1. Collection of the data of the visitor's usage of the monument (number, age and social structure of the visitors, purposes and forms of the organization of the visits);
2. Determination of the sources of information, from which the visitors know about the monument;
3. Examining the requests of the visitors concerning service and improvement;

The following methods of monitoring are applied:

1. Registration of the visits in the special journals, regularly made by the watchers;
2. Polling of the visitors, guides, and also managers of the travelling companies.
3. Photographing of the process of excursions, fixation of the routes of movements of the tourists in the territory of the protected zone on the schemes.

All the data received is saved, systemized and worked up in the archive of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve for making the operative decisions, for further analysis, and also for future database of management, which was created in 2003.



6.b) Administrative arrangements for monitoring property

Monitoring of the object is implemented by the officers of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve.

6.c) Results of previous reporting exercises

In contrast to the monitoring of the visitors, monitoring of the state of monument has begun recently. Today the comparative analysis of old photographs is also made (the documents of 1950-60 years) with modern state of rocks with images with the purpose of detection of the changes, which took place in the last 50 years.



7. Documentation

7.a Photographs, slides and authorization table

7.b Property management plan

7.c Records of property

7.d Address where records and archives are held

7.e Bibliography

7.a) Photograph, slides and authorization table

A set of photographs, including slides and authorization table are attached to this Nomination document.

7.b) Property management plan

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Management Plan is attached to this Nomination document (4 copies).

7.c) Records of property

The rock images of reserve were inventoried in 1968, 1988 and 2001. The list of the inventory of 2001 fully reflects the list of 1988. The lists of inventory of 1968 and 1988 are attached in Annexes III and IV.

7.d) Address where inventory, records and archives are held

Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve
Lermontov Street, 3
AZ 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel/Fax: (994-12) 492 02 54; (994-12) 492 61 45
E-mail: gobustanaz@yahoo.com
Ms. Malahat Farajova, Director

Gobustan Reserve site
Address refers to the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve Office in Baku

Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences
Department of Stone Age

H. Javid Ave. 31
AZ 1143 Baku
Tel: (994-12) 439 36 49 and (994-12) 439 39 80
Ms. Maisa Ragimova, Director of Institute
Ms. Firuza Muradova, Senior Researcher

7.e) Bibliography

The list of bibliography is attached in Annexe V.

8. Contact information of responsible authorities

8.a Preparer

8.b Official local Institution

8.c Other Local Institutions

8.d Official Web address

8.a) Preparer

Nomination dossier was prepared by:

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AZ 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel/Fax: (994-12) 492 02 54; (994-12) 492 61 45
E-mail: gobustanaz@yahoo.com

Acknowledgements

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan Republic;
- “Azerberpa” - Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments;
- Giovanni Fontana Antonelli, Consultant, UNESCO World Heritage Centre Italy

8.b) Official local Institution/Agency

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
House of Government
Azadlyg Square,
AZ 1003 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel: (994-12) 493 43 98
Fax: (994-12) 493 56 05
E-mail: mugam@culture.gov.az

Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve
Lermontov Street, 3
AZ 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel/Fax: (994-12) 492 02 54; (994-12) 492 61 45
E-mail: gobustanaz@yahoo.com

8.c) Other Local Institutions

State Museum of “Shirvanshah’s Palace Complex”
Icherisheher, Kichik gala str. 46/11
AZ 1001, Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel:(994-12) 492 08 34
Fax:(994-12) 437 12 42

Icherisheher State Historical and Architectural Reserve
A.Zeynalli 44
AZ 1001, Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel:(994-12) 492 11 75
(994-12) 492 09 13

“Azerberpa” - Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments
Iceri sheher, Neftchiler 85
AZ 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel:(994-12) 492 53 86
Fax:(994-12) 492 38 01

Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism
Olimpiya str. 4, AZ 1072, Baku, Azerbaijan
Fax:(994-12) 465 64 38
E-mail: myst@myst.gov.az
web-page: www.myst.azeri.com

8.d) Official Web address

Web-page: gobustan.iatp.az

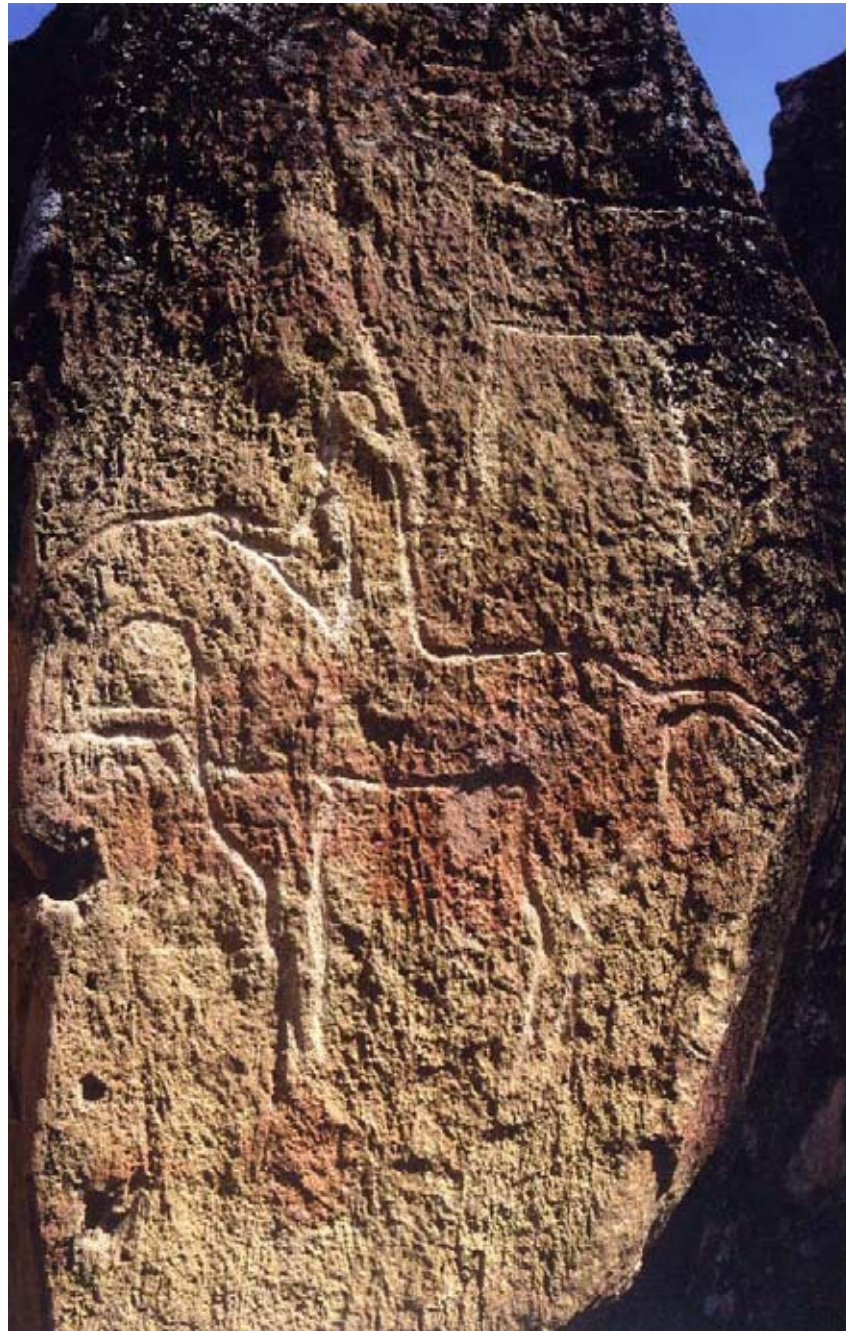
Contact name: Ms. Malahat Farajova

E-mail: gobustanaz@yahoo.com

9. Signature on behalf of the State Party

Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Chairman of the Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO

Baku, 27 January 2006



Annexes

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1.1 Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments. 10 April 1998

The present Law provides regulations for protection, studies and use of the historic and cultural heritage.

**CHAPTER 1
General Provisions**

**Article 1: Protection of Historic and Cultural Heritage
(Monuments)**

Pursuant to Article 77 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan protection of historical and cultural heritage is a duty of each and every individual.

Historic and cultural heritage is the national asset.

The state shall stand guarantor for protection of historic and cultural heritage, as well as it shall establish, operate and develop scientific institutions in charge for research and promotion of historic and cultural heritage.

Legislative, executive and judicial authorities, local self-government bodies, political parties, voluntary associations, trade unions, legal and natural persons shall protect historic and cultural heritage and assist relevant executive agencies, institutions founded by local self-administration bodies and non-governmental organizations in charge for protection of historic and cultural legacy.

While conducting any activities bound with allocation of land or construction projects in the areas of historic and cultural heritage the agencies mentioned in paragraph 4 of the present Article shall get permission of the relevant executive authorities taking note of the opinion by the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan prior to these activities, and in the course of land or construction activities conducted after getting this permission they shall observe in due course instructions of the relevant executive authorities and their experts.

Article 2: Definition and Classification of Historic and Cultural Heritage.

Historical and cultural heritage (hereinafter referred to as “heritage”) comprise archaeological and architectural sites, ethnographic, numismatic, epigraphic and anthropological materials, buildings related to certain historic events of persons, memorial places and subjects related to religious values of a nation.

Heritage may be movable (portable) and immovable (fixed) . Movable heritage shall be protected in museums, archives, funds, exhibitions and other relevant places whereas fixed heritage, primarily archaeological and architectural sites shall be protected at the sites of their discovery or construction.

Definitions used in the present Article imply the following:

- a) *Archaeological heritage* implies samples of human cultural activities beneath the earth including but not limited to remnants of human settlements, residences, ancient graveyards, defense facilities and fortifications, places of worship, any sort of ancient subjects, religious heritage and memorabilia, pethroglyphs and rock carvings, traces of primordial mining activities, tools and other production facilities, traces of ancient roads, bridges, canals, water storage facilities, aqueducts , etc.

- b) *Architectural heritage* implies constructions with sufficiently well-preserved plan and design, various types of architectural and construction facilities, auxiliary constructions and engineering communications.
Town-planning (urban) heritage imply residential areas mainly taken by monuments of architecture, history, culture and art, with traditional sub-division into neighbourhoods, partially encircled by ramparts and partial retention of grid and engineering communications; parks and gardens, alleys, works of art; newly-created architectural landmarks, long-term architectural constructions and facilities with relevant plan and volumetric dimension, artistic and aesthetic features, operational and functional parameters; smaller architectural works, monuments, obelisks, fountains, waterfalls, springs, pools, kiosks and other creative works important for the areas of their location.
- c) *Historic heritage* implies values related to the history of state and society, military records and national liberation movement, scientific and technical developments and other significant events in public life, as well as legacy related to prominent public figures, leaders in war,, Heroes of Soviet Union, National Heroes, famous persons in science and art; Historical heritage shall also comprise apartments (of prominent persons), memorial sites, documents and subjects, ethnographic monuments, tools and facilities related to national tangible and intangible legacy, ideology and craft, epigraphic monuments, such as inscribed pieces of stonework, clay, woodwork and metal.
- d) *Documentary heritage* implies official government edicts, ancient manuscripts, rare printed editions (books), archives, including sonic, photographic and cinema documents.
- e) *Works of art* imply artistic, figurative and applied works of aesthetic and historic value;
- f) *Reserves* comprise government protected areas or residential quarters of a significant historic and cultural value.
- g) *Heritage protection zones* comprise areas under special regulations (depending on the type of heritage to be protected) imposed with a view to retain appearance of the heritage located within the area in question.

Article 3: Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Heritage Protection

The national legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning heritage protection comprises the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the present Law and other national legislative instruments and international agreements which Republic of Azerbaijan is a party to.

Article 4: Property over Heritage

Heritage shall constitute the state and municipal property, as well as private property.

Heritage owned by the state (except for architectural landmarks of local significance and parts thereof) shall not be privatized.

Alteration of appearance of privately owned residential buildings, as well as their parts and interiors, in a manner degrading their cultural and historic value is prohibited.

The state shall be vested with predominant purchase rights in case of sales of privately owned buildings registered as heritage by the state.

Should any new landmark (heritage site) be discovered in a certain area, the area in question shall be granted the status of a historical and cultural zone; land plot and constructions located within the zone may be purchased by the state in a manner prescribed by the legislation.

Privately owned heritage sites shall be registered by the state with a new owner notifying relevant executive authorities regarding the purchase in due course.

No heritage may be ever exported outside the country with authorization of relevant executive authorities.

Article 5: Participation of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan in protection, renovation, identification of significance degrees and operation of heritage.

The Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan shall initiate discovery and research of heritage, protection of remnants of discovered tangible cultural heritage, conduct site research at the new construction areas, partake in registration of heritage under certain degrees of significance, in cases of necessity provide for conservation and restoration of remnants of tangible heritage, promote cultural heritage, draft manuals (instructions) on heritage protection, research, renovation and conservation, provide scientific and practical advice, sign international protocols and agreements of heritage research and conduct other activities specified in the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Designs for heritage renovation shall be approved by relevant executive authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan with due consideration to the opinion by the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.

CHAPTER 2

State Registration and Significance Degrees of the Heritage

Article 6: State Registration of Heritage

Relevant executive authorities shall conduct records, register, issue certificates, approve the lists and map immovable heritage.

Article 7: Heritage Significance Degrees

Heritage shall be of the world, national and local significance. Degrees of significance shall be conferred, compiled and approved by relevant executive authorities on the basis of conclusion by the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan in compliance with international standards.

Heritage included into approved lists shall not be removed from the lists in question.

List of the world heritage shall be presented to the relevant international organizations.

Article 8: Registration of the Azerbaijan-related Heritage outside the Republic of Azerbaijan

Relevant executive authorities shall compile special lists and register the Azerbaijan-related heritage outside the Republic of Azerbaijan and cooperate with relevant executive authorities of the host country (country of heritage's location) on the matters of protection and renovation of the heritage in question.

CHAPTER 3

State Guarantees for Heritage Protection

Article 9: Funding Heritage Protection, Studies, Renovation and Conservation

Protection, studies, renovation and conservation of heritage shall be conducted at the expense of the state budget, local budgets, financial assistance provided by legal and natural persons and donations.

Article 10: Integrity of Heritage

Alteration of aesthetic image of the heritage, its destruction, as well as any repair, construction or other activities jeopardizing the heritage shall be prohibited.

Article 11: Duties and Responsibilities of Natural and Legal Persons Owning or Using Heritage

Legal and natural persons owning or using heritage shall strictly comply with regulations on heritage protection, research and utilization.

Legal and natural persons owning or using heritage shall bear responsibility for integrity of the heritage pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 12: Heritage Protection in the Course of Conducting Construction or Technical Activities of National Significance within the Reserve Boundaries

Construction or technical (engineering) activities of national significance undertaken within the reserve boundaries or protected areas and capable of endangering the heritage may only be conducted upon approval of relevant executive authorities. Security measures undertaken in these cases shall be conducted at the expense of the operator responsible for construction.

Traffic of motor vehicles along the roads passing through or adjacent to heritage sites and protected areas may be restricted or prohibited by relevant executive authorities should this create any danger for the heritage protection.

Article 13: Protection of Heritage Discovered in the Course of Construction or other Economic Activities.

In case of discovery of heritage in the course of construction or other economic activities the works shall be suspended immediately and the relevant executive authorities together with the Academy of Sciences notified in due course. That being the case construction or other economic activities may only be resumed upon approval by the relevant executive authorities and the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan with due consideration of the experts' conclusion.

In case if construction or other economic activities are undertaken in the areas of historic or archaeological significance the areas concerned should be studied by experts beforehand and the with initial heritage research conducted. Presence of officials or experts from the relevant executive authorities on the site shall be provided.

Article 14: Archaeological Research at the New Construction Sites.

While drafting feasibility studies for main engineering communication lines (such as oil or gas pipelines, etc.) or construction projects exceeding one hectare operators shall apply to the relevant

executive authorities and the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and allocate funds for initial research of heritage in the areas concerned.

Should any archaeological findings be discovered in areas in question no construction or other economic activities shall be undertaken with no approval by the relevant executive authorities or prior to completion of the scientific research.

Article 15: Destiny of Heritage Found or Discovered in Treasuries

Heritage found or discovered in treasures shall be handed over to the state. Persons handing over heritage to the state shall be remunerated pursuant to civil legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Owners or users of accidentally discovered heritage shall notify relevant executive authorities. Accidentally discovered heritage shall be registered by relevant executive authorities with relevant records kept in due course.

Article 16: Regulations for Transportation of Heritage Abroad and Home-coming

Temporary transportation of movable heritage outside the Republic of Azerbaijan for the purpose of scientific research or cultural exchange shall only be made upon approval of relevant executive. Written application by relevant executive authorities to the customs authorities shall be made for temporary transportation of heritage outside the country.

Failure to return the heritage provisionally transported outside the country is inadmissible.

Search, apprehension and retrieval of heritage illegally transported outside the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be conducted by the respective executive authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 17: Specificities of Heritage Traffic

Traffic of movable state-owned heritage of the world or national significance shall be prohibited.

Relevant executive authorities shall be notified in case of purchase or sale of movable heritage.

Article 18: Protection of Heritage during War and Armed Conflicts

Evacuation of movable heritage from the areas of possible hostilities and conflict zones shall be arranged by relevant executive authorities.

The state shall apply to the international organizations and take necessary measures with a view to recovering heritage taken by occupying forces as spoils of war.

Use of heritage for military purposes shall be prohibited.

CHAPTER 4

Operation Rules for Heritage Sites

Article 19: Operation Rules and conditions for the state and Municipality Owned Heritage

Rent of immovable heritage owned by the state or municipality (including parts thereof) shall be prohibited.

Immovable architectural landmarks of local significance owned by either the state or municipalities, as well as immovable heritage owned by private individuals (and parts thereof) may be rented on a contractual basis for scientific, cultural, religious purposes, as well as service and tourism following the rules prescribed by the legislation.

Tenants of the heritage or parts thereof shall abstain from complete or partial alteration its volume, composition, appearance and integral parts, neither shall they harm the heritage in the course of operation or destroy cultural strata during archaeological excavations. Repair, conservation or renovation of such pieces of heritage or parts thereof should be conducted at the expense of tenant under supervision of relevant executive authorities and experts.

Regulations and conditions for rent of heritage pieces should be stipulated by the contract signed in-between the parties concerned. In case of violation of contractual provisions the contract shall be declared nil and void pursuant to the national legislation and damages inflicted shall be compensated.

CHAPTER 5

Research of Heritage Sites

Article 20: Research of Archaeological Sites

Archaeological excavations conducted in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be authorized by the Academy of Sciences and recorded with the relevant executive authorities.

Upon expiration of time period allocated for excavation report on the activities undertaken shall be submitted to the relevant executive authorities and the National Academy of Sciences.

Joint missions (expeditions) including foreign research centers and experts may be formed with a view to researching heritage sites located in the territory of Azerbaijan. Funds may be allocated by foreign scientific centers and experts for heritage sites' research. Head of the joint mission (expedition) shall be appointed by the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.

Archaeological findings discovered as a result of excavations shall become a property of the state and kept in special foundations, and museums.

Article 21: Research of Architectural Landmarks and Other Sites.

Architectural landmarks and other sites shall be studied by the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan, research centers, drafting institutions and voluntary associations involved in heritage protection and renovation.

Relevant executive authorities shall be notified prior to commencement of the research.

Research of newly-discovered architectural landmark not approved by relevant executive authorities shall be prohibited.

Authorization of research and studies of the Azeri architectural landmarks located outside the Republic of Azerbaijan may be obtained through the intergovernmental agreements.

Article 22: Foundation of Heritage Reserves

Archaeological, ethnographic, architectural, town-planning and other sites may be granted the status of reserves by relevant executive authorities following recommendations by scientific research centers.

Special regime of ownership shall be exercised by the relevant executive authorities in the reserve areas.

Article 23: Heritage Site Reserve Areas

Heritage site reserve areas shall be established by relevant executive authorities taking note of expert conclusions with a view to guaranteeing protection of sites, their functional use architectural and aesthetic image and longevity.

Article 24: Removal or Replacement of Heritage

In cases of natural calamities and other emergencies heritage of national or world significance shall be removed following decisions by relevant executive authorities.

Removal of heritage of local significance may be authorized by relevant executive authorities.

Replacement and removal of heritage shall be supervised by experts.

CHAPTER 6

Reinforcement, Repair and Upgrade of Heritage for Protection Purposes

Article 25: Reinforcement, Repair and Upgrade of Heritage for Protection Purposes

Reinforcement, repair and service of state-owned or municipal heritage shall be conducted following decrees on conservation, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and regeneration issued by relevant executive authorities and conducted at the expense of the local or municipal budgets. As far as privately owned heritage is concerned, the same activities shall be conducted upon consent of relevant executive authorities at the expense of the owner.

Conservation of heritage implies reliable protective covering of open surfaces with a view to protecting them from mechanical, physical and chemical impact of the environment, protective measures for under-ground water impact, physical protection and fencing.

Renovation and reconstruction of heritage implies repair of missing or affected parts of a heritage site aimed at restoring the site's original view and with no detriment to its design, plan and volumetric parameters. Design for renovation of a heritage site shall be implemented only upon approval by the relevant executive authorities.

Reconstruction of heritage sites implies re-building a non-surviving heritage site following designs compiled in accordance to legendary descriptions, drawings or etchings.

Regeneration implies renovation of initial design, plan and volumetric parameters of a heritage site by using modern materials and techniques or interior renovation with no alteration of internal and external views of the site. Up-to-date equipment and engineering communications may be used in the course of the site's operation.

Article 26: Supervision over Reinforcement, Repair and Upgrade of the Heritage Sites and Remuneration of Contractor

Reinforcement, repair and upgrade of heritage sites shall be supervised by the project's author (authors).

Remuneration of the activities undertaken shall be effected pursuant to the legislative provisions.

Article 27: Upgrade of Reserves and Protected Areas

Construction and upgrading activities conducted in reserve areas with protective purposes shall not infringe on the area's perimeter, configuration or traditional grid (layout of streets).

Renovation activities in reserve areas shall be conducted exclusively in vacant land plots, with no negative impact upon the grid, plan of heritage sites, volumetric and spatial composition and architectural value.

Archaeological and other excavations may only be conducted at vacant land plots and not impacting heritage sites. Records on location details and condition of sites, subjects or other excavated property shall be made together with their photos and schemes.

CHAPTER 7

Liability for Violation of the Legislation on the Heritage Protection

Article 28: Liability for violation of the Legislation on the Heritage Protection

Persons involved in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on protection of cultural heritage shall bear criminal. Administrative and disciplinary liability pursuant to the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 29: Compensation of Damage Inflicted to the Cultural Heritage

Compensation of damages inflicted to the cultural legacy shall be conducted pursuant to the civil legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The funds paid as compensation shall be used for restoration, research and protection of the cultural heritage.

Chapter 8

Conclusive Provisions

Article 30: Validity of International Legal Instruments for the Cultural Heritage

Pursuant to Article 151 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan in case of contradiction in-between the present Law and the intergovernmental agreements the Republic of Azerbaijan the latter ones shall prevail.

Article 31: Involvement of International Organizations in Scientific Research, Renovation, Reconstruction, Conservation and Regeneration of Heritage.

International organizations may be involved in Scientific Research, Renovation, Reconstruction, Conservation and Regeneration of Heritage located in the territory of the republic of Azerbaijan upon consent of relevant national executive authorities.

Article 32: Renovation and Protection of Heritage in the Areas of Provisional Occupation

Repeated research and renovation of the heritage left in the areas of provisional occupation shall be initiated immediately upon liberation of the areas in question. Research and renovation of the heritage in the areas under occupation shall be given priority in the process of allocation funds heritage renovation and renovation.

Relevant international organizations shall be notified in due course of destruction of the national and world heritage by the occupant forces.

Heydar Aliyev,

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku, April 10, 1998

1.2 Decree of the President of Azerbaijan Republic concerning the implementation of the Law concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments. N. 725 of 13 June 1998

Decree on Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of the Historic and Cultural Heritage

Since the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of Historic and Cultural Heritage has entered into a legal force the following should be hereby decreed with a view to implementing the Law in question:

1. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the period of one month shall:
 - draft proposals on bringing existing legislative acts into compliance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of the Historic and Cultural Heritage and present them to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
 - harmonize by-laws (normative legal acts) of the Cabinet of Ministers and relevant central executive authorities with the Law in question and notify the President of the republic of Azerbaijan in due course;
 - draft regulations on authorization of export of privately owned heritage specified in the last paragraph of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of the Historic and Cultural Heritage and present them to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
 - adopt the system degrees of significance for the heritage (see paragraph 2 of Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of the Historic and Cultural Heritage) and notify the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in due course;
 - draft regulations for temporary transportation of movable heritage outside the Republic of Azerbaijan for scientific, cultural and research purposes (see the first sentence of paragraph 1, Article 16 of the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of the Historic and Cultural Heritage) and present them to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
 - draft regulations on involvement of international organizations in research, renovation, regeneration, reconstruction and conservation of heritage located within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see Article 31 of the law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of Historic and Cultural Heritage) and present them to the President of the republic of Azerbaijan;
 - within the framework of its competence address other issues specified in the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of Historic and Cultural Heritage;

It should be also hereby decreed that:

- the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic of Azerbaijan shall execute the functions of ‘relevant executive authorities’ specified in Article 4 (last paragraph), Article 7 (paragraph 2), Article 16 (first sentence of paragraph 1 and the last paragraph), Article 24 (paragraph 1) and Article 31 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection of the Historic and Cultural Heritage;
- the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic of Azerbaijan shall assume responsibilities for adoption of heritage lists and mapping immovable heritage as foreseen in Article 6 of the Law in question, whereas responsibilities for compiling lists, registering and issuing certificates for heritage shall be assumed by the Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic and Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- the Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic and Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall also assume responsibilities of ‘relevant executive authorities’ in cases foreseen in the following Articles of the Law in question: Article 1, paragraph 5 after the word “permission”, Article 8, Article 12, paragraph 1, Article 13 paragraph 1, last sentence and paragraph 2, Article 14 paragraphs 1 and 2,

Article 15 paragraph 2, Article 17 paragraph 2, Article 19 paragraph 3, article 20 paragraphs 1 and 2, Article 21 paragraphs 2 and 3, Article 22 paragraphs 1 and 2, Article 23 and Article 2 paragraphs 1 and 3;

- The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic and Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Main Archives Directorate at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall assume responsibilities of “relevant executive authorities” as foreseen in Article 1 paragraph 4 of the Law in question;
- The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic and Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall assume responsibilities of “relevant executive authorities” as foreseen in Article 4 paragraph 6 of the Law in question;
- The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Main Archives Directorate at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall assume responsibilities of “relevant executive authorities” as foreseen in Article 16 paragraph 1 sentence 2 and Article 18 paragraph 1 of the Law in question;
- the Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic and Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Construction and Architecture Department of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall assume responsibilities of “relevant executive authorities” as foreseen in Article 5 paragraph 2 of the Law in question;
- the Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic and Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and local executive authorities shall assume responsibilities of “relevant executive authorities” as foreseen in Article 1 paragraph 5 (after the words ‘taking note of’), Article 13 paragraph 1 (the first sentence), Article 24 paragraph 2 of the Law in question;
- the Ministry of Internal affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (based on conclusions by Committee for Protection and Renovation of the Historic Cultural Heritage at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan) shall assume responsibilities of “relevant executive authorities” as foreseen in Article 12 paragraph 2 of the Law in question.

Signed by:

Heydar Aliyev,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Baku, June 13, 1998

1.3 The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Culture. 6 February 1998 (extracts)

This law defines the main principles of the state policy on culture, the rights and freedoms of the citizens, the preservation and development of the national cultural wealth objects, the organization and management of the cultural system on democratic basis, judicial basis of the activity on the field of culture and the forms of the international ties.

This law gives stimulus to the preservation and development of the folklore being the basis of all the people's cultural peculiarity, their customs and traditions, it also gives stimulus to the creation and increasing of this wealth in order more people can use cultural legacy and cultural wealth, it also ensures the social protection of the creative workers.

Article 3. The preservation of the historical and cultural monuments.

All the judicial and physical persons in the Azerbaijan Republic must preserve the historical and cultural monuments.

The rules of the preservation of the historical and cultural monuments are defined with the corresponding law.

Article 12. Protection of the national cultural riches.

The state guarantees the protection of the national cultural riches.

The state organizes the return of the national cultural riches took out from the Azerbaijan republic.

Customs duty and other taxes are not taken for the national cultural riches, which are returned to the republics territory.

The corresponding body of the executive power determines the protection of the national cultural riches and their use and the rules of taking out the national cultural riches from Azerbaijan.

Article 14. Guaranteeing the use of the cultural riches.

The state guarantees the equality of rights for everybody in using the material and spiritual riches of culture. The corresponding bodies of the executive power define the regime of use the cultural riches, which are on state property.

Article 22. The Museum activity.

In order to satisfy the scientific cultural, spiritual and aesthetic requirements getting the cultural riches and material samples about the man, his activity and living surroundings, their preservation, register, research and propaganda and its demonstration are considered the museum activity.

The aims of creation and the commercial activity which do harm to the authority of the cultural riches in the museums, infringement the rights of collection of other museums are prohibited.

Article 35. The protection categories of the cultural riches.

There are outstripping, conservation, restoration and special categories of the cultural riches.

The outstripping category of the protection is referred to the object till their natural-landscape, archaeology and architecture objects historical significance and value of monumental works of art are defined. The destruction, breaking, reforming, removing to other place and changing its outward appearance without the agreement with the corresponding executive power bodies are prohibited.

The conservation category of the protection referred to the cultural riches which are to be put out of use or are to be used on limited sphere on the observation of the executive power bodies. That category of protection is referred to the manuscripts, rare documents of the archives, rare books, nature-reserve and other cultural riches.

The restoration category of the protection is referred to the cultural riches which need the restoration work for the return of the initial cultural purpose.

Till the restoration category of the protection is used the conservation category about the object could be defined.

Special protection category is referred to the national cultural property, which is included to the state List of the national cultural property of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The relations of the owners or the users of the cultural riches which have the proportion category with the corresponding executive power bodies are determined by the protection agreement. The cultural riches which don't have any protection category are freely used.

The protection categories are not referred to the works of art of the author during his life time or within 30 years after his death.

Article 37. The list of protection of the cultural riches.

In order to protect the most important cultural riches the corresponding executive power bodies lead the protection list of the cultural riches of the certain territory (town, district)

The cultural riches are included to the list by the executive power bodies according to the owners or users statement, information of the libraries, museums and archives.

The notes in the list of protection of the cultural riches are made according to the conformity of the requirements is article 34 of this law.

The owner or the user is given a certificate about including of this cultural rich to the list within a month or he is allowed to use it.

Without having such a certificate or corresponding permission concerning the cultural riches the making of agreement is not permitted.

The documents referred to the national cultural property which is concerned the cultural rich when given to the corresponding executive power bodies to be considered (discerned), they are to be considered within two months in order to be included to the state List of the national cultural property according to the rules of the article 38 of this law.

1.4 The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic “About the changes and additions in some legislative acts of Azerbaijan Republic” 22.11.2002 (extracts)

Milli Medjlis (The Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) decides:

VIII. The Law of Azerbaijan Republic “About Museums” (the Code of Laws of Azerbaijan Republic, 2000, №6, article 396, 2001, № 12, article 736) the text of the 24th article is redacted in the following way:

“The state museums are financed by the state budget of Azerbaijan Republic”.

The received incomes from museums and other services, which are not prohibited by the legislation, are transferred to the state budget.

XI. The law of Azerbaijan Republic “About Culture” (the Code of Laws of Azerbaijan Republic, 1998, №4, article 223, 2001, № 11, article 688; 2002, №5, article 245) the first paragraph of the 40th article is redacted in the following day:

Cultural institutions, which are in the property of the state are financed by the state budget and received income from the services, which are not prohibited by the legislation, are transferred to the state budget.

The institutions, which are under the municipal administration and private property are financed by their own income, but also by the incomes, which are not prohibited by the legislation.

1.5 Decision of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR about activities for protection of monuments of culture on the territories of mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash and the Yazili hill №1003 25 July 1950

The Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR decides:

1) To take into the consideration declaration of the President of The Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan SSR Aliyev that, according to the materials on disposal, the mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Yazili hil (situated in the north-west from railway stations Sangachal and Duvannaya of Azerbaijan Railway) by their natural-historical, geological indicators, and especially, by their archeological monuments, are wide complex type protected zones.

2) In accordance with the Decision of the Presidium of Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR from 22 april 1950 about the declaration of the region of mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Yazili hill under the special control by bodies of state power with limited cultural usage of close-situated territories, to prohibit in the abovementioned territories the exploration of stone.

3) To instruct the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences SSR (Aliyev M.M.) in a one-month period:

a) to prepare and submit for discussion of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR for the following submission to the Council of Ministers of USSR, all documentation, necessary for the declaration of the mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Yazili hill together with close-situated territories of state protected zones.

b) To define the territory, where, according to the paragraph 2 of the Decision, the exploration of stone is prohibited, and set up in the borders of the territory identifying signs.

1.6 The Decision of The Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR about the organization of the Gobustan state historical-artistic reserve № 503 9 September 1966, Baku

About the organization of the Gobustan State historical-artistic protected zone

For the protection and popularization rock images on the territory of Gobustan, which have great historical artistic and cultural value. The Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR decides:

- 1) To declare the zone of the mountains Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Gingirdag the Gobustan State historical-artistic protected zone of the ministry of Culture Azerbaijan SSR.
- 2) To instruct the Ministry of Culture of republic:
 - a) together with Baku city executive power, Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan SSR, the Academy of Sciences and other interested bodies and organizations of republic to define in the set up order the borders of the protected zone, and to give for the confirmation to the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR, its scheme map;
 - b) Near the Boyukdash mountain to build the showroom for the demonstration to the visitors the materials of culture, living and the activities of ancient people;
 - c) To affirm in agreement with the Ministry of Finances of Republic the schedule of the abovementioned protected zone with the staff and salary fund, affirmed to the Ministry of Culture by plan of labor for 1966 year;
 - d) To realize the accomplishment of the territory of the protected zone.
- 3) To instruct the Ministry of Finances of Azerbaijan SSR to take into the consideration in the state budget of republic for 1967 all the necessary assignments for the existence of the protected zone.
- 4) The Academy of Science of the republic shall provide in 1967 the publication of the annotated album "Rock images of Gobustan".

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR

(E. Alikhanov)

1.7 Decision of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR № 115 of 6 April 1970, Baku

About the measure, well-planning, popularization and preservation of Gobustan historical-art reserve.

The Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR notes that the organization of Gobustan historical-art reserve assisted to the further learning and popularity ancient monument of culture of Azerbaijan nation.

During a short period it well known all of the word and became as an object of sciences-researching and the centre of tourist visits.

There are essential deficiencies incase of conservation this reserve, well-planning its territory and social services.

The presence of stone sand-pit on the Beyukdash mountain create threat for the expensive monuments of culture – ranks of primitive people and their creations, which concentrate on the south-west part of the mountain.

The Ministry of Industrial Build Materials the production of stones on Beyukdash mountain disturb the borders, which confirmed by the decision № 68 of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR from 1st January of 1953 about establishing the borders of the territory of Duvanin industrial complex which produced building materials and monuments of material culture and also don't observe the regimen which ensured the retention stone frame of mountain.

The Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR didn't ensure the realization of decision № 326 of Counsel of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR from 22nd July of 1968 in cultivation of draft-project documentary for the well-planning and building over the territory of reserve.

On the reserve didn't create the objects of cultural-social appointment for servicing of visitors, the roads taking to the reserve and places where disposed main monuments didn't repair.

The Institutes of academy of Sciences slowed in learning the history, geography, geology, fauna, flora, microclimate of Qobustan and in decision sciences problem on strighyling with erosion of Absheron limestone which consist of Qobustan Mountain.

The Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR desisted:

To note that the direction of Ministry of Industrial build Materials(ex-minister Com. Alakparov A., deputy of minister Com. Agakishibekov Y.) in cultivication stones deposits on Beyukdash mountain supposed rude refusals from the established borders by the decision № 68 of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR from 21st January 1935.

Commit the Ministry of Industrial build materials of Az. SSR (Com. Musabekov F.).

- to end the production of stones from 1st January of 1971 on Beyukdash mountain. During 2 weeks jointly with the Ministry of Culture and Department by the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR by geology to determine parts and regimen of stone production for the next period of 1970.

-to ensure in 1970 with the forces of "Azqiprovodxoz" Institute to cultivate to project of protect measures to prevent accumulation of water on the west slope of Beyukdash mountain and realized these measures till 1971.

-to take measures for widening sand-pits which in active and create new.

To commit the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR (Com. Hajiev R., Babaxanov R.):

- a) Increase the conducting of archeological and science-researching works in Qobustan. Concentrate in reserve more expensive materials of excavations.
- b) From 1st September 1970 to ensure the composition of the Qobustan reserve plan.
- c) To realize during 1970 at the territory of reserve the urgent works for well-planning, settings advertisements, capital repair of the Museum building and to confirm the reserve borders.

To the Ministry of Finance of Azerbaijan SSR to solve and realize these questions.

To the Stateplan of Azerbaijan SSR by order Ministry of Culture during 1971 to ensure by helping Institute "Azqosproekt" to consist the general plan of the reserve.

Attaching to attention of Ministry of Culture to create a special color photo-exhibition of "Qobustan" for wide view in other cities of state.

To assignment to Baku city's Executive Power with the Ministry of Culture during 1970 ensure to make up the draft-project documentary for the building of roads taking to Beyukdash and Djingirdag mountains. But from 1971 by helping Qushosdora to realized the building this road.

To Stateplan of Azerbaijan SSR to envisage in national-agricultural plan for 1971 to invest the capital on Baku city Executive Power for building the road.

Assignment to Department of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR on geology (Bayramov A.) to learn and submit till 1st July 1970 to Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR motions for preventing broken off crumbling at the south-west part of slope of Beyukdash Mountain.

To the Academy of sciences of Azerbaijan SSR to strengthen the works of science-researching institute about the complex learning problems of Qobustan.

Commit the State Committee of Cinematography by the order of Ministry of Culture and Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan SSR to produced 1971 sciences-popular cinema, to commit State Committee to redact the literature, cards, placates and other products dedicate to Qobustan.

Qlavsnabu of Azerbaijan SSR detach to Ministry of Culture of Republic for Qobustan historical-art reserve a car (GAZ-69) and motorbike (K-750).

Entrust the Ministry of Communication by the order and remedy of Ministry of Culture to realize till 1st August 1970 the building air line of Community from phone station of Duvan village to the Qobustan museum-reserve.

To the Ministry of Trade of Azerbaijan SSR until the building of trade complex, to open at the building of Qobustan museum-reserve the canteen for servicing visitors.

To the Ministries of Culture and Industrial Build materials of Azerbaijan SSR till 1st November 1970 to report to the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR about the motion of the executive current decision.

Chairman of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR (E. Alixanov)
Chief of Administration of Council of Azerbaijan SSR (S. Djabarov)

1.8 Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR confirming the internal regulations of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve N. 366 of 29 July 1982

Regulation of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve

I. General regulations

1. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve, the world culture's site, is the scientific-research establishment organized on the basis of Decree N 503 of Ministries Cabinet of Azerbaijan SSR on September 9, 1966 on "Organization of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve". This site is under the protection of government.

The Reserve includes the territory of Boyukdash, Kichikdash and Jinghirdagh mountains and adjoining to them territories according to the approved map-scheme by Cabinet of Ministries of Azerbaijan SSR.

2. The reserve, being in the obedience of Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR, is the budget organization on the basis of its own independent balance and enjoys the rights of body corporate.

3. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve in its work follows the legislative acts of USSR, Azerbaijan SSR, decisions of higher in subordination order governmental structures on the questions of protection and use of the historical and cultural properties and this Regulation.

II. Purposes and tasks of reservation

4. The main goal of reserve is providing of preservation of the historical and cultural properties, using them on the purposes of development of science, propaganda of historical and cultural importance of these properties.

5. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve has the next tasks:

- a. preservation of the inviolability of the historical and cultural properties (rock carvings, the places of sites of ancient inhabitants and other properties connected with them), maintenance of the established regime in the reserve;
- b. discovering of properties on the territory of the reserve by carrying out the archeological researches and excavations as well as by rendering the assistance to scientists in their researches;
- c. propaganda of the scientific, historical and cultural importance of properties of ancient Gobustan by organizing exhibitions, photo display stands, publishing the popular literature, conducting the excursions;
- d. registration in the established order of historical and cultural properties.

III. Providing of preservation of the reserve, order and conditions of using of the properties

6. Removing, destruction, changing of the historical and cultural properties is prohibited.

In accordance with the law of Azerbaijan SSR on "Conservation and use of the historical and cultural properties" the exclusion of the rule, established by the first paragraph of the present clause, can be allowed only with the special in each particular case permission of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR.

7. Organizations, institutions, establishments of which ownership or use are the historical and cultural properties of reserve, take the responsibility for its preservation and are obliged to follow the rules of protection, use, registration and reconstruction of indicated properties.

8. Organizations, institutions, establishments and citizens are obliged to provide the preservation of the historical and cultural properties.

9. Without special permission of Head Inspection on conservation and use of the historical and cultural properties, any kinds of land, construction and other works as well as the cultivating activity are prohibited in the boundaries of the frontiers of the reserve's territory.

10. The construction of new and reconstruction of present objects on the territory of reserve have to be realized in the accordance with the approved in the established order General Plan of the reserve. The allotment of the area for new construction and enlargement of existing sites in the boundaries of the reserve's frontiers has to be agreed with the State Committee on Architecture and Construction and Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR.

11. Organizations, institutions, establishments in the case of discovering of the archaeological and other sites, having the historical, scientific, artistic and cultural importance, during the conducted works on the territory of the reserve, have to inform about it the direction of the reserve and stop any further conducting of works.

12. The decision of the reserve's direction on questions, indicated in clauses 7-11 of the current Regulation is bound for all organizations, institutions, establishments and citizens.

13. Historical and cultural properties of the reserve are used for scientific-research purposes by the agreement with the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR and under the leadership of reserve's direction.

14. The use of the historical and cultural properties of the reserve for the scientific- research purposes is allowed only in the case if it does not damage the preservation of the property and its historical-cultural value. Along with each case such use is allowed with permission of Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR.

15. The conduction of excavations and investigations of archeological properties on the territory of the reserve is allowed in the case of having a permission (open papers), issued by Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan SSR, registered by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR.

IV. The rights and responsibilities of direction of reserve.

16. The direction of the keeps up the constant business links with the parties, professional unions and young communist organizations, executive committee of People Deputies Council of Karadagh District and its appropriate divisions, educational and scientific establishments, creative unions and famous persons involved in science and culture, make contacts on the basis of patronage for the successful implementation of tasks of the reserve.

The executive Committee of People Deputies Council of Karadagh District renders necessary assistance in organization of the work of reserve.

17. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve is headed by director, appointed and dismissed from position by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR. All other staff is appointed and dismissed by the order of director of the reserve, excluding the division directors and main fund keeper, which are appointed and released by the order of Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR on the basis of presentation of the reserve's director.

18. The Director of the reserve:

- a) leads the work of the reserve, organize the strict implementation of regime on providing the preservation and use of the historical and cultural properties;
- b) organizes the comprehensive study of historical and cultural properties with the aim of determination of its historical, scientific, artistic importance and drawing up of scientific description;
- c) organizes the work on discovering and studying the stored in state archives, library and museum's fund materials, regarding to the properties of the reserve;
- d) provides the drawing up of annual and perspective plans of reserve's works, implementation of the scientific-research works, the measures on maintenance of the regime of reserve;
- e) leads the promotion of qualifications of reserve's staff, distributes the responsibilities among the staff, provides the completion of staff position of the reserve;
- f) presents for consideration by appropriate structures suggestions directed for improvement of the functioning of the reserve;
- g) attracts to the scientific-research works the specialists of the Institutes of History, Archaeology and Art of Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan SSR on the contact basis in the case of possession of the appropriate assignments;
- h) stops the land, construction and other kinds of work in the case of occurring, during its conduction, the danger for the preservation of the historical and cultural properties;
- i) gives an account on done work to Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR and annually presents the statistical and text account in the approved forms.

19. On the purposes to assist the direction for the successful implementation of the above-mentioned tasks and goals, the scientific council as the consulting body composed of director of the reserve, representatives of the appropriate government structures and public organizations, confirmed by Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan SSR is functioning in the reserve.

During the activity of the reserve the scientific archive is formed, which contents the perspective, annual plans of the reserve, manuscripts of scientific-research works, different documents about the historical and cultural properties, included in the reserve, thesis and themes of lectures etc.

20. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve has its stamp with the depiction of the National Emblem of Azerbaijan SSR, with its name in Azerbaijan and Russian languages and bank account in division of national bank.

21. The means of the reserve are formed from the budget assignments and special means from the sale of souvenirs, publications and expended for the maintenance of the apparatus and reconstruction measures, conservation and propaganda of the properties.

22. Liquidation of the reserve can only take place with the decree of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR.

1.9 The Order of the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Republic № 30 04.02.2003

In accordance with the law of Azerbaijan Republic from 22.11.2002 №382 – II QD, the changes and additions are made in the laws “About copyright and allocated rights”, “About museums” and “About Culture”. The minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Republic for the implementation of these changes and additions orders:

- 1) The Minister of Culture of Nakhichevan AR, the managers of cultural institutions of Baku, Gandja, Sumgait, the managers of city and district departments, which are financed from the state budget shall take these changes and additions for the information and management.
- 2) The Department of the Economy (D.Ibragimova), The Head Department for the protection, restoration and the usage of the monuments (Bayramov), The Head Department of Cinema (G. Faradjov), the Department of Culture Policy (N.Akhundova) during the month shall prepare the recommendations and shall submit them to the administration in connection with these changes and additions.

The Control on implementation is entitled to the deputy-ministers Valiyev and Mamedaliyev.

Cultural Policy in Azerbaijan. Museums and Heritage Sections

PART 2 - Heritage

Chapter 9. Cultural and natural heritage

The beginning of the history of protection of Azerbaijan's cultural heritage linked with adoption of Resolution of Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee, dated 1921, on restoration of the Khans' Palaces in Shusha and Sheki. In 1924, by the Resolution of the Soviet People's Commissars, cultural monuments of national significance were taken into public ownership, and the state is now responsible for registering and protecting them.

In the first 20-25 years of the Republic's existence, the attitude to the monuments of national architecture from the side of Soviet authorities were blasphemously. Such unique monument of Baku City, as Islamic cultural-memorial Bibi-Eybat complex (7th-20th centuries), the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (19th century) and the Roman Catholic Church (1900) were blown up, destroyed and razed in the 1930s.

In the early years of Soviet rule, restoration works have been carried out by the Central Monument Conservation Service, which had little in the way of resources and could rely only on the enthusiasm of its staff. Common Soviet laws on protection of cultural heritage have been used on the territory of Azerbaijan. Alike these laws another resolutions have been adopted.

On 14 October 1948, the Council of Ministers adopted a decision "on measures to improve the protection of cultural monuments", as a basis for action in this area.

In 1952, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan decided to set up a specialised restoration unit, which started work on some of the country's principal monuments. The monuments restored at that time now count, by reason of their uniqueness, as part of the world's heritage. However, the young architects employed by the unit had no experience of restoration work. ... During the restoration often were used inappropriate modern techniques and building materials.

The restoration department "Berpachi" was created in the beginning of eighties. The main purpose of this department was research and restoration of the monuments of Baku. The beginning of activity of the department was effectively affected on the restoration of monuments of Icheri Sheher and Apsheron.

Until 1992, the protection of cultural and historic monuments was the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture's Monument Conservation Department. The Government Committee on the Protection and Restoration of Historic and Cultural Monuments then took over until 2000. This Committee was responsible for protection, restoration and utilizations of monuments on the territory of the Republic. As the following events has shown that the decision was too wrong. A new organized structure, which had no sufficient experience in the field of restoration of monuments, couldn't expand its activity. When this Committee was abolished, responsibility was again transferred to the Ministry of Culture, which responded by setting up a special Chief Department for the Protection, Restoration and Use of Cultural and Historic Monuments.

All the country's urban and local authorities also have cultural services, which monitor the state of monuments. During the Soviet period the Voluntary Association for the Protection of Cultural and

Historic Monuments was created, but this was more interested in propaganda than protection. In recent years the function of this society became weak because of a lack of funds.

Monument conservation today

The Government has reviewed the lists of state-protected monuments adopted in 1968, 1981 and 1988. A new list, based on the earlier ones, was adopted in August 2001, and has the same legal status as its predecessors. Monuments linked with revolutionary and communist ideology and leaders have been dropped. One of the aims of the list, which covers architecture, archaeology, formal gardens and parks, is to rank monuments according to their importance - world, national or local. Buildings of world or national value may not be privatised. Residential buildings of local value, or apartments located in such buildings, may be privatised only with the consent of the Ministry of Culture. When such buildings or apartments are already in private hands, protection contracts, prohibiting any perversion of the first look of a monument, are concluded with the owners. The following classification table is based on the latest approved list of state-protected monuments of history and culture.

Type of monument	<i>Importance</i>			Total
	World	National	Local	
Architectural	21	359	3480	3860
Archaeological	44	1616	384	2044
Formal gardens, parks	-	59	137	196
Decorative and applied arts (statues, etc.)	-	-	208	208
<u>Total</u>				6308

Without wishing to detract from the latest list’s importance or belittle the efforts of the experts who prepared it, it must be said that extensive research is now needed to update it.

Some monuments are protected in reserves. At present, there are 15 historic/architectural, historic/archaeological, historic/cultural and historic/ethnographical reserves in Azerbaijan. Taking into account the significance of some monuments of archaeology, town planning and architecture, the Ministry of Culture has established 4 new reserves during 2002 year in order to protect and propaganda these monuments:

- historical/archaeological reserve on the territory of destroyed medieval town Shabran, located on the Silk Road;
- historical/cultural reserve on the basis of Ilisu village (16-17 centuries) in Qakh district;
- historical/art reserve of ancient rock art Qemigaya in Ordubad district (Nakhchivan)
- territory of valley of Arpa river in Sharur district (Nakhchivan), where concentrated archaeological monuments

All the reserves are controlled both by the Ministry of Culture, which founds them, and by the local authority. Experience shows that this can create problems, since the efforts of the local authority are not always co-ordinated with those of the Ministry – and conservation sometimes suffers.

Big problems in the sphere of monuments’ protection have been caused by absence of its protecting system, despite this system’s necessity it determined by the Law. The Ministry of Culture deals with defining protecting monuments’ zones, what is a very complicated issue due to local specific peculiarities. The Ministry of Culture has no enough responsibilities and wide structure of

monuments' protection on the whole territory of the country. This circumstance does not allow to the Ministry to conduct opportune and periodic work in this sphere. Factually, a small staff of cultural centres at local authorities of executive authority carry out these functions.

The problem of using architectural monuments is still unsettled. Today, some monuments are not used in accordance with the first functional earmarking. They are used utilizably: for restaurants, cafes, workshop studios, etc. Such using demands holding of necessary communications, sometimes it demands re-planning which, as a result, causes destroying of the monument.

Legislation, certification, education

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the protection, restoration and use of Azerbaijan's cultural and historic monuments are responsibilities of each citizen of Azerbaijan. The protection, restoration and use of Azerbaijan's cultural and historic monuments governed by the Culture Act (6 February 1998) and by the Act on the Protection of Historic and Cultural Monuments (10 April 1998), and also by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972) and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 1992).

The country's historic and cultural monuments were originally registered under the uniform system introduced by the Institute of Culture of the former USSR in 1969. Under this system, each monument had a "passport" and registration card, and detailed information on it was recorded. During the soviet period, some 1,500 monuments were registered in this way. At present, new national standards of certification and cataloguing are worked out.

Education. Science

Education and trainings of specialists in the sphere of preservation of monuments is provided by Architectural-Construction University and State University of Culture, where correspondingly are trained architects-specialist in restoration and specialists on preservation of the cultural monuments.

In the system of National Academy of Sciences there is functioning the Institute of Architecture and Arts, Institute of Archeology and Ethnography where there are conducted scientific researches on studying, discovering and history of cultural heritage. Under National Academy of Sciences there is functioning Scientific-Methodic Council on historical and cultural monuments.

International co-operation

Azerbaijan co-operates closely with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, and Baku's historic centre, with the Shirvanshakh Palace and the Maiden's Tower, was included on the World Heritage List in 2000. Information on three further monuments (Temple of fire-faith adepts "Ateshgah", Cultural-Historical Reserve "Gobustan" and the Mausoleum in Nahchivan), which are on the preliminary list, has been sent to the Centre. Co-operation with international organizations is adjusted. Azerbaijani specialists in the field of preservation and restoration of historical and cultural monuments systematically participate in international conferences and sessions, conducted by UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICROM and other organizations.

Restoration and conservation works are conducted generally with financing from the state budget, budget of local authorities and donations of individuals, foreign and international organizations. For example, restoration of small German church ("Kapelhaus") in Baku was fully financed by the German Government. There have been conducted the archeological works and now there are being

conducted restoration works in the Christian temple of V-VI centuries in the Kish village near of Sheki city, financed by non-governmental organizations of Norway.

In 1999 between the Government of Azerbaijan and the World Bank there was signed long-term Credit agreement on 7.5 million US dollars in frameworks of which there is foreseen reconstruction of the second floor of residence and conservation of Divankhana on the territory of the complex Shirvanshahs Palace (XIV-XV centuries), conservation of Mausoleum and two minarets of XIV century in the Garabaglar village, conservation of the Mausoleum of Momina-khatun of XI century in Nakhchivan and restoration of Shekikhans Palace of XVIII century. Under the Ministry of Culture there was established group on realization of the “Project of Support of Cultural Heritage”, which conducted tenders, which revealed the firms for implementation of these works. Now the restoration works are conducted in all of above-mentioned objects and due to the conditions of the Contract the foreign specialists provide local specialists on restoration with training on progressive methods of conservation.

In the project there are also worked out Plans on development of above-mentioned monuments, which has the aim of organization of profitable infrastructure for local population by development of cultural tourism. These Plans, worked out by French specialists, intend a long-term program, consisted of three phases.

Further works

Improved conservation in the near future depends on:

- Reviewing monuments currently listed, and preparing a new, up-graded list matching international standards;
- Completing registration of historic and cultural monuments;
- Setting up a specialised conservation network;
- Working out program of utilization of monuments which ensure their preservation and protection;
- Developing a purposeful preservation and restoration plan;
- Providing better training in the field of heritage protection and restoration;
- Putting restoration on an effective national basis;
- Up-dating current legislation on heritage protection and restoration;
- Realising the plans of the objects’ development;
- Educating young specialists in European universities.

Chapter 10. Museums

Background

The first museum in Azerbaijan was a school museum, founded in the village of Nehram in the early 19th century.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Education Museum was set up at the Public Schools Authority in Baku. Around the same time, an in-house museum was also established at the Baku branch of the Russian Technical Association. This mounted exhibitions on various themes (“Oil”, “The Shamakhy Earthquake”, etc.).

Under the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920), the Museum of Independence was opened in the Parliament building in Baku on 7 December 1919.

The Azerbaijan State Museum was established in May 1921, initially with sections devoted to archaeology, history, ethnography and nature. An art department was added later. This expanded to become the State Museum of the Arts, and the State Theatrical Museum was founded on a similar basis in 1934. The State Museum itself was reorganised as the Azerbaijan Museum of History in 1936.

In the twenties, local museums were founded in many other cities and towns, such as Ganja, Nakhchivan, Sheki, Lankaran.

A Resolution of the Government paving the way for a literary museum, named after Nizami, the great Azeri poet, was passed in 1939, the 800th anniversary of his birth. The Nizami Museum was opened in 1945.

The Museum of National Education was founded in Baku in 1940.

The Musical Culture Museum and the Carpets and Applied Arts Museum (both in Baku) were established by government decree in 1967, as were local museums in Zagatala, Agdam and other places and a unique Museum of Bread in Agdam. The museum network continued to expand in the seventies, partly thanks to the personal efforts and commitment of H. Aliyev, the country's leader. In this and the following decade, memorial museums devoted to the life and work of a number of outstanding artists and writers were opened, e.g. the Samed Vurghun and Uzeyir Hadjibeyov Museums in 1975, and the Byul-Byul, Djafar Djabbarli and Nariman Narimanov Museums in 1982. The State Museums Office was founded in 1980, to advise museums on techniques and methods. It serves museums in the capital and in outlying areas.

In 1980, in accordance with the Government's Resolution, historical territorial museums, and also the Museum of Stone Sculpture in Zangelan, the Museum of long-living people in Lerik, etc. have been founded in almost all big administrative districts (Agjabedy, Geichay, Zardab, Shamkir, Udjar, etc.)

State Museum of Carpet and Applied Art was opened in Baku in 1972. Valuable historical exhibits: archeological monuments of Bronze Epoch, 12-century pottery crockery, carpets and 17-century carpet works, artistic needlework and national clothing of 19 century, etc. The exhibitions from the Museum's collections have been demonstrated in more than 50 countries, such as England, Holland, Israel, India, Iran, Spain, Turkey, Italy, Cuba, Portugal, Russia, France, etc. It's necessary to note that the Museum carries out huge work on propaganda of national cultural heritage by holding international symposia and conferences, etc.

The restoration unit, which had been operating at the Museum of Arts since 1957, became the Centre for the Scientific Restoration of Museum Exhibits and Relics in 1982. It offers museums and the public a wide range of restoration and conservation services.

The social, political and ideological changes of the nineties also led to changes on the museum front. Thus the Museum of Atheism became the Museum of Religious History, while museums devoted to various Soviet statesmen, such as the museums of Lenin, Phioletov, Kirov, etc., were closed. Conversely, a number of museums devoted to the history of the democratic movement in Azerbaijan and the struggle for peace have been created. In spite of the problems raised by the transition, the network is still growing. In the last decade alone, 21 new museums have been opened.

The State University of Culture and the Arts acquired a "Museum and Cultural Work Department" in 1991, and has started to run courses on museum management and monument conservation.

An ICOM National Committee was established in Azerbaijan in 1992, and has since played an active part in the life of the museum community. Its Chairman and members attend sessions of the ICOM Executive Committee, and present reports at ICOM international conferences. Several issues of an “ICOM – Azerbaijan” bulletin were published, but financial difficulties have now put a stop to this.

Azerbaijan has 146 museums¹ and 30 picture galleries. Of these, 138 museums (including 21 branches) are controlled by the Ministry of Culture, 4 are controlled by the National Academy of Sciences, and the remainder is controlled by other departments.

By type, these museums break down as follows:

Historical and local museums	82
Literary museums	25
Art museums	23
Museums of science and technology	6
Museums/architectural monuments	4
Museums of natural history	1
<u>Total</u>	146

The national museum collection contains 1,150,936 items.

The largest museums are:

- The State Museum of the Arts (the Mustafayev Museum), which houses 14,525 items;
- The State Carpets and Applied Arts Museum, which houses 9,823 items;
- The State Historical Museum ..., which houses 255,375 items;
- The Shirvanshakh Palace Complex, which houses 21,391 items;
- The State Theatrical Museum (the Djabbarli Museum), which houses 116,783 items;
- The State Museum of Musical Culture, which houses 31,284 items;
- The State Literary Museum (the Nizami Museum), which houses 59,275 items.

The country’s museums employ a total of 2,228 people, of whom 900 are curators, scientific assistants and guides.

Concerning the fate of museums and museum collections in the occupied territories, the Ministry of Culture and the ICOM National Committee have repeatedly raised this issue with UNESCO. 2 Fact-finding missions were sent to Azerbaijan in 1994 and 1995. The result was an appeal by UNESCO, recognising that Armenia had seized Azerbaijani territories and calling on it to protect their cultural assets. With UNESCO backing and using its logo a leaflet carrying pictures and details of various seized items was also issued.

Although museums in the occupied territories have lost their buildings, almost all their collections, their catalogues and their display equipment, they have not been abolished in law, and their staff has not been dismissed. As “refugee museums”, they still receive funds from the Ministry of Culture, maintain their activities, and have been assigned special premises. Their staff still receives salaries (which is why these museums appear in the figures kept by the Central Statistics Board and the Ministry of Culture).

¹ 15 reserve collections, which are controlled by the Ministry of Culture, and one open-air museum, the Gobustan Museum of History and the Arts, are not included in the list.

Annex III

Record of archaeological sites at Gobustan under Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 140 of 2 April 1968 (extracts concerning Baku City, 2 pages)

Appendix №2
to the decision of ministerial Council of
Azerbaijan SSR
from April 2, 1968. №140

L i s t archeological monuments of Azerbaijan, taken under protection

№ №	Location of the monument	The name of the monument	Century (epoch)
1	2	3	4
Baku city			
1. Gobustan State Historical-Art Reserve			
1.	Duvanny station (in 2 km to the south on the Kichikdash mountain)	The rock carvings, the cup depressions and the through apertures for animals' tether & so on	The Stone Age up to the Middle Ages
2.	150-200 metres to the south from the Kichikdash mountain	Cemetery "Garaalty"	The Middle Ages
3.	4 km to the east from Duvanny station on the Beyukdash mountain	The rock carvings, the cup depressions and the through apertures for animals' tether	The Stone Age up to the Middle Ages
4.	On the law terrace of the Beyukdash mountain, on the stone №16	Roman inscriptions	I century A.D.
5.	On the upper terrace of the Beyukdash mountain	The stone water-supply	The Stone & the Bronze Ages
6.	200-300 km to the south-west from the Beyukdash mountain	An old cemetery	The Middle Ages

7.	At the north-east bottom of the Beyukdash mountain	Kromlechs	The epoch of Bronze
8.	3 km to the north-east from Beyukdash mountain	3 burial mounds	
9.	10 km to the west from Sangachal railway station on the mountains Jinghirdagh & Yazyly-tepe	The rock carvings, the cup depressions and the trough apertures for animals' tether & so on	The Stone Age up to the Middle Ages
10.	On the Yazyly-tepe, on the stone №91	The inscriptions with Arabic alphabet	XVI century
11.	On the Jinghirdagh mountain	Gavaldashy	The Stone Age

Record of archaeological sites at Gobustan under Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 145 of 25 April 1988 (full document, 56 pages)

Appendix № 2
to the decision of ministerial Council
Azerbaijan republic
from April 25, 1988

List of again – revealed archaeological monuments of Azerbaijan

№№	The appellation of monument & the date of its creation	Locationn of the monument
1	2	3
Gobustan State Historical - Art Reserve		
1.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
2.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
3.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
4.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
5.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
6.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
7.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
8.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
9.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
10.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
11.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
12.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
13.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"

List of again – revealed archaeological monuments of Azerbaijan

№№	The appellation of monument & the date of its creation	Locationn of the monument
1	2	3
Gobustan State Historical - Art Reserve		
1.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
2.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
3.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
4.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
5.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
6.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
7.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
8.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
9.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
10.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
11.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
12.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
13.	The rock carvings ; the Bronze & the Stone Ages , the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"

		territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
116.	The rock carvings; the Stone & the Bronze Ages, the Middle Ages	
117.	The rock carvings; the Stone & the Bronze Ages, the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
118.	The rock carvings; the Stone & the Bronze Ages, the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
119.	The rock carvings; the Stone & the Bronze Ages, the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
120.	The rock carvings; the Stone & the Bronze Ages, the Middle Ages	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
121.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	The immutable part of Kichikdash mountain's territory, the collection "Kichikdash"
122.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
123.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
124.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
125.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
126.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
127.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
128.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
129.	The rock carving & the cup depression; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
130.	The rock carving; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
131.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
132.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
133.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
134.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"
135.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the top of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Gayalty"

154.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	“Dashgyshlag” At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
155.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
156.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
157.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
158.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
159.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
160.	The ancient rock carvings, the cup depressions, through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
161.	The ancient rock carvings, the cup depressions, through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
162.	The rock carvings, the cup depressions, through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
163.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
164.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
165.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
166.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
167.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
168.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
169.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
170.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
171.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
172.	The camp “Firuz-1”; the Stone Age & the epoch of Bronze	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection

		“Dashgyshlag”
173.	The camp “Firuz-2”; the Stone Age & The epoch of Bronze	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
174.	The camp “Jeyranlar”; the Stone Age & the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
175.	The camp “Anazaga”; Mezolit till an antique period	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
176.	The camp “Kyaniza”; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
177.	The camp “Okyuzlar”; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
178.	The camp “Okyuzlar-2”; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
179.	The camp “Chardag zagasy”; the early Bronze Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
180.	The camp “Ovchular zagasy”; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
181.	The camp “IV refuge” ; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
182.	The camp “Dashalty”; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
183.	Burial mounds; the epoch of Bronze	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
184.	The rock carvings; IV-I milleniums B.C.; XVIII-XIX centuries	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
185.	The rock carvings; V-I milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
186.	The rock carvings; VII-VI milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
187.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
188.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
189.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
190.	The rock carvings; the Stone Age	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
191.	The rock carvings ; VII milleniums B.C.; III milleniums B.C., XV-XVI centuries	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
192.	The rock carvings; V-II milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
193.	The rock carvings; II-I milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
194.	The rock carvings; IV-III milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
195.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone & Bronze	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”
196.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone & Bronze	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection “Dashgyshlag”

	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone & Bronze	"Dashgyshlag"
197.	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Dashgyshlag"
198.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone & Bronze	
199.	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C.	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Dashgyshlag"
200.	The ancient Latin inscription; the I century A.D.	
201.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Dashgyshlag"
202.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	
203.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	At the Dashgyshlag settlement in the south part of Kichikdash mountain, the collection "Dashgyshlag"
204.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
205.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	The east underground of Kichikdash mountain
206.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone & Bronze, the Middle Ages	
207.	The rock carvings; IV milleniums B.C.	The east underground of Kichikdash mountain
208.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	The east underground of Kichikdash mountain
209.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
210.	The rock carvings; VI milleniums B.C.	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
211.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
212.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
213.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
214.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone , Bronze, the Middle Ages	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
215.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone , Bronze, the Middle Ages	On Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
216.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	In zone of Kichikdash mountain
217.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
218.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

219.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace
220.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
221.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
222.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
223.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
224.	The through apertures; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
225.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
226.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
227.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
228.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
229.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
230.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
231.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
232.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
233.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
234.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
235.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
236.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
237.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
238.	The rock carvings; II-III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
240.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace
241.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
242.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
243.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
244.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	
245.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
246.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
247.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
248.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
249.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
250.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
251.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
252.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
253.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
254.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
255.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
256.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
257.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
258.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
259.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
260.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
261.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace

	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
262.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	
263.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
264.	The through aperture; the Middle Ages	
265.	The cup depression; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
266.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
267.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
268.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
269.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
270.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
271.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
272.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
273.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
274.	The rock carvings; the cup depression & the through aperture; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
275.	The rock carving; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
276.	The rock carving; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
277.	The rock carvings & the through aperture; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
278.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
279.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
280.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
281.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
282.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace
283.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
284.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
285.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
286.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
287.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
288.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
289.	The through aperture, tamga; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
290.	The rock carvings, tamga; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
291.	The through aperture; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
292.	The rock carvings, tamga; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
293.	The rock carvings, tamga; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
294.	The rock carvings, tamga; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
295.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone., Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
296.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone., Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
297.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
298.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
299.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
300.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
301.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
302.	The rock carvings; III millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace

	The rock carvings; IX- X century A.D.	
303.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
304.		
305.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
306.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
307.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
308.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
308.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
309.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
310.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
311.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
312.	The rock carvings; II millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
313.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
314.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
315.		
316.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
317.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
318.		
319.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
320.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
321.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
322.		
323.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

324.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace
325.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
326.	The rock carvings; IV- III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
327.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
328.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
329.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
340.	The rock carvings; XIV-XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
341.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
342.	The rock carvings; the early Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
343.	The rock carvings; the early Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
344.	The rock carvings; VI-VI milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
345.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
346.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
347.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
348.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
349.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
350.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
351.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
352.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
353.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
354.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
355.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
356.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
357.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone,	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace

379.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
380.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
381.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
382.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
383.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
384.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
385.	The rock carvings; II-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
386.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
387.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
388.	The rock carvings; II-I milleniums B.C.	
389.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
390.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
391.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
392.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
393.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
394.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
395.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
396.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
397.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
398.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
399.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace

400.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
401.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
402.	The rock carvings; III-II milleniums B.C. The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
403.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
404.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
405.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
406.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
407.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
408.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
409.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
410.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
411.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
412.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
413.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
414.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
415.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
416.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
417.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
418.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
419.	The chute; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
420.	The chute; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace

442.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
443.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
444.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
445.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
446.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
447.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
448.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
449.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
450.	The rock carvings; IV-III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
451.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
452.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
453.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
454.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
455.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
456.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
457.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
458.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
459.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
460.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
461.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
462.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone,	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

	Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace
463.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
464.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
465.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
466.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
467.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
468.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
469.	The rock carvings ; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
470.	The cup depressions; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	
471.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
472.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
473.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
474.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
475.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
476.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
477.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
478.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
479.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
480.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
481.	The rock carvings; the inscriptions, the chute; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, The Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
482.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, The Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
483.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

484.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace
485.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
486.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
487.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
488.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
489.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
490.	The cup depression, the chute; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
491.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
492.	The rock carvings; the cup depression, the chute; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
493.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
494.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
495.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
496.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
497.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
498.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
499.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
500.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
501.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
502.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
503.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
504.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone,	

527.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
528.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
529.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
530.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
531.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
532.	The rock carvings; VI-V milleniums B.C., III-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
533.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
534.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
535.	The rock carvings; IV-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
536.	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C. The rock carvings; VI-V milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
537.	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
538.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
539.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
540.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
541.	The rock carvings; II milleniums B.C. The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
542.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
543.	The rock carvings & the through apertures; II-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
544.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
545.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
546.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
547.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
548.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone,	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
549.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

550.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	lower terrace
551.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
552.	The rock carvings the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
553.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
554.	The rock carvings; VIII-I milleniums B.C., the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
555.	The rock carvings; VII-I milleniums B.C., X-XIII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
556.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
557.	The rock carvings; Eneolit	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
558.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
559.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
560.	Sculptural drawings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
561.	The rock carvings; VII-VI milleniums B.C., IV-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
562.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
563.	The rock carvings; III-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
564.	The rock carvings; VII-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
565.	The rock carvings; VI-III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
566.	The rock carvings; VI-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
567.	The rock carvings; V milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
568.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
569.	The rock carvings; III-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
570.	The rock carvings; VI-V milleniums B.C., II-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
571.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
572.	The rock carvings; VIII-VI milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
573.	The rock carvings; VIII-VI milleniums B.C., IV-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
574.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
575.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

	epoch of Stone	lower terrace
573.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
	The rock carvings; VIII-I milleniums B.C.	
574.	The rock carvings; VIII-I milleniums B.C.	
575.	The rock carvings; V-IV milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
576.	The rock carvings; VII-II milleniums B.C.	
	The rock carvings; V-III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
577.	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C.	
578.	The rock carvings (from excavations); VI-V milleniums B.C., III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
579.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
580.	The rock carvings; VII milleniums B.C.	
	The rock carvings; VIII-VI milleniums B.C., V-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
581.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	
582.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
583.		
584.	The rock carvings; VIII milleniums B.C., VI-V milleniums B.C., XVIII-XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
585.	The rock carvings; the later Middle Ages	
	The rock carvings, the cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
586.		
	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
587.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	
588.	The rock carvings; the cup depressions; the epoch of Stone,	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
589.	The cup depressions; Eneolit	
590.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
591.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
592.	The rock carvings; II-I milleniums B.C.	
	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
593.		
	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
594.		
	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone,	

	Bronze, the middle Ages	
595.	The rock carvings; I millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
596.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
597.	The rock carvings; VII-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
598.	The rock carvings; IV milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
599.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
600.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
601.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
602.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
603.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
604.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
605.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
606.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
607.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
608.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
609.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
610.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
611.	The rock carvings; IV-III, VI milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
612.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
613.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
614.	The rock carvings; VI-III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
615.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
616.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace

617.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
618.	The rock carvings; VIII-IV milleniums B.C. The rock carvings; IV milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
619.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
619.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
620.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
621.	The rock carvings; the boundary of A.D.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
622.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
623.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
624.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
625.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
626.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
627.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
628.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
629.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
630.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
631.	The cup depression, the rock carvings; Eneolit	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
632.	The rock carvings; XVI-XVIII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
633.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
634.	The rock carvings; V-VI centuries The rock carvings; VI-V, III-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
635.	The rock carvings; VII-V milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
636.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

637.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	lower terrace On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
638.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
639.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
640.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
641.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
642.	The rock carvings; V milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
643.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
644.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
645.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
646.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
647.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
648.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
649.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
650.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
651.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
652.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
653.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
654.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
655.	The rock carvings; VIII-IX centuries A.D.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
656.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
657.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
658.		

659.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
660.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
661.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
662.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
663.	The rock carvings; VI-V milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
664.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
665.	The rock carvings; VI-V milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
666.	The through apertures; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
667.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
668.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
669.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
670.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
671.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
672.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
673.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
674.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the lower terrace
675.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
676.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
677.	The through apertures; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
678.	The cup depression; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
679.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
680.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

681.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
682.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
683.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
684.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
685.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
686.	The cup depressions; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
687.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
688.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
689.	The rock carvings; the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
690.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
691.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone, Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
692.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
693.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
694.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
695.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
696.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
697.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
698.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
699.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
700.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
701.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
702.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

703.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
704.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
705.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
706.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
707.	The rock carvings; the epoch of bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
708.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
709.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
710.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
711.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
712.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
713.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
714.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
715.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
716.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
717.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
718.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
719.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
720.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
721.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
722.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Stone	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
723.	The settlement "Beyukdash"; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
724.	The settlement "Chapmaly"; the Bronze Age & the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
725.	The settlement "Daira"; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
726.	Gavaldashy; the Stone Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
727.	The burial mound; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
728.	The burial mound; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
729.	The burial mound; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
730.	The burial mound; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

731.	The burial mound; the Bronze Age	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
732.	The burial mound; the Bronze Age	
733.	The cup depressions; the rock carvings, the inscription with Arabic letters; III-II millenniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
734.		
735.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
736.	The rock carvings; III-II millenniums B.C.	
737.	The rock carvings, the cup depressions; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
738.	The rock carvings, the cup depressions; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
739.		
740.	The rock carvings; the epoch Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
741.		
742.	The rock carvings; tamgas, the cup depressions; IV-I millenniums B.C., XVIII-XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
743.	The rock carvings; tamgas, the cup depressions; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
744.		
745.	The rock carvings, the Arabic inscription; III-I millenniums B.C., XVII-XVIII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
746.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
747.		
748.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
749.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
750.	The rock carvings, the depressions, the chutes; I millenniums B.C., X, XII, XVIII, XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
751.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; I millennium B.C. XVI-XIX centuries	
752.		On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
753.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
754.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
755.		
756.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

		upper terrace
757.		
758.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
759.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
760.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
761.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
762.	The rock carvings, the through apertures; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
763.	The rock carvings, the cup depressions, tangas, an Arabic inscription	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
764.	The rock carvings, the cup depression, the chute; I millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
765.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
766.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
767.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
768.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
769.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
770.	The rock carvings; II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
771.	The rock carvings; II-III milleniums B.C., XVI-XVII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
772.	The rock carvings, the cup depression, an Arabic inscription; II-I milleniums B.C., the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
773.	The rock carvings, the chute; III-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
	The rock carvings; II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

774.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
775.	The rock carvings; II milleniums B.C. The rock carvings; II-I milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
776.	The rock carvings; IV-III milleniums B.C. The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
777.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
778.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
779.	The rock carvings; the chute, an Arabic inscription; II-I milleniums B.C., XVI-XVII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
780.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
781.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
782.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
783.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
784.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
785.	The rock carvings; I millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
786.	The rock carvings; II-I millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
787.	The rock carvings; II millenium B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
788.	The rock carvings, the chute; II-I milleniums B.C., IX-X, XVII-XVIII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
789.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
790.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
791.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
792.	The rock carvings, tamgas; I millenium B.C., XVII-XIC centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

793.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
794.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
795.	The rock carvings; III millennium B.C., XVIII-XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
796.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
797.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
798.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
799.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
800.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
801.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
802.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
803.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
804.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
805.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
806.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
807.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
808.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
809.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
810.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
811.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
812.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
813.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
814.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

815.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	upper terrace
816.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
817.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
818.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
819.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
820.	An Arabic inscription; XIII-XIV centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
821.	The rock carvings; III milleniums B.C., XVIII-XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
822.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
823.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
824.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
825.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
826.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
827.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
828.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
829.	The rock carvings; II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
830.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
831.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
832.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
833.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
834.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
835.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the

	Middle Ages	upper terrace
836.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
837.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	
838	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
839.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
840.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
841.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
842.	The rock carvings; XIX-XX centuries	
843.	Gavaldash; the epoch of Stone, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
844.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
845.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
846.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
847.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
848.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
849.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
850.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
851.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
852.	The rock carvings; tamgas; X-XVIII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
853.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
854.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
855.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
856.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

	Middle Ages	
857.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
858.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
859.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
860.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
861.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
862.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
863.	The rock carvings; III-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
864.	The rock carvings; XVI-XIX centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
865.	The rock carvings; II-II milleniums B.C.	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
866.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
867.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
868.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
869.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
870.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
871.	The rock carvings, tamgas, the signs; XIV-XVIII centuries	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
872.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
873.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
874.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
875.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
876.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
877.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace

878.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
879.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
880.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
881.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
882.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
883.	The rock carvings; the epoch of Bronze, the Middle Ages	On the territory of Beyukdash mountain, the upper terrace
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Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Nomination Management Plan*

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 - BTC Co. -BP
 - Gobustan Operating Company
 - Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre
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Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO

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Gobustan – the place where primitive people used to live tens of thousands years ago. This is one of the ancient settlements at Eurasian continent. Several thousands of petroglyphic drawings together with the unique and inimitable landscape are the valuable cultural and historical inheritance not only of Azerbaijan, but also the whole humanity. These drawings imaging life, culture and history of formation of humanity are inarguable important material for study the history of Azerbaijan and Europe. The famous traveler Tour Heyerdal which had visited Gobustan expressed his suppose of migration of contemporary Norwegians' ancestors from this historical zone.

In 1966 taking into account historical value of this monument the Government of Azerbaijan established a reserve on the territory of Gobustan with the area of 3.633,56 thousand hectares for the purpose of its preservation and transmission to future generations. After the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan this monument got more popularity among world society and scientists. Azerbaijani authorities recognize the responsibility before UNESCO and world community for future preservation of this unique monument. We also recognize seriousness and complication of this responsibility, and will do everything necessary for successful performance of works on preservation of this monument.

The Management Plan was prepared by international experts in close co-operation with Azerbaijani specialists responsible for daily protection of this monument. The purpose of this plan is to ensure preservation and management. In the Management Plan there were defined crucial problems and positions, which are to be solved both today and in the future.

We are deeply grateful to international organizations, international and Azerbaijani experts participated in the preparation of this Management Plan for their hard and diligent work. We are sure that this document will contribute to preservation and development of the Site and attract all necessary forces for solution of set task.

Seymur Fataliyev

Acting Secretary-General
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1. INTRODUCTION

Rock art is a world wide known humankind cultural expression: appears, in fact, in all continents except Antarctic. It is also the only manifestation which continued from the Upper Palaeolithic up to the present day without interruption. The rock engravings of Gobustan are one of the most meaningful among this art.

1.1 Gobustan, where history is etched in time

Gobustan is situated in a key position, between the slope of the Greater Caucasian Range and the Caspian Sea, a real bridge amid Europe and Asia. The plain broken with ravines, this could be the translation of “Gobustan” (the territory of Gobu), is a unique half-desert landscape facing the Caspian Sea. The rock art was discovered accidentally by quarry workers only in the 1930s. After the first archaeological findings and researches - conducted from 1939 by I. M. Jafarsade - from 1966 J. N. Rustamov and F. M. Muradova, scholars of the National Academy of Science discovered and studied more than 6,000 rock engravings, settlements and burials tentatively dated to a period between Upper Palaeolithic and Middle Age. Gobustan is a real place where history is etched in time on the rocks and on the faces and traditions of the people living nearby.

In this long period the various communities within the Gobustan area have shaped, along with the nature, the territory’s unique history and character. Even if nowadays nobody lives in the Gobustan Historical-Artistic Reserve, that is the proposed World Heritage Site, countless generations have each made their own mark on the land making the Site what it is today. One of the principles which urges the Management Plan is to protect and to encourage these values. Partner organisations are committed to working together, in conjunction with the community living nearby the Site, to ensure that the interests and the quality of life of local residents and businesses are protected and enhanced.



1.2 The aims of the Management Plan

Management Plans, required by UNESCO, provide the means for establishing an appropriate balance between the needs of conservation, access, sustainable economic development and the interests of the local community.

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Management Plan is a framework document for achieving the conservation of the cultural heritage assets of the Site, and has been processed to provide a vision and framework for an integrated and consensual approach.

The primary aim of the Management Plan is intended to conserve the cultural heritage assets (archaeology and rock art, natural habitats, landscapes) of the proposed Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site. The Plan is not intended to be prescriptive or binding on relevant stakeholders, but relies on them to work in partnership to realize its objectives.

1.3 Main objectives of the Management Plan

In summary the Management Plan has these main objectives:

- 1. To identify and create projects of conservation, of archaeological and environmental researches, of sustainable tourism, and programmes of works to:*
 - Enhance the Site and define its significance and value*
 - increase public awareness of the Site and promote its cultural and educational value*
 - improve the enjoyment of the Site for all who work or spend free time in the area*
- 2. To evaluate and examine the procedures that have been set up to protect and improve the Site's special status and significance*
- 3. To identify how the economic and cultural benefits of inscription of the Site can be used to the advantage of the Gobustan community and businesses*

1.4 The need for a Management Plan

The Operational Guidelines issued by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre emphasise the importance of appropriate administrative and management arrangements for WHSs.

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is a Site near a living community and the many different, sometimes conflicting, interests within it reinforce the need for a Management Plan. The Plan takes a strategic and holistic approach to managing those interests while ensuring that the unique assets of the proposed WHS are protected.

1.5 The preparation of the Management Plan

The preparation of the Management Plan has been led by the *Department for Protection and Utilization of Monument and Sites* of the Ministry of Culture, with the help of the Direction of the Gobustan Historical-Artistic Reserve, that will have significant statutory responsibilities within the proposed WHS, and the "Azerberpa" Institute along with all the relevant stakeholders and agencies with interests in the Reserve. At present these organizations and stakeholders have been contacted, consulted and requested to be part of the **Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee**, a new consulting-steering group to be placed side by side to the direction of the Reserve:

- Azerberpa - Scientific Research and Project Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments.** Based in Baku the Institute is involved in different restoration projects of archaeological or historical monuments. The Institute will help the creation of

the Conservation Program (a project for the restoration of rock art and archaeological material) and will be involved in the constant monitoring of the Site.

- **Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan Republic.** Based in Baku it's the only agency interested up to day in the archaeological studies of the Gobustan Reserve. Its work will be fundamental for the future development of the archaeological researches in the proposed WHS.
- **Ministry for Environment & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan.** Based in Baku this Ministry has interests in the Reserve territory specifically in the development of the project prepared to study and combat the desertification of the Gobustan area by the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences together with the Caspian Environment Program.
- **Ministry for Youth, Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan.** Based in Baku this Ministry has already developed a Strategic Plan in the Gobustan area, considered one of the most important for the Tourism Industry of the entire Azerbaijan.
- **Garadagh District Executive Power** Based in Lokbatan Settlement GDEP at present helped the Reserve during its annual anniversaries but it is now interested in sponsoring the development of the Management Plan.
- **Baku City Executive Power, Department of Culture.** Based at Baku at the moment BCEP is the major responsible in the management of the site in terms of financing the direct costs of running the Reserve.
- **BTC Co. (Baku, Tbilisi, Ceyhan).** BTC is the BP Group branch involved in the construction of a major oil pipeline that will interest three different countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey) and that cuts the north-eastern edge of the Reservation, in the proposed Buffer Zone. As a measure of offset for disturbing a sensitive habitat, BTC Co. wishes to sponsor the development of the Management Plan.
- **Gobustan Operating Company.** Based in Baku this joint Azerbaijani-Chinese Oil Company has expressed the intention to help the development of the Management Plan.
- **Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre.** Based in Baku, it is a new private organization that study and popularize the rock art of Gobustan and Azerbaijan. Its work fits well with the development of rock art studies in the Management Plan, as well as the popularisation nationally and abroad of the research of the rock art studies, necessary to attract the scientific community and the tourism.
- **Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO. Based in Baku.**

The Steering-Consulting Committee is not a fixed structure and other relevant organizations will be invited to take part of it in the future to help the development of the Management Plan.

This Management Plan has been prepared within the context of existing legislative and planning frameworks. It provides a basis for consultation with local and national interested groups.

The Management Plan represents a consensual view of the Steering Committee.

Part one

Describes why and how the Management Plan was produced and its purpose and aims.

Part two

Deals with the location and cultural significance of the Site. It briefly describes its environmental and archaeological features, outlines the wider Gobustan context and defines significance and values of the site.

Part three

Describes the current management of the Site, sets out the key management issues for the Site and makes a number of recommendations for its future management.

Part four

Sets out objectives and principles for the overall management of the Site and a number of proposed actions for the protection, conservation and improvement of the Site and its surroundings.

Part five

Collects useful documents and information



2. DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

2.1 Location

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is located within the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation and between the territories of two administrative districts: Garadagh district (Baku city administrative territory) and Apsheron district. Gobustan (the territory of Gobu), a plain broken with ravines, is a transitional area between the alpine region of the Great Caucasian range and the plain coastal region of the Caspian sea. Separate mountains, a developed reverse network and steep slope of ravines are its distinctive peculiarities.

Gobustan Reserve lies at sixtyfive kilometers from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on the shores of the Caspian Sea, in a beautiful semi-desert area near the homonym settlement. Nobody lives in the Gobustan Reserve, while the settlement which is situated near the reserve, inhabited by about 15,000 persons.

Gobustan is the richest rock art area of the Azerbaijan Republic. Other four zones are known in the country, namely Shikhov (Sabayil district of Baku city), Apsheron peninsula (Baku city administrative territory), Gemigaya (Nakhchivan) and Kelbajar – district of Azerbaijan, but they do not reach the quality and the quantity of the Gobustan petroglyphs.

The Gobustan carvings are almost all found on the vertical surfaces of big boulders, along the slopes of three mountains: Boyukdash, Kichikdash, and Jinghirdag-Yazilitepe. These three mountains have a typical silhouette with flat tops. The almost horizontal limestone stratum with thickness of 10-15 meters, consisting of thick Apsheron seashells, covers the upper surface of the plateau of Boyukdash, Kichickdash and Jinghirdag. The edges of these slabs broke off and rolled down the slope on the sides of the mountains facing the Caspian Sea, under the effects of the sun, winds, atmospheric precipitations and other natural phenomena, thus forming high precipices. The slopes, in turn, are covered by this material consisting of coarse fragments, the isolated boulders of which reach significant sizes of 250-500 cubic meters. These big boulders formed rock shelters, inhabited during the ages by different groups of people, that used the “caves” as refuges, as revealed by archeological excavations and findings of numerous remains of cultural material.

2.2 Archaeology and Rock Art

Despite the fact that Gobustan territory has been frequented by the passage of different people during the past (see the case of the Roman Inscription), the rock art and the archaeology of Gobustan were known by the general public and scientists only from 1939, thanks to the work of I. Jafarsade.

He discovered more than 750 rocks and studied something like 3,500 petroglyphs; from 1966 onwards the archaeological works have been conducted by J. N.Rustamov and F. M. Muradova: they discovered other engravings and rocks, enlarging the number of rocks known up to 1,000, and the number of petroglyphs more than 6,000.

Archaeological excavations have been conducted in different places: Ana Zaga, Ovchular zagasy, Kyaniza, Okyuzlar, Dash Alty, Kaya Arasy, Firuz, Shongar, Djeyranlar, Boyukdash, Daire, Chapmaly and other barrow sites (Tumulus), permitting to bring to light more than 105,000 finds, that now constitute the archaeological collections of the Boyukdash Museum. This material help to understand the prehistory of the area and to link the rock art to its correct archaeological context.

The material includes: flints, pebbles and work tools, arrow heads and various weapons like axes, clay vessels and bones. It was also possible to find the tools used to realize the petroglyphs: pebbles in rocky material harder than the limestone where the figures are engraved.

The results of the archaeological excavations recovered information regarding the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, having found the prehistoric settlements of these periods. Rock art slabs have been found in the archaeological layers, during these excavations. They are of the same type of the engravings found on the wall and still visible today, so they confirm the real antiquity of the Gobustan imagery.

Due to the studies of the scholars ten different styles are recognizable in the rock carvings of Gobustan.

The oldest styles are in connection with the Paleolithic and the Mesolithic times of this area and all represent animals, human figures (hunters and women) and symbols. Women are sometimes depicted with breasts and fat hips, probably to show and symbolize fertility.

The animals represented are bulls, deer, dogs, foxes, leopards etc... fauna that really existed at that stage of time.

Among this oldest figures the boats representations are notable. They are very similar to those known elsewhere but they are probably the oldest representations of ships occurring in the prehistoric art.

Other styles are related with herding and the domestication of animals, revealing a more recent age of this imagery.

Hunting scenes and figures of horsemen are related with the end of the prehistoric times. The climate has changed during the ages in the Gobustan land, transforming also the habits and the cultures in the territory. Some figures have connections with the art of the skiffs, revealing similarities that can be explained only with cultural influences on this land.

While in the oldest period there are representations of marine animals, and in Neolithic there is a prevalence of cows and bulls, in the recent times images of horses and camels occur frequently.

The end of the rock art tradition is marked by the presence of inscriptions: the most famous is for sure the Latin one, on the foothill of Boyukdash, but there are also writings in Persian and Arabic. Gobustan area has attracted many visitors and scholars, in past and recent times. They have tried to disclose the many mysteries hidden in the rock art imagery.

Some questions remain unsolved, especially if we consider the most ancient phase: the presence of the beautiful human figures, represented in silhouette, a typical style known only in Gobustan art; the images of boats shaped like the same carvings found in rock art elsewhere in Europe (in example in Norway and Sweden); the figure of bulls that show outstanding similarities with the animals engraved on the rocks of the other side of Europe (Spain and Portugal).

The resolution of these problems of interpretation and chronology is linked to the study of the Palaeolithic rock art in open air in Europe: Gobustan is probably one of the most interesting sites of this type, showing similarities but also uniqueness with the art of Western Europe.

In this sense the study of the Gobustan rock art is a point of great significance for reconstructing the prehistoric origins of the European and Asian cultures.

2.3 Environment and Nature

Hydro-climatic description

The main climate-forming factors of Gobustan are the atmospheric circulation and physical-geographical peculiarities of adjacent regions, in particular, the main Caucasian range, which is a natural obstacle for cold air masses interfering into the area from the north. The close location of the Caspian sea creates an increased humidity and softens winter colds.

According to the climate classifications, the climate of the above-mentioned region belong to the type of semi-desert and dry steppe, which is characterized by weak humidity, warm winter and dry hot summer.

The winter period is warm. As it rarely snows (but snow does not remain), there are snowstorms only once a year in average. The spring air temperature rises in March. The Spring period is unstable and is characteristic of frequent returns of cold. The Summer is hot. Autumn is warmer than spring with a difference of $3/4^{\circ}\text{C}$.

According to the quantity of precipitation the region belongs to dry and a little moistened regions. Annual quantity of precipitation is 188mm in average. According to the character of fall there often downpours till 1 mm for 24 hours.

As the rocks of Gobustan are permeable and there are no constant running waters during fall of abundant rains, the precipitation wash away and transfer products of thermal and wind erosion and it promotes quick partition of the relief.

Humidity of air in the territory of the preserve is high, it is 70% per a year in average.

Vaporization in a certain degree is characterized by humidity of the area. The precipitation in the area is very meager and it increases in the cold semester.

The wind in the area of Gobustan preserve is typical. In summer months sea breezes blow here. The northern and north-eastern winds are prevailing. The speed of winds is 6,0 m/s. The maximum wind speed is 20 m/s.

The average yearly size of atmospheric pressure is 1019,6 mb. The average yearly cloud is 5,4 marks.

A muddy-hill relief is developed in the area of the Reservation where mud volcanoes are of great significance.

Mud volcanoes can be huge and high, like the Turagay (407 m. on the sea level), but also small as the group of mud volcanoes on the south of the Reserve. These volcanoes despite the fact that are outside (pratically on the border) with the Reserve are very visited by tourists, being one of the most interesting attraction of the area.

In the north-east the preserve borders on the ravine of the river Djeyrankechmez.

Mainly the upper, middle and *post Pleocene* sediments take part in geological formation of Gobustan. Alluvial-demovial and salty formations which collapse very easily are widely developed here.

Soils & vegetation

Soils of Gobustan are brown and grey-brown, sometimes light-chestnut, sparse and more or less *salty*.

The vegetation of Gobustan is of desert and semi-desert type. It consists of ephemeral herbs and shrubbery of perennial saltmarsh and wormwood. Mainly, herbs get green in October-November and in early spring.

At the beginning of heat they are completely scorched. Only a saltmarsh and wormwood vegetation survive here. At the beginning of Summer Gobustan already looks like a desert.

However, wood-shrubbery species grow here between the rocks where humidity has survived. They are juniper, willowy pear, wild rose, dwarfish cherry, Iberian honeysuckle, stone tree, wild fig, pomegranate and grape.

Fauna

Gobustan Reservation occupies a specific place in faunal variety of desert (semi-desert) ecosystems. Desert and semi-desert spaces of the seaside zone are characterized by great variety of land mollusks and insects including relict ones. Frogs and toads of different species are present.

In the inside territory live a large number of reptiles, total 24 species and subspecies, among them are remarkable lizards, snakes, (including the poisoned), and tortoises.

Mammals are presented by various species of insectivorous, cheiroptera, rodents, predators.

Ornitofauna (including territories beyond the coastal zone) is presented by hundreds of species and subspecies of settled, flight-nesting, wintering, flight and birds of passage, more 65% of which are waterfowl and near-water groups.



2.4 Traditions and Ethnography

Gobustan territory is also home of strong living customs and traditional practices.

Grazing cows, goats and sheeps is a common practice in all the Reservation territory, especially in the Gobustan settlement neighbourhood. Herds are sometimes left free and shepherds come only occasionally to control their animals.

On the southern Boyukdash foothill an ancient **funerary area** (but this is not the Gobustan official cemetery) is still frequented and used by people of Gobustan settlement. This graveyard is very rare, traditionally used as a children cemetery. New tombs are sometimes added to the old graves, but they are not the majority. Almost in the center of the graveyard (that is about 200 sq.m.) there is an evident mound, maybe the remains of the most important and original tomb of the area. All around there are different typology of monuments: the very recent tombs are constituted by a little mound covered by slabs; other graves, older then these, have an anthropomorphic gravestone as a marker for the tomb. On these vertical slabs, in fact, are sometimes visible schematic human shapes that schematically represent the deceased.

A last type of grave is more related with the common Muslim funerary monuments, presenting a sort of stone table with traditional motives (inscriptions, vessels, flowers, warriors etc...) etched all around the stone. Young people is probably buried here with the idea that the Site can offer them a stronger protection, also for the presence of an old funerary monument, that could maybe go back to the Kurgan tradition.

This is not the only tradition dedicated to a special use of the territory.

It is well known that during local weddings people from Gobustan settlement come to **dance** in front of the Boyukdash engraved rocks, especially in front of the rock 31. This rock, on the top of its surface, present a group of human figures apparently dancing in line, featuring the so-called “yally” dance.

The wedding guests, and sometimes also the newlyweds, dance together accompanied by the “Vagzaly” music made by a small accordion, a pipe and a drum. Men and women dance in circle while the musicians play and other participants beat ritmically their hands. Information collected say that this dance has been always made: this is surely linked to the idea of fertility that the site inspires, concept expressed also by the figures engraved on the rocks.

The last site traditionally frequented in the Reserve territory it's a funerary monuments popularly called **Karaatly (Tomb of the Black Horse Rider)**. The legend says that this Rider saved the site from the enemies and then decided to stop here dedicating himself to God, living as a hermit, but still defending the area.

At the moment of his death his horse was transformed in stone: a horse sculpture is, in fact, still visible on the foothill of the site. Many people come to visit the tomb of this popular Muslim hero: they believe that he can still help to realize their desires and wishes.

The tradition suggests to build miniature houses with stones or to tie handkerchieves to the trees that grow around his tomb after the prayers on the tomb and after having lie on the so called “wishes rock”, where one, closing the eyes, makes a wish.

When the wishes come true the supplicant goes back to the tomb, destroy the house and remove the handkerchief. Some people practices also animals sacrifices, immolating goats on a special altars. It is interesting the position of the tomb, placed in a small ancient cave, and the fact that the tomb, even in a place so remote from the nearer Settlement, has a Custodian.

2.5 World Heritage Site Values

The Gobustan Historic-Artistic Reserve Site, due to the various values of the Gobustan territory described and discussed in the previous paragraphs, has been proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List as an **associative cultural landscape** (according to paragraph 47 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention).

The Gobustan Site Nomination is based on these three criteria (C ii, iii, vi):

- **exhibiting an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design**

Gobustan rock art displays thousands rocks engravings as well as archaeological finds, showing a long occupation of the territory from the Upper Palaeolithic onwards.

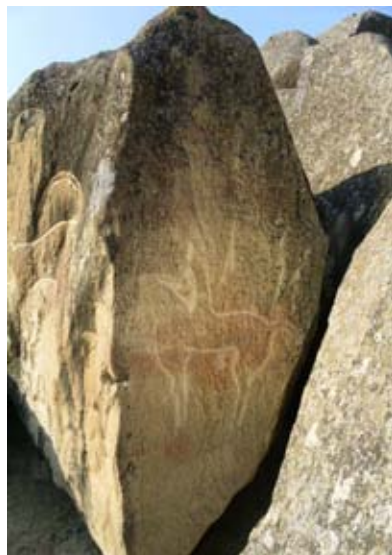
- **bearing a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared**

The Gobustan rock art tradition is a unique feature not only in the Caucasian area but also in the world, revealing contacts between Asia and Europe at a very old stage, and showing similarities and differences with the Palaeolithic open air rock art in Europe.

- **being directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance**

The presence of many living traditions in Gobustan (as the Vagzaly dance), the popular frequentation of worshipping and funerary places (as the Black Horse Rider tomb), indicate that this territory has always been considered as a special worship place.

Gobustan emerges as a key area for the research of the origin of art and culture in Asia and Europe.



3. CURRENT MANAGEMENT AND KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 Ownership and Legal Status of the proposed WHS

3.1.1 Ownership

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is included within the boundary of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve. The entirety of the property is State-owned.

Responsible agencies are:

- The Ministry of Culture, Department for Protection and Utilization of Monuments and Sites, for the protection of the site
- The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation authority, for the day-today management of the site
- The Baku City Executive Power, Department of Culture, for financing the direct costs of running the reserve.

3.1.2 Legal Status

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve is a protected area under Azerbaijan Law. It has been proclaimed as a State Historical-Artistic Reserve by the Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 503 of 9 September 1966.

The archaeological sites of Jinghirdagh mountain-Yazylytepe hill, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain forming the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, are included within the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve. The three sites, proposed as a Cultural Landscape Serial Nomination to the World Heritage List, are protected by law as a cultural property by the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic.

3.2 Protective measures

The protective measures to the preservation of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve are enforced by the application of the following:

International Legal Acts

- Convention for Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Military Conflicts. May 14, 1954, The Hague. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic) in April 21, 1993.
- UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. November 14, 1970, Paris. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan) in September 30, 1997.
- UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. November 16, 1972, Paris. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan) in December 16, 1993.
- UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects. July, 1995, Roma. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan) in March 2, 2000.

- The Second Protocol of the Hague Convention on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Military Conflicts. March 26, 1999. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan) in December 12, 2000.
- Revised European Convention on Protection of Archaeological Heritage. January 16, 1992. Ratified by Milli Medjlis (Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan) in October 20, 1999.

Legal Acts of CIS (Community of Independent States)

- Agreement on Cooperation in the Cultural field. May 15, 1992, Tashkent.
- Agreement on Cooperation of the Customs Services in Seizing and Returning of Illegally Imported and Exported Cultural Property. April 15, 1994, Moscow.
- Agreement on Establishing the Council for Cultural cooperation of States-members of CIS (Community of Independent States). May 26, 1995, Minsk.

Legislative Acts of Azerbaijan Republic

1. Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Adopted at the national referendum in 1995
2. Law of Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR of 21 July 1978, concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments and their utilization.
3. Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan N. 725 of 13 June 1998, concerning the implementation of the Law N. 470/98 concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments (See **Annex I.b**)
4. Law on Culture, February 6, 1998
5. The President's Decree on Changes in Rules of export and import in Azerbaijan, March 30, 1998
6. Law on Architectural Activity. May 15, 1998.
7. The President's Decree on Implementation of the Law on Architectural Activity, July 13, 1998.
8. The President's Decree on establishing the Commission for Implementation of the Convention on Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of military actions, November 13, 2001
9. Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Alterations and additions in some legislative acts of the Azerbaijan Republic", 22 November 2002
10. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan N. 204 of 15 October 1998, concerning the protection of cultural properties, illicit traffic and rules of utilization
11. The Cabinet's Decision on Special Authorization of archaeological excavations. November 30, 2000.
12. Regulations for the Experts Commission on defining historical, art and scientific cultural property, carrying out the special art examination and granting safeguard certificate of protection. Order No. 98 of the Ministry of Culture. April 12, 2001.
13. Regulations on the National Advisory Commission for Implement of Principles of the Convention on the Means of Prohibition and Preventing illicit export, import and transfer of ownership of cultural objects. Order of the Ministry of Culture (No. 137). May 5, 2001.
14. The Cabinet's Decision (No. 105) on Adoption of Regulations for export and import by private persons non-commercial and non-industrial objects. May 31, 2001
15. Rules of registering objects of copyright. (Adopted by the Commission for Copyright, May 3, 2001).
16. Regulations for inventorying and protecting cultural property of State Museums of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Order No. 217 of the Ministry of Culture. October 14, 1996).

17. Order of the Ministry of Culture (N 69) on establishment of the Experts Commission on defining historical, art and scientific cultural property, carrying out the special art examination and granting safeguard certificate of protection and a passport. March 22, 2001.
18. Order of the Ministry of Culture (No. 87) on establishing of the National Advisory Commission for Implementation of Principles of the Convention on the Means of Prohibition and Preventing illicit export, import and transfer of ownership of cultural objects. April 10, 2001.
19. Regulations for the Experts Commission on defining historical, art and scientific cultural property, carrying out the special art examination and granting safeguard certificate of protection and a passport. Order N 202 of the Ministry of Culture. August 22, 2001.
20. Order of the Ministry of Culture (N 30), February 2003

Legal Acts concerning Gobustan

- Decree of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan SSR of 22 April 1950, declaring that the site of Gobustan, namely Jinghirdagh mountain-Yazylytepe hill, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain, be under special control of the State authorities with restriction of usage in their territories, taking into account the fact that they consist of a wide range of sites. The Decree states the closing of all stone quarries in the area.
- Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 1003 of 24 July 1950, concerning protective measures for the cultural properties in Jinghirdagh mountain, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain.
- Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 503 of 9 September 1966, stating that the territories of Jinghirdagh mountain, Boyukdash mountain and Kichikdash mountain, be declared as the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation. (Establishment of the Reservation).
- Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 326 of 22 June 1968, concerning the definition of the boundary of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation and the closing of the stone quarries in Kichikdash mountain and proposed closing of the stone quarries in Boyukdash mountain. Furthermore it states the preparation of the project documentation on the development of infrastructures in the territory of Gobustan.
- Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 115 of 6 April 1970, concerning the preservation, rehabilitation and promotion of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation. The Decree states the closing of the stone quarries in Boyukdash starting from 1st January 1971.
- Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 366 of 29 July 1982, confirming the internal regulations of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation. The internal regulations concern the protection and utilization of the Gobustan cultural property.



3.3 Agencies with Management Authority and Level at which Management is Exercised

3.3.1 Agencies with Management Authority

There are two agencies with management authority, which work in partnership with the Steering Committee and all relevant stakeholders to protect the site:

1. Ministry of Culture, Department for Protection and Utilization Monuments and Sites

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

House of Government

Azadlyg Square,

AZ 1003 Baku, Azerbaijan

Tel: (994-12) 493 43 98

Fax: (994-12) 493 56 05

E-mail: mugam@culture.gov.az

Telman Kerimli, Head of Department

2. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve

Lermontov Street, 3

AZ 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan

Tel/Fax: (994-12) 492 02 54; (994-12) 492 61 45

E-mail: gobustanaz@yahoo.com

Ph.D. (archaeology) Malahat Faradjeva, Director

3. Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee

At present is composed by:

- **Ministry of Culture, Department for Protection and Utilization of Monuments and Sites**
- **Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve**
- **“Azerberpa” - Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments**
- **Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan Republic**
- **Ministry for Environment & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **Ministry for Youth, Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **Garadagh District Executive Power**
- **Baku City Executive Power, Department of Culture**
- **BTC Co. -BP**
- **Gobustan Operating Company**
- **Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre**
- **Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO**

As already stated this Group is not closed but need to be implemented with the addition of new members. Relevant meetings among its components and the Ministry of Culture will better define duties, procedures and the regulations of this institution.

3.3.2 Level at which management is exercised and name and address of responsible persons for contact purposes

The day-to-day management of the site is the responsibility of the Director of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve:

Malahat Farajova,
Director and Site Manager, Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve
Lermontov Street, 3
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3.4 Agreed Plans Related To Property And Policy Context

The “General Plan of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve” is, to date, the only tool in force. It is a plan mainly designed to develop the area and equip it with tourist facilities, with the exception of some restriction areas. A comprehensive site analysis is contained in the document called “Explanatory Note”, paragraph 1-5. The development of infrastructures and facilities is contained in paragraphs 6-10. The plan’s Explanatory Note has been prepared by the “ASGOSPROJECT” Azerbaijan State Head Project Institute (Director: T. A. Abdullayev).

This plan has been adopted by order N. 321 of the Minister of Culture on 11 August 1980.

The internal functioning of the Reservation is enforced by the Decree of Soviet of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 366 of 29 July 1982, confirming the internal regulations of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve.

Regarding the Policy Context, Azerbaijan has developed, after the Independence, its own Cultural Policy. The Cultural Policy Profile adopted by the Ministry of Culture, has been prepared by Prof. Dr. Sevda Mamedaliyeva, Deputy Minister of Culture, Azerbaijan and Dr. Nigar Akhundova, Head of Cultural Policy Department of Ministry of Culture, Azerbaijan, under the supervision of Prof. Polad Byulbyuloglu, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Planning and implementation of cultural policy decisions are carried out through a flexible multi-level system made up of the following institutions:

- Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Cultural Issues and Department of Social Legislation of the Azerbaijan Parliament (Milli Mejlis), producing legislation for culture;
- Department of Humanitarian Policies of the Presidential Office, developing strategies for cultural development;
- Department of Science, Culture, National Education and Cultural Issues of the Cabinet of Ministers, drafting the state budget of the Azerbaijan Republic and responsible for the implementation of state social programmes;
- Ministry of Culture is a centre where all functions mentioned above are joined together and where the realisation, management and monitoring of the national cultural policies are carried out.

Preservation and development of cultural heritage are priorities of the Azerbaijan Cultural policy. According to the present "Law on Culture" of February 6, 1998, cultural heritage includes historic and cultural monuments; museums, libraries and archives; articles of decorative and applied arts, but also national culture in all its manifestations, e.g. language, folklore, traditions; parks and objects of natural landscape, etc. In 1998 a special law about preservation of historical and cultural monuments was adopted; it states that the protection, study, restoration and conservation of cultural monuments is to be carried out through resources distributed by the state and local budgets, as well as through donations made by individual investors or legal entities.

The presentation and promotion of the Gobustan property will be carried out by the implementation of this Cultural Policy of the Ministry of Culture and by the adoption and the implementation of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Management Plan.



3.5 Sources and Levels of Finance

The financial resources for the Gobustan Reserve, which is a subordinate of two organizations - the Ministry of Culture and the Baku city Executive Power - are supported by the Ministry of Finance not directly, but through the Baku city Executive Power. This system is a heritage of Soviet time, and is probably related to the fact that the bigger part of the Reservation territory lies in the Garadagh District, while the smaller is in the Apsheron District. This amount of money covers all the expenses of the Reservation: salaries, insurances, transportation, telephon and post, water, electricity, heating, furnitures, office etc....

Until 2003 the revenue coming from tickets, sales of goods and services, fundraising, donations and others (the property is used, in exceptional circumstances, as a scenery for cinema/TV shooting) remained to the reservation itself. From 2003 this income goes back to the State, as a result of a governmental policy that wants to support small Museums with less income. The new status of the Gobustan Reserve as a WHS and the new type of management require the creation of major profits for the Site. These new income can be provided not only from the normal procedures of the Baku City Executive Power, but also from the possibility to create international project that can attract funds (with the help of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee), and to keep the revenue coming from the management of the Visitor Centre, also because the number of the tourist will surely increase.

The Baku City executive power allocates approximately the following annual budget:

Year	In local currency (manat)	In \$ (USD dollars approximately)
1999	88.500.000	19.000
2000	65.525.000	14.000
2001	97.871.000	20.000
2002	115.844.000	24.000
2003	124.106.000	25.000
2004	135.838.000	28.000
2005	156.091.000	33.932

Recommendations

- Create International Research Projects to attract funds
- Request to keep the revenue coming from the management of the Visitor Centre

3.6 Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

The expertise of the staff is ensured by qualified personnel on duty at the Reserve authority. Since 1996, five officers attended several workshops on tourism and museum management organised by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan. The Director of the Reserve attended a course at the national level on site management. The lack of funding, to date, does not allow the organization to send staff to training courses abroad.

The “Azerberpa” Institute and the Department for Protection and Utilization of Monuments and Sites of the Ministry of Culture - with the help of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee - will create a Conservation Plan (within the framework of the General Management Plan), a major programme of conservation of the rock art and archaeological materials, that will foresee training programs for the Reservation staff.

Recommendations

- Creation of a Conservation Plan, in collaboration with UNESCO, WHC, ICOMOS, ICCROM experts, that will include training programs for staff of the Reserve

3.7 Visitor Facilities and Statistics

The Museum building, constructed in the early seventies and totally repaired in the summer of 2005, lies on the Boyukdash mountain, just in front of the rock art site that usually is presented to the general public and tourists. The main hall of the Museum contains a permanent exhibition with an introduction of the rock art, with photographs and drawings of the engraved figures. Archaeological findings – pottery, metals tools, grave goods – are exposed in windows as well as some dioramas regarding the prehistoric life on the rocky hills (hunting scenes, familiar life...).

Museum and sites are open all year round; the guide service is ensured every day; there are four guides, three can guide people in English and Russian, the other in Azeri. Other guides are training.

Staff and director have their own rooms in the museum building. Also the custodian has a room where he lives during the day. Lavatories are present but water, gas, electricity and telephone supplies are very poor, and need to be improved or even created.

A car-bus parking is available in front of the entrance of the visitor centre. Tourists are encouraged to enter in the museum and get the ticket, as well as a guide to the rock art sites, and are welcomed to see the museum. Guides, publications, booklets, leaflets and visitor's book are available at the museum, mostly written in Russian or Azeri with short summary in English.

At present an organised path for tourists inside the park is available only at the Boyukdash mountain. Old people or disabled can be accompanied by the guides to see the very first shelters with no difficulties. On the other mountains there are no paths or explanations on the sites.

The Reserve office is based at Baku. It consists of different rooms used by the staff as places where to prepare lecture or to welcome visitors or to organise exhibitions.

Also the library of the Reservation is based at Baku and consists of more than 1,000 books, most of them in Russian and mainly of the Soviet time, disposed in old shelves. At present does not exist an exchange program with other institutions (university libraries, museums...), so the acquirement of new books is slow or not effective.

The statistics about the visitors to the area are the following:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Foreign visitors	802	410	142	162	772	658	789	1162
Local visitors	1200	933	898	849	1546	1654	4729	6098
Total	2002	1343	1040	1011	2318	2312	5518	7260

Recommendations

- Provide new interpretation panels at the sites but not on the rock surfaces, respecting the rock surfaces, as well as new thematic and/or chronological itineraries
- Provide new paths and protections for disabled and old people. These last facilities should be encouraged only whenever very necessary, without any change in the nature of the site
- Provide a small refreshment area near to the Boyukdash actual visitor centre, in order to forbid people to eat everywhere, with less risk of polluting the Reserve
- Provide new books and create a regular exchange program in order to renew the acquisitions of the library
- Edit new publications (booklets, leaflets, postcards) for schools and tourists and a new revised scientific edition of the archaeological and artistic finds of the Reservation
- Organize the Reservation Headquarters in Baku for cultural and educational events (exhibitions, conferences, seminars and round tables) to present to the general public of Baku or foreign or national tourists

3.8 Staffing levels

Of the 40 persons usually operating in the Reservation 31 are employed all the time, the rest (like photographers, drivers, and other technical staff) is requested only when the funds permit or it is necessary.

The staff of the reserve consists of 40 employees. The staff is composed of :

The Directorate

- Director
- Research Secretary
- Chief keeper
- Secretary-typist
- House keeper

Fund Department

- Senior researcher
- 3 Junior Researchers
- Photographer
- 7 Custodians

Excursion Department

- Chief of Department
- Senior researcher
- 2 Junior researchers
- 4 Guides
- Painter

Scientific-expositional Department

- Chief of Department
- Senior researcher
- 2 Junior researchers
- 2 Curators of museum

Technical staff

- Electrician
- worker
- 2 Drivers
- Security guard
- Stocker
- 2 Charwomen



3.9 Boundaries and setting of the Site

As already stated in the Nomination Dossier, presented to WHC in February 2003, the boundaries of the proposed World Heritage Site correspond to the borders of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve.

The **three areas of the Site** (which encompass rock engravings, archaeological settlements and other historical sites) and their geographic coordinates are those indicated in the Nomination Document:

Jinghirdagh mountain-Yazlytepe hill

Latitude 40° 12' 00" N

Longitude 49° 22' 15" E

Boyukdash mountain

Latitude 40° 7' 30" N

Longitude 49° 22' 30" E

Kichikdash mountain

Latitude 40° 3' 45" N

Longitude 49° 23 '00" E

The **Buffer Zone** recognizes the importance of the areas that link the Site and help to protect its character and setting, preserving the Cultural Landscape of Gobustan. Buffer Zone emphasizes the need to carefully consider the impact on the Site of any proposal of developments in this area.

On the border with the Gobustan Closed Prison it was impossible to follow the criterion adopted elsewhere. On the eastern part of the Reserve, on the feet of the Boyukdash Mountain, the respective territories of the Prison and of the Reserve are, in fact, side by side: the main gate of the Prison is very near to the rock with the famous Roman Inscription.

Recommendations

- Convince the Government of the necessity, in the near future, to move the Gobustan Closed Prison elsewhere and redefine the protection zone in this area.

3.10 Arrangements for Inspection, and Repairs

Regular inspections to the sites, to report the conservation and the general state of the area, will be organized by the "Azerberpa" - Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments along with the Department for Protection and Utilization of Monuments and Sites of the Ministry of Culture.

In particular this commission will check the conditions of:

- Rock art sites
- Land and grazing areas
- Museum, Visitor Centre and other buildings (headquarters in Baku)
- Visitor facilities
- Roads and transport facilities

The suggested works of conservation and repairs, in accordance with the Department for Protection and Utilization of Monuments and Sites of the Ministry of Culture, will be inserted in the Conservation Plan to be realized in a programmed action.

3.11 Conditions of Rock Art Sites, Buildings and Natural Habitats

The main archaeological feature of the Reservation, the rocks engraved, are generally preserved in good conditions, even if there are some problems of conservation, mainly depending on non-human factors: biological aggressions (as algae, lichens, mosses) or lithological problems (as cracks, detachments, erosions) being the most common. The best preserved site is Boyukdash, near to the Visitors Centre; the worse is Kichikdash, due to the closeness of the Gobustan settlement. The Buffer Zone of Jinghirdagh Mountain site, on the north, is affected by the passage on the territory of the BP pipeline.

Kichikdash Mountain

Recent graffiti as new damages (breaks), is especially visible on the **Kichikdash Mountain**, on the southern part of the Reserve. Rocks here suffer also from natural aggression. This is especially visible in the Djeyranlar's Cave, which needs urgent restorations.

In this area there are a lot of old "industrial" ruins, as instruments for oil extracting activities, cement columns and iron ropes of quarry factories no more in use. Even if the site is regularly patrolled by the guards in force of the Reserve, occasional uncontrolled vehicles travel across this open half-desert area, endangering the integrity of the site. The human settlement - being near to the archaeological sites - represents a problem for a proper conservation of sites and of engraved rocks. The stakes - that elsewhere in the Reserve indicate the borders of the protected territory - don't exist here anymore and should be replaced. The State Land Committee has put its own stakes (18 stakes all around the Reserve borders at a regular distance) with the written: *Gobustan Operating Company*, on one side of the stake - meaning that this land out of the Reserve and *Gobustan Reserven*, on the other side facing the Reserve territory.

In effect in the area there are some **Natural Oil Fields**, not yet exploited, a situation that is difficult to see in nature today in Azerbaijan. These oil fields should be carefully preserved, being one of the major points of environmental interest in the Gobustan Reserve. On the Kichikdash Mountain there is also an **Old oil well** exploited in 1964, before the establishment of the Reserve, and then abandoned. During the creation of new areas for visitors these ruins will be presented as "Industrial Archaeology", with explanatory panels illustrating the working method of this oil well.

Boyukdash Mountain

The Boyukdash Mountain, is the site where the tours are usually conducted. The state of conservation of the rock art is generally good, even if there are some problems of vandalism. Official reports attests that this vandalism has ended in 1995. Luckily these damages occur on the boulders (without figures) surrounding the engraved rocks. In this case destructions depends on the school students left without control by the teachers, especially after the official visits, so there is no way for the guards of the museum to stop these vandalisms, even if the museum guides read the rules of the visits to the students before starting the tour. An immediate and possible solution should be that of redefining the rules, adding stronger punishments, and obliging the visitors to leave the sites immediately after the visits. The Reserve will try to prevent the problem of modern graffiti contacting regularly schools and general public with leaflets and performing open lectures.

On the contrary the rocks engraved suffer, a part from the natural decay, from "professional interventions", as catalogue numbers etched on rocks (sometimes near to the engravings) and bronze panels attached directly on the engraved walls during the Seventies. All these bronze panels were removed two years ago. To enhance the visibility of the figures colours have been applied in the engravings by scholars, during the same years.

Stone quarries on the top of Boyukdash and Kichikdash Mountains have been closed between the Seventies (1971), but metal scaffolding and ladders are still visible, a potential danger for visitors that soon will be removed.

The **Museum** building, constructed in the early seventies just in front of the rock art site that usually is presented to the general public and tourists. During the attendance made by the General Director of Unesco Mr. K. Mutsuura in august 2005 on the territory of buffer zone, on the feet of Boyukdash Mountaint was laid a stone, signing the construction in this place of a new building – center. In this center is planned to place the management of the Reserve, the museum, not very big hall for conferences. The development of the project of the center is realised by the institute “Azerberpa”. With the creation of a new visitor centre/museum in the actual Museum building, will be transformed into a structure to be used by the scholars during the archaeological fieldwork and as a place for the reception of visitors on the rock art site.

Jinghirdagh Mountain-Yazylytepe Hill

The rock art is well preserved in this area of the Reserve and the phenomenon of recent graffiti is confined only to few rocks. Nevertheless the major factor affecting the property in this part is constituted by the new oil pipeline - constructed by the BP Company - known as **BTC Oil Pipeline** (Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan), that cuts the north-eastern edge of the Reserve, in the proposed Buffer Zone for approximately 900 m, in any case not far from the rocks engraved. BTC Co. has developed a framework oil spill response plan, modelling possible leak scenarios along the length of the pipeline to identify block valves and appropriate responses in the event of a spill. The results recognize areas where equipment will be always deployed, and pre-determine response measures. A detailed risk assessment identified the most likely causes of possible leakage and the results were factored into the pipeline design, including the following:

- Use of high grade steel
- Burial to a depth of one meter or more
- Internal and external coating to protect against corrosion
- Use of cathodic protection against corrosion
- Increase in pipe wall thickness
- Increase in the number of check valves

These measures will significantly reduce the potential for a leak. In addition, the pipeline will be fitted with an automated leak detection system that will automatically shut down the pumps and close valves on the pipeline. Pipeline integrity will be checked regularly using a computerised device and a high-tech system of control and data acquisition. Additional block valves were installed in sensitive areas, to reduce the volume in the event of a spill. In addition to high-tech solutions, BTC will employ local personnel, riding unarmed on horseback, to visually inspect the entire length of the pipeline for possible interference. Their responsibility is to report any such activity to the responsible authorities.

It would be profitable that these BTC personnel could be employed also to look after the rock art site, to control the possible damages occurring from the event of oil spill and from the uncontrolled access to the Reserve area. New roads, in fact, have been constructed to transport the pipes and to have access to the site: these roads, if remain uncontrolled, are potentially dangerous for the preservation of the sites.

Recommendations

- Creation of a Conservation Plan which includes: survey to create a map of the polluted areas in the Reserve; conservation studies (maps with indication of the rock art decay and possible solutions); restorations of engraved rocks.
- Preserve the archaeological and drawings collections in a more suitable way
- Enhance the visibility of boundaries of the Reserve
- Increase the number of guards on the territory of the Reserve
- Clean the Kichikdash site from dumps and industrial ruins
- Provide explanatory panels at natural or exploited oil fields in the Reserve
- Contact regularly schools with leaflets and perform public lectures to prevent the problem of modern graffiti
- Employ the BTC guards to control the new roads and the public access to Jinghirdagh Mountain

3.12 Archaeology

Archaeological excavations have been conducted from 1966 in the Gobustan area by Prof. Jafargulu Rustamov and his wife, Prof. Firuza M. Muradova. These works were made under the direction of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Science, Azerbaijan Republic. The investigations in these sites: Ana Zaga, Ovchular zagasy, Kyaniza, Okyuzlar, Dash Alty, Kaya Arasy, Firuz, Shongar, Djeiranlar, Boyukdash, Daire, Chapmaly and other burial sites, permitted to bring to light more than 105,000 finds, to understand the prehistory of the area and to link the rock art to its archaeological context. **Rock Art Studies** have been undertaken by the two above cited scholars and previously by I. M. Jafarsade that discovered and studied more than 6,000 rock engravings.

The archaeological sites at Gobustan were officially inventoried under Azerbaijan Law in three records:

1. Record of archaeological sites at Gobustan under Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 140 of 2 April 1968.
2. Record of archaeological sites at Gobustan under Decree of Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan SSR N. 145 of 25 April 1988.
3. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic N. 132 of 2 August 2001.

The **archaeological collections**, (materials from excavations, drawings and photographs of the engravings), are preserved in the Boyukdash Museum. Most of the archaeological materials (105,000 finds), only in small part exposed in the Museum, need to be restored by a qualified staff, while the drawings of the engravings, as well as the 2,700 negative films, need to be digitalised. The reserve staff has just started to do this work.

Gobustan Reserve along with Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Science, Azerbaijan Republic, are establishing the Gobustan Archaeological Map that will provide:

- A database with a computerised record of all known archaeological data linked to a GIS system to promote the knowledge and the control of the information
- An instrument to understand the archaeology of Gobustan and which will recognize the gaps in our knowledge, showing the state of completion of past investigation, the capacity of the research and the needs for the future archaeological work
- A policy that will create a plan for how the Gobustan archaeological funds might be managed in the future

Recommendations

- Establish the Gobustan Archaeological Map and prepare a framework for the future archaeological works (excavations and rock art studies)
- Undertake the restoration of the archaeological material as well as the better conservation of drawings and films that need to be digitalised
- Provide the necessary technical equipment



3.13 Future developments

The Steering Committee is aware of the necessity of fostering two points, considered of extreme importance for the future developments of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Site. These points are the new Museum-Visitor Centre with the transformation of the old museum on the Boyukdash mountain, and the renewal of the Headquarters of the Reservation in Baku.

The other suggestion is to construct an information center of the Site in the Gobustan settlement, on a land that can be easily furnished by the Garadagh District. The reason adducted is that in this way the construction could bring benefit to the local population due to the fact that the tourists will be obliged to stop in the settlement using, for the first time in the history of the Reserve, the facilities organized there (restaurants, bar etc...) and this could create more wished links between the Reserve and the local community, giving a different visibility to the existence of the Site.

The discussion within the Steering Committee, on these two different theses, is open.

With the creation of a new visitor centre/museum, the **actual Museum** building, could be transformed into a structure to be used by the scholars during the archaeological fieldworks and as a place for the reception of visitors on the rock art site.

At the same time will be important to better organize the **Headquarters of the Reserve** in Baku, that today need to be restored and implemented: part of the offices can be used for cultural and educational events (exhibitions, conferences, lessons for school, seminars and round tables) to be offered to the general public of Baku or to foreign and national tourists.

Recommendations

- Transform the Museum building into a structure to be used by the scholars during the archaeological fieldwork
- Creation of a new Museum-visitor centre.
- Organize the Reserve Headquarters in Baku



3.14 Tourism and visitor management

A general presentation of how tourists and visitors are actually managed is provided at the section 3.7. Here we want to stress that the Gobustan region has been, from the past, one of the most visited area in all Azerbaijan. Greek, Roman and Arabic inscriptions are visible, testifying a long tradition of visiting these sites, even if for different reasons compared to the present tourist's aims.

The rock art of Gobustan has always constituted a major point of tourist attraction, especially in the period that goes from 1966, when the Reservation was created, up to 1991, when Azerbaijan gained its independence. Especially the sites near to the settlement, e.g. Boyukdash mountain, have been always visited by tourists coming from local, national and Soviet regions. During the Soviet time, in fact, organized tours brought many visitors to the area: even if we can argue if this kind of tourism brought or not economic benefits to local population, in any case this was a way of popularising the name of Gobustan and its art not only in the Soviet region, but also in the world. Many booklets on Gobustan rock art and archaeology were published and diffused to the world libraries. Even if they

were mainly written in Azeri and Russian, also these books contributed to the diffusion of the existence of the Gobustan rock art tradition, at least in the scientific community.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the so-called Soviet “organized” tourism disappeared, and certain political issues, internationally known, as the war with Armenia or the war in Iraq and the situation in the North Caucasus, surely have not helped the Tourism Industry in Azerbaijan.

That is why the amount of tourists, visiting the museum, will increase only because of the population of our country. The lack of International tourists is surely linked to the political problems of the area, but we must emphasize that foreign “tourists” come to the Reserve especially thanks to the oil and other foreign companies where they work.

The need for a Tourism Plan in Azerbaijan is clear and widely known. Internet can also be used as a tool for involving the tourists. There are already some WEB pages where it is possible to find a good general view of the Azerbaijan attractions, with some deepening of what it is considered an important site from the tourist point of view. Gobustan Reserve is always one of these places.

It will be of essential importance that the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape obtains always consideration inside of this Plan and that its future status of World Heritage Site will be taken in account and that can play a notable role.

Gobustan Reserve, few years ago, started a series of agreements with national tourists’ agencies to promote the sites; the suggestion is that this work can be realized also with international agencies (travel agencies and airlines companies) and the help of the international experience within the agencies that are part of the Steering Committee. The creation of a **Gobustan Tourism Plan** will be an essential feature for the Tourism development.

Recommendations

- Increase actions to promote the Site internationally
- Promote the Tourism Plan with the help of national and international agencies
- Create a General Gobustan Tourism Plan which will take in account studies of sustainable development

3.15 Education

The establishment of educational programmes is essential for the survival itself of the Site.

At present there is not a general educational programme of the Reserve addressed to schools of every type and level. Agreements for the visit to the Reserve rock art have been done with some schools, but there is a need of a general Educational Plan in accordance with the Ministry of Education.

School texts report few notes on the Gobustan rock art and prehistory and this is what has moved schools and groups to visit the area, along with the tradition, already present in the Soviet period, to visit areas of historic importance for the Nation.

At present as was mentioned there are some problems of modern graffiti that occur after the official visit of the schools. Luckily these damages happen on the boulders (without figures) surrounding the engraved rocks on the Boyukdash mountain. Destructions depend on the school students left without control by the teachers, especially after the official visits. The educational project should be addressed not only to the students but also to the teachers.

Suggestion has been already made in the sense of giving the opportunity to the students to make their comment not on the rocks but on the visitor book, but it is well known that this is not enough: there is probably a need to improve educational laboratories where students can work on rock art making drawings on the casts of the engravings, or doing some other practical works related to the prehistoric life (as working on looms, making potteries, grinding cereals and so on...).

The Reserve should also try to prevent the problem of modern graffiti contacting regularly schools and general public with leaflets and performing open lectures.

Recommendations

- Create educational programmes with practical laboratories and lectures to address to schools of every type and level
- Contact regularly schools with leaflets and perform public lectures
- Popularise the rock art of gobustan in school books

3.16 Traffic and Transport

Road Traffic: the M3

The M3 Baku - Alat - Astara - Iran (European E119, Asian A70) is the National coastal road that runs through Gobustan Settlement. The road is densely used by traffic of all types: trucks, private cars, buses and, obviously, pedestrians. Gobustan Settlement is practically divided into two parts by the road: the smaller facing the Caspian Sea, the bigger part looking at the Boyukdash mountain.

The M3 is mainly a 4-lanes paved road with 15 m carriageway and 3.75 m shoulder. There are a few sections where the road becomes smaller to 2 lanes. The road is mainly straight and flat. The alignment is compatible with a design speed of 80 km/h.

The present condition of the pavement varies largely. Parts of the sections along the road are still in fair condition, while others are in poor conditions. Some stretches of the road have received surface dressing, overlay and pothole repairs. Some foreign companies are replacing the asphalt pavement, as a general work of renewing and repairing this important connection.

From Gobustan Settlement a 2-lanes paved road brings to the North-west, after dividing in three roots, cutting horizontally the Reserve Land, to the inner part of Gobustan desert area. This road has been restored recently.

Responsibility for the road network in Azerbaijan rests with the State Road Concern Azeravtoyol, who is responsible for maintenance, rehabilitation and development of the road network. The improving of the internal road could probably be requested to this agency.

A part from using private vehicles, general tourists can come to Gobustan only by the public bus going to Alat. Gobustan Settlement is linked with the line Baku-Astara also through the **railway**. This is generally in good order; it is used for passengers' trip to other districts of Azerbaijan. Developing a rail system to Gobustan Reserve, that is one of the major tourist attraction of the Country, could make the way to Gobustan Reserve much more attractive and speed then the road way.

Cycling tourism or transport is not developed in Azerbaijan in general. The fact that the road from Baku to Gobustan is virtually flat could facilitate an introduction and development of this tourist-sport in the region with great benefit for the Reserve. Racks and storage facilities should be provided as well as bikes-renting agencies.

To date exist only two road signs indicating the way to reach the Gobustan Reservation: one is on the M3, the other on the inner road to the Boyukdash mountain. They have been realized using local stones, probably to imitate the boulders where rock art is found.

Recommendations

- Internal roads to the sites should be remade
- Road signs should be increased and positioned along the road M3 to Gobustan from Baku and from Astara or from other nearby cities
- Develop a railway tourist system to Gobustan Settlement
- Introduce and develop cycling transport in Gobustan Reservation

3.17 The Environs

Boyukdash mountain: The Prison

One of the problems already taken is the presence of the Prison on the foot of the Boyukdash mountain. Here there is no virtually space for a Buffer zone, so in this point Core zone and Buffer zone coincide. The main gate of the Prison faces some of the most interesting rocks of the Reserve: e.g. the rock with the famous Roman inscription and the one with beautiful boats. Some systems of protection have been undertaken by the Administration of the Reserve during the Soviet period— a fence around the rock with the Inscription and a huge boulder with a large etched inscription containing rules and advice for people visiting the area – but it is arguable if these systems work.

On the side of the Prison there are huge concrete remains of stone quarry manufactory that need to be demolished and removed, being the visual link between the Boyukdash mountain and the Gobustan Settlement.

Kichikdash mountain: cement and asphalt factories

On the foot of Kichikdash mountain, near the border with the Buffer zone, lie two factories that visually disturb the landscape and are, probably, dangerous for the conservation of the rock art sites due to the pollution produced by the works.

It will be important to better control the boundaries of the Site in this point and exercise pressures on the property of the two factories, in order to prevent the illegal excavations and to ask to modify the external presentation of the properties. Trees can be planted around the fences to improve the area.

Jinghirdagh mountain: the BTC oil pipeline

As already discussed the major factor affecting the property in this northern part is constituted by the new BTC Oil Pipeline (Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan), that cuts the North-eastern edge of the Reserve, in the proposed Buffer Zone for approximately 900 m, not far from the rocks engravings.

BTC Co. has developed a framework oil spill response plan, that will be of effect all along the trail of the pipeline but, a part possible oil spill, visually the major problem, inside and outside of the Reserve, is constituted by the new roads constructed to bring the pipes and by the excavated areas with fences, where the pipes have been positioned, that remains without any vegetation on the surface. The BP Company, in its program of offset mitigation for the BTC pipeline, anticipates its desires to apply reinstatement measures, to help the reconstruction of the original environment of the area, as the plantation of the typical half-desert flora, like *Iris acutiloba* or *Artemisia*.

The new roads, also, are potentially dangerous for the preserve of the sites if remain uncontrolled. It would be profitable that BTC personnel could be employed also to look after the rock art sites, to

control the possible damages occurring from the event of oil spill and from the uncontrolled access to the Reserve area

Recommendations

- Redefine the protection zone in the area of the Prison
- Control the new roads that access to the sites from the northern part of the Reserve(Jinghirdagh mountain area)
- Apply reinstatement measures, to help the reconstruction of the original environment of the Jinghirdagh mountain, affected by the BTC oil pipeline



4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Management Objectives

4.1.1. A living site

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Site is not simply a Park, a Museum or a tourist attraction. The Site contains witnesses of a very important art tradition, the rock engravings, prehistoric settlements and burials, natural habitats as well as worshipping places, all frequented by traditional, local and international people. Moreover the all Site is near to a living community, the Gobustan Settlement, and to the most important city of the Azerbaijan Republic: Baku, the Capital. This means that the Management Plan will allow these different elements to continue their life preserving, at the same moment, this unique Site that is of outstanding value for the humankind.

In summary the Management Plan will suggest measures to protect the Site and enhance its visiting enjoyment, while taking steps for the needs of those living and working in the area.

4.1.2. Objectives of the Management Plan

The Management Plan has seven main objectives:

- 1. To set down guidelines for the Management of the Site to preserve its essential characters*
- 2. To identify and create projects of conservation, of archaeological and environmental researches, of sustainable tourism, and programmes of works*
- 3. To enhance the Site, define and promote its cultural and educational significance and value*
- 4. To increase public awareness of the Site and promote its cultural and educational value*
- 5. To improve the enjoyment of the Site for all who live close to the site, work or spend free time in the area*
- 6. To evaluate and examine the procedures that have been set up to protect and improve the Site's special status and significance*
- 7. To identify how the economic and cultural benefits of inscription of the Site can be used to the advantage of the Gobustan community and businesses*

4.2 Management Principles

Leading from these main objectives of the Plan a set of Management principles are intended to guide future actions and decisions for the Site:

4.2.1. Overall principles

- The primary aim of the Management Plan is the conservation, the protection and the presentation of the cultural heritage assets (archaeology and rock art, natural habitats, landscapes) of the proposed Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site

- The Management Plans establishes an appropriate balance between the needs of conservation, access, sustainable economic development and the interests of the local community
- The Management Plan is a framework document for long-term decision-making by the bodies responsible for the Site, in special way the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee formed by all relevant stakeholders
- The Plan is not prescriptive or binding on stakeholders, but relies on them to work in partnership to realize its objectives

4.2.2 The role of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee, formed by all the relevant stakeholders and agencies, will act as a forum to discuss the management issues of the Site, and will translate the Management Plan objectives, principles, and proposals into action on the ground.

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee established a series of rules (see [Annex 5.5](#)) to be confirmed during the meetings of the Committee in the year 2004.

The Committee will be consulted on all significant matters related to the current and future management of the site. The site Co-ordinators will also continue to play a key role in enabling the partner organisations and the wider community to work together to achieve the objectives of the Management Plan.

The implementation of the Plan requires a continued commitment to partnership working and to each individual organisation undertaking its own responsibilities and functions in ways that are consistent with the objectives of the Management Plan.

The management agencies each have their own detailed work programmes which reflect their particular areas of responsibility regarding the management of the WHS.

These include the following:

Governmental Authorities (Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Baku City Executive Power, Garadagh District Executive Power) at all levels should ensure that:

- the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Management Plan is given the highest possible status in their policies
- Support the Steering Committee as active members
- Take in account the outstanding universal value of the Site in their Development Plans
- Allocate resources to the management of their responsibilities in the Site
- Incorporate the key objectives and recommendations for action in all relevant work programmes and improve coordination and information exchange
- Contribute to the maintenance of environmental data for monitoring purposes

The Gobustan Historic-Artistic Reservation should:

- Support the Steering Committee as active member
- Continue its work of studying conserving and promoting the Site
- Create a specialist Archaeological Unit with specific expertise in rock art studies
- Liaise with other managing agencies over the development of interpretation initiatives
- Continue to develop the Museum as a centre of excellence for interpreting the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Site

National and International Agencies (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences, “Azerberpa” - Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments, BP Group-BTC Co., Gobustan Operating Company, Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre) should:

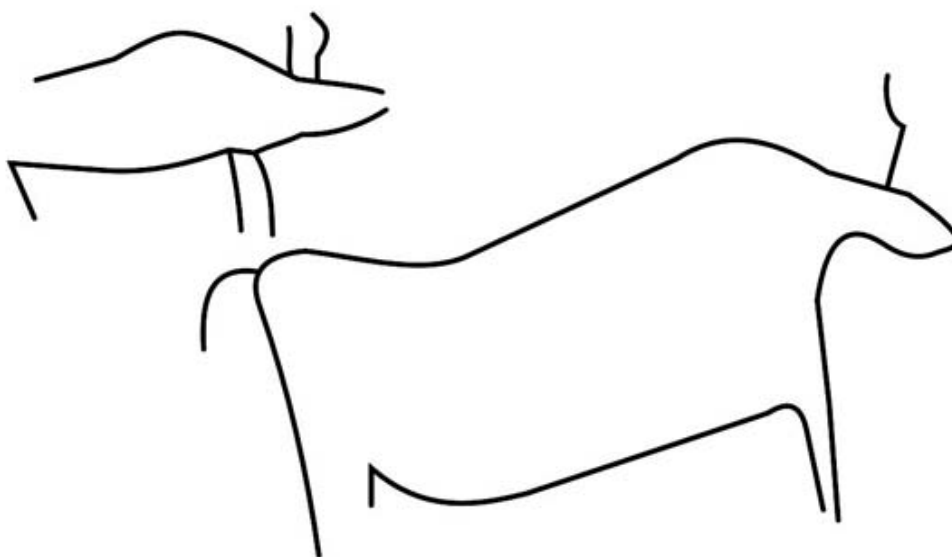
- Support the Steering Committee as active members
- Ensure that the outstanding universal value of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Site is recognised developing and implementing national and regional policies
- Contribute specialist services or staff to specific programmes or initiatives
- Provide support, assistance and funding for relevant management works within the Site as recommended in the Plan

The involvement commitment of the local communities within the Site to the objectives and actions within the Management Plan will be crucial if those objectives are to be successfully achieved. Such community involvement can be secured through the many local/national communities, voluntary organisations and interest groups within the Site. An important action within the Management Plan is to identify effective and meaningful ways of achieving such community involvement.

4.2.3. Funding and resources

The implementation of the Management Plan will also require significant levels of funding and resources coming not only from the managing agencies (through their budgets and/or programmes), but will also request additional funds from external sources.

In this sense the coordinators, with the help of the Steering Committee, will work, as an early priority and task, to identify potential European, national, regional and local funding sources which will contribute to undertaking the actions contained in the Management Plan.



4.2.4. Monitoring and Reviewing the Management Plan

The production of a Management Plan document does not stop the dynamic process of planning. New management priorities (due to local damages, visitor pressures, earthquakes or fires etc...), can change the emphasis of the Plan.

To provide this information the Steering Committee will organize a regular monitoring of the condition of the Site, using relevant and measurable indicators. The Committee, in order to ensure the continued protection of the Site, should agree each year an appropriate Action Plan which will identify those elements of the Project Register which will be implemented during the forthcoming year.

Even if strategies and actions set out in this Management Plan will be relevant for six to twelve years, it is obvious that the main objectives will retain their importance for much longer.

4.3 Recommendations

A number of recommendations have been already given in the Part 3 of this Management Plan. This section relates these and other recommendations to the main objectives of the Plan.

Objective 1

To set down guidelines for the Management of the Site to preserve its essential characters

Recommendations

- Create a General Conservation Plan which will include a survey map of polluted or endangered areas and conservation/restoration studies
- Create a General Tourism Plan which will take in account studies of sustainable development
- Agree a yearly Action Plan to identify elements of the Project Register to implement during the forthcoming year.

Objective 2

To identify and create projects of conservation, of archaeological and environmental researches, of sustainable tourism, and programmes of works

Recommendations

- Conserve and repairs the rocks at risk
- Enhance the visibility of boundaries of the Site
- Promote environmental studies
- Promote the Tourism and Transport Plans with the help of national and international agencies
- Establish the Gobustan Archaeological Map and prepare a framework for the future archaeological works (excavations and rock art studies)
- Establish the Gobustan Environmental Map and prepare a framework for the future environmental works
- Undertake the restoration of the archaeological material as well as the better conservation of drawings and films that need to be digitalised
- Provide the necessary technical equipment

Objective 3

To enhance the Site, define and promote its cultural and educational significance and value

Recommendations

- Monitor and periodically review the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Management Plan
- Promote the Site nationally and abroad
- Prepare the new Visitor Centre and Museum
- Create and develop educational and cultural programmes
- Edit new publications (booklets, leaflets, postcards) for schools and tourists and a new revised scientific edition of the archaeological and artistic finds of the Reserve

Objective 4

To improve the enjoyment of the Site for all who live close to the site, work or spend free time in the area

Recommendations

- Provide new interpretation panels at the sites, as well as new thematic and/or chronological itineraries
- Provide new paths and protections for disables and old people.
- Provide small refreshment area near to the Boyukdash actual visitor centre
- Organize the Reserve Headquarters in Baku as a focal place where to hold cultural and educational events (exhibitions, conferences, seminars and round tables)
- Help the District and the Gobustan authorities to organize the improvement of the presentation (roads, car parks, market area, restaurants, etc...) of the Gobustan Settlement

Objective 5

To evaluate and examine the procedures those have been set up to protect and improve the Site's special status and significance

Recommendations

Periodically:

- Review the boundaries of the Site
- Review the effectiveness of the Conservation Plan
- Review the Tourism Plan
- Review the Gobustan Archaeological Map

Objective 6

To identify how the economic and cultural benefits of inscription of the Site can be used to the advantage of the Gobustan community and businesses

Recommendations

- Organize a regular monitoring of the economic benefits of the Gobustan Settlement, through a system of measurable indicators
- Organize regular meetings with relevant stakeholders of Gobustan Settlement and general assemblies with the inhabitants to ensure that benefits of promotion of the Site are arriving to the local community

4.4 Project Register

Based on the issues and objectives outlined and arising from the Recommendation, this section comprises an Action Plan listing the projects that are proposed within the Site, the agencies involved, any necessary funding and the time scale for implementation. The time horizon proposed for the Management Plan is 10 years broken into three periods: Short term – by 2007; Medium term- by 2011; Long term by 2015.

Project	Lead Agency	Funding	Term
Management Plan	GRACLSC	-	2005
World Heritage Site	UNESCO	-	2006
Promotion of the Site	GRACLSC	-	2006 ongoing
Conservation Plan	MC-Azerb-IAE-GHAR-BP	MC-BP	2006-07
Archaeological Map	MC-IAE- GHAR-ARAC-BP	BP	2007-08
Tourism Plan	MC-Azerb-MT- GHAR	MT	2007-08
Visitor Centre	GOC-Azerb- GHAR- ARAC-GDEP	GOC- GDEP	2010
Educational Programmes	MC- GDEP- GHAR	MC- GDEP-UNESCO	2006-07
Transport Plan	MT- GDEP- BCEP	MT- GDEP- BCEP	2008
Environmental Plan/Measures	MER-BP	MER-BP	2007
Visitors Facilities	Azerb-GHAR-BP	BP- BCEP	2009
New Publications	MC-GOC-IAE-GHAR	GOC	2007
Gobustan Res. Headquarters	Azerb- BCEP-MC-GHAR-ARAC-BP	BCEP-MC-BP	2009
Museum Archives	MC-GHAR-MC-BP-ARAC-IAE	MC-GHAR-MC-BP-ARAC-IAE	2008
Presentation of Natural Oil Fields	MER-BP-GHAR	MER-BP	2008

Abbreviations

GRACLSC	Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee
MC	Ministry of Culture
MT	Ministry of Tourism
MER	Ministry for Environmental Resources
GHAR	Gobustan Historic-Artistic Reservation
BCEP	Baku City Executive Power
GDEP	Garadagh District Executive Power
IAE	Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences
Azerb	Azerberpa Scientific Research Institute for Restoration of Architectural Monuments
BP (BTC)	British Petroleum Group - BTC Co.
GOC	Gobustan Operating Company
ARAC	Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre

5. APPENDICES

5.1 Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site Maps

5.1.1 Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site Map

5.2 General Bibliography

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Content of the plan

- | | |
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| 3. Hydro climatic features | p. 17 |
| 4. Engineering and geological conditions | p. 27 |
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| <i>b. General plans</i> | |
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| <i>e. Scheme of tourist routes and transportation services</i> | |
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5.4 Reservation Rules

5.4.1. Schools rules

Attention! Attention!

To the attention of the schoolchildren, citizen and dear guests of our city visiting the Gobustan State historical-artistic preserve.

Young friends! Dear visitors!

The Gobustan preserve which you have traveled to is a monument of great historical and world importance. To protect the Gobustan rock carvings is considered to be a holy work and honorable duty for us all. The collaborators of the preserve are obliged to acquaint you with this monument and give you exact and detailed information about it.

Dear visitors, by scratching your names on the rocks You are not going to become a part of history at all. On the contrary, You spoil the monument of rich and ancient history and shorten its life.

Generally, You can write your names and impressions in the Reference book, it is also of historical importance.

It is recommended to your school friends and others to take into account the fact that the Gobustan preserve is an open-air museum and while being here to be attentive, to stick to the rules of behavior, not to pollute the area and to prevent themselves from following natural dangers:

- the danger of sliding rocks as a result of fall-outs
- the danger of sunstroke as a result of high temperature in a summer season
- the danger of falling down from the stairs leading to the top of Beyukdash mountain
- the danger of drinking the unboiled water from the sources

The management of the Gobustan preserve considers it to be its duty to let you know beforehand about the dangers in order to prevent them.

Otherwise, the collaborators of the museum are not responsible for those who do not stick to the above-stated warnings.

THE MANAGEMENT

5.3.2. Reservation price-list

According to the order N10 of the Ministry of Culture from 04 January, 2002 and the protocol N1 of the general meeting of the collaborators of the Gobustan preserve from 06 January, 2002

To be confirmed
by the director of Gobustan
State historical-artistic preserve

The price-list of service prices of Gobustan preserve.

Entrance tickets:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| - for schoolchildren | 1000 manat |
| - for students | 2000 manat |
| - for local guests | 5000 manat |
| - for foreign guests | 15 000 manat |

Excursion service:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| - for schoolchildren | 5000 manat |
| - for students | 10 000 manat |
| - for local guests | 15 000 manat |

- for foreign guests 30 000 manat

The prices of the museum services for enterprises, institutions and individual persons:

1. For the rights of photographing the monuments - 10 000 manat
2. For the amateur video shooting - 80 000 manat
3. For the video shooting of the area from helicopter
per 1 day in cash - 300 000 manat
with transfer - 2 000 000 manat
4. For the video shooting of the monuments,
for shooting clips and feature films
per 1 day in cash - 300 000 manat
with transfer - 1 500 000 manat
5. For using the area of the preserve for various aims
(for scientific investigations, sport competitions
and other cultural-popular events)
per 1 day in cash - 300 000 manat
with transfer - 1 500 000 manat

The excursion service during the trip to the rare monuments.

1. An excursion to Kichikdash mountain - 30 000 manat
2. A tour to Djingirdag mountain - 30 000 manat
3. An acquaintance with mud volcanoes - 30 000 manat
4. An excursion to the lower terrace
of Beyukdash mountain (Roman inscription) - 10 000 manat

Publications:

1. Gobustan - a coloured collection of postcards - 2000 manat
2. Gobustan - album (thin) - 1500 manat
3. Gobustan - album (thick) - 1500 manat
4. Gobustan - leaflet - 1000 manat
5. A pectoral badge - 500 manat
6. The world of Gobustan - book - 5000 manat

The chief of the management department
The chief of the mass-excursion department
The cashier of the preserve

E. Kadirov
K. Guliyeva
N. Ahmedova

To be confirmed
by the director of the Gobustan
State historical- artistic preserve
_____ M. Farajova
10 March, 2002

5.3.3. Internal instructions.

Internal Instruction concerning a visitor admittance and a cultural service shown for them in Gobustan.

1. Under-age children may come to the territory of the preserve and to the museum-exposition situated here only with accompaniment of adults.
2. Schoolchildren until 15 years may only be admitted and be shown a cultural service if they are accompanied by teachers and parents.
3. If there are cases when the light is switch off the visitors may leave the museum exposition only if they are accompanied by the personnel of the museum.
4. The teachers, parents and adults in general should be acquainted with the Appeal addressed to the visitors as well as to stick to the rules.

5.3.4. Order N 12

On the Gobustan State historical-artistic preserve.

Baku city

10 March, 2003

In order to prevent unfortunate accidents like the accidents in Shirvanshahs palace in 21 February 2003 and in Baku State Circus in January 2003

I order:

1. To the chiefs of the departments and other responsible persons:

- * To stick to the items of the internal instruction while admitting the tourists and schoolchildren visiting the Gobustan State historical-artistic preserve and while showing them a cultural service.
- * to intensify the control on admitting and showing a cultural service to the under-age children as well as to the visitors complaining on their health.
- * to acquaint the teachers, parents and adults in general, coming with under-age children with the Appeal addressed to the visitors.
- * to realize control on sticking to the rules of the Appeal.

To entrust the control on execution of the order to K. Guliyeva -the chief of mass-excursion department and E. Kadirov the elder scientific collaborator of the fund department.

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee Rules of Procedures

During the last term of 2003 relevant meetings among components of the Steering Committee and the Department for Protection, Restoration and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan have define provisional duties and procedures of this institution that need to be completed and confirmed during the 2004 meetings.

Rules of Procedures

1. Constitution of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Department for Protection, Restoration and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Monuments), in order to help and control the real effectiveness of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Management Plan, has promoted the constitution of a Steering Committee. This new group will take the name of: **Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site Steering Committee.**

2. Composition of the Steering Committee

To date the **Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee** is composed by these members:

- **Department for Protection, Restoration and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation**
- **“Azerberpa” - Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments**
- **Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan Republic**
- **Ministry for Environment & Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **Ministry for Youth, Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- **Garadagh District Executive Power**
- **Baku City Executive Power, Department of Culture**
- **BTC Co. -BP**
- **Gobustan Operating Company**
- **Azerbaijan Rock Art Centre**
- **Azerbaijan National Commission for Unesco**

3. Membership and duties of the Steering Committee

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape WHS Steering Committee will act as the primary forum for issues concerning the management of the proposed World Heritage Site. Its general responsibility is to consider the total needs of the proposed WHS and its Setting, and to recommend actions to maintain the right balance between access, conservation, sustainable economic development and the interests of the local communities.

In particular its membership:

- is made up of representatives of all the relevant stakeholders and agencies with interests within the proposed WHS;
- is not closed but will be implemented with the addition of new other relevant organizations that will be invited to take part of it in the future, to help the development of the Management Plan.

The Steering Committee will:

- control the implementation of the recommendations made within the Management Plan, and will survey the success in reaching the objectives it sets;
- synchronize acts towards concerted management within the proposed WHS;
- receive reports from the Executive Team or responsible bodies and agencies on projects which interest or will affect the proposed WHS;
- allow action plans and priorities for promoting specific aspects of the Management Plan;
- monitor the conditions of the proposed WHS, and will develop and agree on appropriate action to deal with threats to its well being;

- promote and allow further policies and codes of practice for protection, recording and research, access, interpretation, and conservation of the proposed WHS, as well as protecting the occupations and interests of those living and working around the area, and will stimulate the adoption of such policies by responsible bodies and agencies;
- promote the economy of the region, within the primary urgency to preserve the WHS;
- agree the work programme of, and will provide general direction for the Gobustan Reservation;
- monitor the conclusions and recommendations within the Management Plan, to determine the periodicity of the necessary updating of the Plan, and will review this process when it occurs.

4. Chairperson

The **Chairperson** of the Steering Committee will be elected by the Committee and chosen among different candidates proposed by the members. He/She, a figure originating from the Azeri cultural panorama, will represent the Steering Committee nationally and abroad.



5. Executive Team

A group of three members of the Steering Committee, composed by the Department for Protection and Utilization of Monuments and Sites of the Ministry of Culture of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve and the BTC Co. –BP, will act as a provisional **Executive Team**. The definitive team will be confirmed during the first official meeting of the Steering Committee after the approval of the rules of procedures.

The team will act as a connection between the members and the management leaders (the director of the Reserve and the head of the Department of the Ministry of Culture) and will collect useful information to distribute to the members. The team will also set the agenda and summon the meetings of the Steering Committee.

6. Meetings of the Executive Team

The Executive Team will meet monthly, discussing the all management mechanisms and setting the agenda for the Steering Committee meetings.

7. Meetings of the Steering Committee

The meetings of the Steering Committee will take place quarterly and will be summoned by the Executive Team which will set the agenda for the reunion.

8. Address and secretary of the Steering Committee

The **address** of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee is fixed at the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve headquarters in Baku, and its director, Malahat Farajova will act as the provisional **secretary**.

Address of Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Steering Committee:

Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve
Lermontov Street, 3
AZ 1001 Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel/Fax: (994-12) 492 02 54; (994-12) 492 61 45
E-mail: gobustanaz@yahoo.com

Provisional Secretary:

Malahat Farajova, Director of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape

Additional information to the
Dossier and Management Plan for the nomination of Gobustan to
UNESCO`s World Heritage List
including

Plan of Action (Management sub-plans 1-3)



Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve

March 2006



Gobustan. Boyukdash Mountain. Cave Seven Beauties.

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Management sub-plan 1: Documentation and Conservation

Management sub-plan 2: Management, Monitoring and Maintenance

Management sub-plan 3: Presentation: Education, Information and Tourism

Foreword

The Gobustan Nomination Dossier and the Management Plan were submitted to UNESCO on 31 January 2006 with the aim to have the site inscribed in the World Heritage List. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism¹ of the Republic of Azerbaijan realize the necessity of submitting additional information not sufficiently dealt with in the aforementioned documents, including a short-, middle- and long-term Plan of Action. The Plan of Action is divided into three management sub-plans:

Management sub-plan 1: Documentation and Conservation

Management sub-plan 2: Management, Monitoring and Maintenance

Management sub-plan 3: Presentation: Education, Information and Tourism

A special research program is outlined in chapter 4 in the introductory document, following additional information and supplement remarks to the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan (chapter 2) and the stated general principles and guidelines for the management of Gobustan (chapter 3). The reason why the research program is not specifically included in any of the sub-plans is that strengthened research activity on scientific topics concerning Gobustan, is considered to be relevant to all the three sub-plans.

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve on behalf of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Culture and Tourism has prepared this additional document including the Plan of Action. The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Baku have supported the work.

We wish to sincerely thank professor Knut Helskog, the University of Tromsø, Norway, and Dr Anne-Sophie Hygen, Riksantikvaren – the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Oslo, Norway, for advisory support in the development of this additional document.

The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan acknowledges the need for short-, middle- and long-term activities in order to safeguard the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, and the commitment to allocate the resources necessary to carry out the Plan of Action in the short-, middle- and long-term perspective.

Baku, 27 March 2006

Aboulfas Mursal oglu Garayev
Minister

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan
on behalf of the State Party

¹ Due to the reorganization of governmental ministries, the relevant ministry for the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is now the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

1. Introduction

Several factors make the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape unique in the world. Besides the very large number of shelters, caves, open panels and boulders with rock art from several archaeological periods, there are settlements and activity areas, burial sites and cemeteries. The archaeological situation in Gobustan is quite remarkable. During the period 1964-1994 several archaeological excavations were conducted immediately in front of several rock art panels. The cultural layers are up to 5 meters thick, and contained archaeological and natural materials from settlements and other types of activity areas. At several places the cultural layers covered parts of the engraved rock art panels, which is extremely unusual. The excavated material is partly researched, but there are numerous questions still to be raised, offering extremely interesting research possibilities as to the interpretation and understanding of the human activities in Gobustan.

A very special monument category in Gobustan is not sufficiently dealt with in the Nomination Dossier and the Management Plan; these are the numerous cupules of different sizes, occasionally found together with adhering pecked lines or channels. Many of the cupules are obviously man-made, while many seem to be natural. There seem to be different interpretation possibilities: some are believed to be freshwater containers, connecting to the different stages of the sea levels of the Caspian Sea; some seem to have a ritual meaning, connecting to sacrificial activities. The cupules, together with the lines and channels, can be classified as “rock art”, but with quite differentiated meanings and functions. This category of cultural/natural remains seems to be very unusual in connection with rock art, and adds to the uniqueness of Gobustan.

The human activities in Gobustan cannot be separated from the landscape and the geological formations. The terraces showing the different levels of the Caspian Sea, together with natural occurrences like earth quakes and volcanic activities are a part of the natural preconditions in the area for economic as well as ritual activities and practices. These situations and preconditions are dealt with in the Nomination Dossier chapter 2b, but the possibilities for further understanding into the chronology and archaeology of human activities in Gobustan in relation to natural conditions, are far from emptied. Other landscape elements in sight of the Reserve itself, like the volcanoes, the Caspian Sea and the fantastic view in all directions from the top of the mountains, are extremely positive elements and assets adding to the experience of the natural and cultural landscape.

Also in chapter 2b of the Nomination Dossier, the zoological and botanical situations in Gobustan are mentioned and described. It is already known that certain species are listed in the Red Book of Azerbaijan. Further recording of species will be a priority and is included in sub-plan 1.

New installations, created in the 20th century, are now parts of the Gobustan context. Some of them are obviously negative elements, like the prison functions. Others may be turned into cultural assets and positive historic factors, like the enormous remains of the stone quarry in the eastern part of the Boyukdash Mountain and the corresponding remains of the stone industry by the prison.

To meet these challenges, a research program is outlined in this document, chapter 4. In addition, intensified multi-scientific documentation and recording is included in sub-plan 1.

It is realized that there are still a number of challenges to be dealt with in order to get the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape in a state of ordinary maintenance. Measures to meet the more general management challenges are stated in the Plan of Action, primarily in sub-plan 2.

Increasing yearly number of visitors to Gobustan is another challenge, although the number is still quite low and manageable. This challenge, seen in the light of sustainable development, is dealt with in sub-plan 3.

The three management sub-plans must be understood as parts of the same issue. They are each other's preconditions and consequences, and act together as aspects of the full management activity program in the short-, middle- and long terms. The sub-plans are created according to a common structure:

Introduction

Topics, each one followed by:

Background and present situation

Issues and objectives

Expected outcome

Recommended strategy and actions

Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

The structure is created in order systematically to be able to answer the following standard and simplified questions, which are basic in all management planning and practice:

WHY?

The reasons and motivations for management planning and actions in Gobustan are stated in the Nomination Dossier and the Management Plan. Gobustan is without doubt a very unusual and unique site with a large number of cultural and natural values, qualities and assets, and with a great potential for further sustainable development and actions regarding preservation and sustainable use, therefore for the education, recreation and enjoyment of local, national and international visitors.

WHAT (status)?

What do we have to deal with? First and foremost, this is the inventoried, recorded and evaluated values and qualities proved and interpreted in the Gobustan Landscape and how they interact: the prehistoric monuments and sites (the rock art in caves and shelters and on boulders and open panels, settlement sites and cemeteries); the historic sites (the quarry and its stone reception installations); the natural and landscape features (terraces, geology, flora, fauna and ecological features). In addition, the "what" also relates to challenges to be met and problems to be solved (graffiti and other interventions, visitors' impact, the relationship between protection and presentation of the area on the one hand, and development and use on the other) in order to reach the goals and objectives.

WHOM?

The different responsible institutions and cooperation partners involved and the resources they represent and generate. Clearly stated responsibilities, good conditions for cooperation and the active fulfillment of obligations and responsibilities are preconditions for success. Several public institutions and NGOs are actively involved in Gobustan, all with serious intentions and a strong will and capacity to reach positive and future-oriented results:

- The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve (executing institution)
- The Azerbaijani Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
- The Heydar Aliyev Foundation²

² When in the "Timeframe and responsibilities"-chapters of the management sub-plans the The Heydar Aliyev Foundation is mentioned, it should be remembered that this is a Non Governmental Organization and their support will be voluntary although actively sought for.

- Baku City Executive Power
- Garadagh District Executive Power
- Azerbaijan Rock Art Center
- And others (cf. the Management Plan, chapter 1.5).

In 2006 there are 25 employees at the Gobustan Preserve:

- Director – 1
- Research staff – 7
- Guide – 3
- Curator – 5
- Technical staff – 6
- On maternity leave – 3

HOW and WHEN?

The recommended strategies and actions are the consequences of the analyzed relationship between protection, preservation and sustainable use regarding the stated values and the challenges to be solved, at logical and optimal points of time: the short- (2006-2007), middle- (2008-2010) and long-terms (2011-2015). The Plan of Action – what to do, how to do it, when to do it and by whom – is designed to meet these basic questions.

As described above, several Azerbaijani institutions are committed to cooperate in the many aspects of the management of Gobustan – today and in the future. There is a strong will as well as serious commitment to do what is necessary to manage, preserve and safeguard the Gobustan Landscape with the many sites, monuments and situations. In addition, the work is further strengthened by present and future international cooperation and advisory support.

2. Additional information and supplement remarks to the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan

2.1 Integrity and authenticity

Within the buffer zone there are several intrusive elements that affect the integrity of the site. Several elements are discussed and dealt with in the Management Plan, chapters 3.16 and 3.17, and the following factors are just a supplement.

Both before and after the initial discoveries in 1939, activities within the area have resulted in physical and visual intrusions into the area:

- *Stone quarry*
The whole of the western part of the Boyukdash (central) Mountain within the buffer zone was mined for limestone from the early 1930s, before the discoveries of the rock art. The mining activity was stopped in 1971. The enormous crater on the top of and in the western part of the mountain is a physical disturbance of the original situation, and *de facto* represents a reduction of the authenticity. At the same time, the quarry is a remnant of a special activity and as such a part of the area cultural history. The quarry cannot be seen except when on the top of the mountain and therefore does not represent a visual problem concerning the archaeological sites. The quarry is regarded an industrial heritage monument, it's size is impressive and it has its own beauty and attraction, and is a place of interest in the area. In addition, the view from the top of the mountain is impressive: to the south, the Kichikdash Mountain; to the west, the volcano Toragai; to the north, the volcano Kaniza; and to the east, the Caspian Sea.

Installations connected to the stone quarry are still left to the south of the Gobustan Reserve buffer zone, close to the prison near the foot of the Boyukdash Mountain. The two rows of colonnades belong to the reception system of the stone blocks from the quarry. The industrial remains are interesting historically and technically as well as visually, and will be maintained. The possibilities connected to the stone quarry and its installations are dealt with in sub-plan 3.

- *Prison*

A prison was built in the 1960s to the south of the Gobustan Reserve (the prison is commented on in the Management Plan, chapter 3.17). Here the buffer zone line makes a sharp northern incision into the southern part of the buffer zone. Because of the landscape features, the prison buildings do not represent a major disturbing visual element, as they are partly not seen at all (for instance from the museum building), partly only seen from a considerable distance. If the prison functions are moved from Gobustan, the buildings should be put into usage relevant to Gobustan (see sub-plan 3).

- *Roads*

A local road leads to the Gobustan museum from the south, from the M3 highway southwards from Baku to Iran (see comments in the Management Plan, chapter 3.17). The local road is needed for the transport of visitors and equipment etc. to the museum and the visitors' area, and it follows the landscape in a sensible way. The road is in need of regular repair and maintenance (see sub-plan 2).

A dirt road leads up to the north part of the stone quarry. This road will function as a footpath to the top of the mountain and will be kept and regularly maintained.

- *The Gobustan Reserve museum/office building*

The existing museum building is situated close to the rock art shelters and caves open for visitation, at the centre of the east slope of the Boyukdash Mountain. The building contains offices, storage rooms, exhibition and kitchen. Two double toilets are situated in a separate building north of the museum. In principle, the museum represents an intrusion into the protected area. However, the position of the building with parking for visitors to the south of it, is functional in relation to the visitors' walkways, and is not an unduly disturbing visual element. The building was painted white and repaired in 2005 and is now in a very good state of repair. With a more discreet grayish color it will blend nicely into the landscape.

It has been discussed to demolish the building when the new planned new museum is established. However, it is recommended to keep the building as an office for guides and guards, with visitors' relevant facilities (sub-plan 3). In addition, the building may function as a field station for visiting scholars.

2.2 State of conservation and factors affecting the property

The following elements affecting the property are supplements to chapter 4 of the Nomination Dossier, and will be further dealt with in the Plan of Action:

- *Graffiti*

Several of the rock surfaces both with and without petroglyphs are seriously affected by graffiti: inscriptions, incisions, scratching and chiseling. For the most part, this was done in the Soviet times. The problem is seriously affecting the site, and will in different ways be dealt with in all the three sub-plans in the Plan of Action, but first and foremost in sub-plan 1. Relevant measures are conservation, information/education, and physical

measures on site to keep visitors on walkways and at a proper distance from the carved panels and boulders. In addition, the number of guards will be increased according to increasing number of visitors.

- *Panel numbers and figure enhancement*

Each panel is marked by incised numbers, chiseled into the rock surfaces in the Soviet time. The numbers are deep and large (height c.15-30 cm) and represent a very disturbing element. Methods of masking by conservation will be carefully considered and executed. Also in the Soviet time, toothpaste was applied to figures to temporarily enhance them; it was believed that rain would wash the toothpaste away. However, many of the carved panels in Gobustan are protected from rain, and the toothpaste has partly remained. It is believed that the problem can be dealt with quite easily, and appropriate methods will be a matter for discussion and execution by conservation experts (sub-plan 1).

- *Pressure on the vegetation*

The vegetation is to a considerable extent being worn down in the area of visitation, caused by visitors' undisciplined behavior. This problem will be dealt with by constructing minimum intervention walkways of stone slabs and by letting the vegetation recover where worn down (sub-plan 3). The Reserve-Museum has recently planted 200 trees and bushes in the area of visitation, of which 80 have survived. Trees and bushes can be used as effective closing of areas where visitors are not supposed to go, besides for the beautification and restoration of the natural and cultural landscape.

2.3 Documentation

The archaeological, geological, botanical and zoological documentation is not completed although a number of reports and scientific material are compiled and available. Documentation is the precondition for all research and management activities, and supplementing documentation and recording is of high priority. Documentation and recording will be conducted both intra- and multi-disciplinary.

- *Supplement archaeological documentation and recording*

Individual sites, caves, shelters, boulders and panels are GIS recorded and the information gradually entered into a database. It will be a priority to evaluate previous recordings (tracings), to supplement where necessary and to make the recording material complete. Besides tracing, other recording methods will be tried out. The cupules will be recorded together with geological expertise to separate the natural from the man-made (see sub-plan 1).

- *Flora, fauna and ecology*

The status for natural-scientific documentation of species is partly dealt with in the Nomination Dossier (chapter 2) and the Management Plan (chapter 2.3). Natural influencing factors are important not only for the understanding of the nature-culture interplay in the past and in the present situations, but also for choosing sustainable management measures. Therefore, natural-scientific documentation will be of high priority (sub-plan 1).

- *Documentation of cultural and natural degradation and erosion (damage documentation)*

Wind and sand seem to be the main natural erosion factors affecting the carved rock surfaces. The problem varies according to panel direction, inclination and degree of being protected in caves and shelters. The winds can be quite strong, but the rock surface erosion is not larger than is to be expected, rather the opposite. In addition, flaking and exfoliations occur, but the overall impression is that the surfaces are in quite good

condition with regard to natural influences.

Cultural or humanly imposed degradation factors (graffiti, numbers, other factors) will be documented together with the natural factors. Damage documentation is important for condition evaluation, monitoring and conservation, and will be initiated (sub-plan 1). Reduced copies of tracings will be used as starting point for damage documentation, in addition to photographs and written descriptions.

3. General management principles and guidelines

The following principles and guidelines will be followed in all parts and aspects of the present and future management of Gobustan:

Minimum intervention

Management measures will to as a large extent as possible be non-intrusive, minimalist, reversible and environment friendly, and not compromise or threaten the values and qualities of nature, landscape and cultural expressions.

Documentation, monitoring and maintenance

No measures will be carried out without documentation, before and during their execution and after their completion (process documentation). The documentation of the results constitutes the starting point of monitoring and maintenance. Experiences obtained through systematic monitoring shall set the premises for possible necessary changes in the activity program, formulated in yearly activity plans.

Sustainability – working with nature (not against it)

Materials and measures are always to be chosen according to natural and cultural conditions, preconditions and premises on site. All measures will be balanced against positive and possible negative impact on the archaeological monuments and sites, the natural landscape and the environment. Cultural monuments shall be treated as intimately interwoven with the natural features, species and resources and within the same and shared context.

Presentation on the premises of protection, preservation and safeguarding

Measures (walkways, fencing, signposts, etc.) for presenting the site to visitors shall always be balanced against possible physical and visual infringement or disturbance on the environment and the rock art. Protection, preservation and safeguarding will set the premises for what is presented to the public, and how. Guards and guides are instructed and trained to always convey to visitors how to behave on site, and themselves serve as good examples.

Respect for site integrity

The peoples who thought, created and used what to us today has become the Gobustan cultural heritage shall have a voice, even though it cannot be heard. The landscape, the peoples who created what for us constitute the cultural heritage and their ways of life, acts and beliefs shall be treated with respect.

4. Research program

The following indicates some of the research potential of the Gobustan rock art and archaeological and environmental contexts. A few research topics are suggested as a part of a research structure in the years to come. It should be noted that this as well as any other research structure and program is constantly dynamic and changeable.

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve is unusual because of three main factors:

- 1) The unusually large number of deposits from prehistoric settlement/activity sites that overlay rock art images on the rock surfaces.
- 2) The large variety of images and motifs of which the oldest may have been made during the Late Palaeolithic to continue onto the close present. In a global perspective rock art dated to the Late Palaeolithic outside the French caves are extremely rare.
- 3) The location of the rock carvings on boulders created by earthquake activity in an area with a 127 m shore-displacement.

Each of these factors contributes to illuminate major basic problems associated with the understanding of the role and place of rock art in prehistoric societies.

Ad 1)

Altogether 20 sites have been excavated within the Reserve, and in 100 of these figures were found on stones within the deposits and 4 deposits overlaid rock art figures engraved on the vertical rock surfaces. The deposits in which figures were found date from the Late Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages.

3 sites contain occupation layers that overlay rock art, one with as much as 4,8 - 5 meters in the Kaniza site on the Beyukdash Mountain. In the deposits a slab was found on which a figure of a human was engraved. At the site Ana-zaga within the Boyukdash Mountain visitors' area there was an overlap of 2,85 - 3 m. In the deepest layers a slab with an engraving of a man with bow and arrow was found. Altogether more than 100 similar slabs with engraved figures have been found at the excavated sites in Gobustan. The excavated sites also contained refuse and tools of both organic and inorganic materials. The organic preservation is good due to the rich shell deposits in the old seabed.

For example, in the 2,85 - 3 m deep deposits in Ana-zaga, of approximately 10.000 bones 40% were from gazelle and 40% from koulan, although these two animal motifs are practically absent in the rock art. The artefact inventory is dated to the period from the Late Palaeolithic to the Medieval. In the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic deposits, stone fragments with engraved figures were found. The deposits set a possible Late Palaeolithic date of the earliest art.

As it is now recognized that engravings on rock surfaces in the open were in fact made during the Late Palaeolithic, such as in Fôz Coa in Portugal, there is a possibility that the oldest rock art in Gobustan, such as the highest located figures of bovines and humans, could have been made during the Late Palaeolithic, as proposed by some Azerbaijani researchers. As such, these engraved figures in Gobustan might represent the first area proved between Asia and Europe where such figures are found. The Palaeolithic contexts of engraved figures made on surfaces outside other than in the deep caves of France is a relative new discussion within the analysis of rock art, but not surprising considering the finds in Fôz Coa as well as the engraved geometric patterns on small pieces of stone found in the Blombosch Cave in South Africa. The latter are as

much as 70.000 years old. The finds in Gobustan are now a part of that discussion and need to be researched further.

Seen in an international perspective there are a few sites where deposits overlay rock art, but the sheer magnitude and degree of overlapping in Gobustan is astounding and is bound to bring forth significant new understanding of the relationship between rock art and other archaeological activity sites in this area of the world as well as in the global perspective. Besides, such overlapping is rare and occurs mainly in caves. Given that most research problems on rock art require knowledge about the contemporary cultural context, the unusually good contextual possibilities, including the preservation of organic materials and the variety of rock art motifs in and between panels in themselves, open up for a large number of contextually detailed research problems besides the age of the various types and localities of the engraved figures.

So far, no similar complex of open-air sites any other place in the world exists where the cultural deposits overlay associated rock art to the degree and magnitude as in Gobustan. There is a very good possibility of numerous similar unexcavated sites within the Gobustan Reserve.

Adding that some of the motifs in the art are chronologically specific, the possibility of creating a fairly detailed chronology is unusually good. Besides, since shepherds who for generation have lived in the area have made much of the recent graffiti, the sequence really continues until the present. The chronology is important for understanding the possible changing meanings and contexts of the carvings, which again are important for understanding what and how to document, conserve and present this specific group of art, as a dynamic relationship between research and management.

Ad 2)

Although the preservation of the figures ranges from excellent to poor, the rock art is in general well preserved and give good possibilities for researching the production techniques of figures from all periods/stages. Furthermore, at some panels the high degree of overlapping figures makes it possible to recreate the sequence of production although the sequence in itself might not be informative about the time span involved. But by combining content, form and morphological traits, production technique, surface features and grades of erosion it will be possible to include some dimension of time.

In addition, in contrast to the figurative art that always is engraved on vertical surfaces, there are hundreds of cupules on relatively horizontal surfaces, most of them 15-30 cm in diameter. Some of them are ground or pecked, and some appear to be naturally made by wind and sand erosion. Some of the cupules have grooved lines leading into or out of the cupules themselves. It has been suggested that some are made to collect rainwater, while others have organic deposits on the inside walls similar to that often found on ceramics as if some cupules have served as cooking basins. They are a highly unusual enigma that needs to be researched.

In essence, the large variety of carvings within an unusually long chronological framework opens up a number of research problems and theoretical and analytical approaches, for example to explain relationships between changing carvings and settlements, structures and artefact inventories, social and environmental changes, etc. through time and space, in local as well as regional perspectives.

Ad. 3)

The location of the carvings in a field of huge boulders on the old Caspian Sea shores, possibly from the Late Palaeolithic to the 18th Century AD, creates another set of hooks on which a chronology and other research problems can be based. The relationship to the shore

displacements caused by the changing Caspian Sea levels adds maximum and minimum dates for the associated panels and sites, which together with the chronological indications given by the carvings and archaeological materials, establishes a solid basis for constructing a chronological sequence that few other areas with rock art can match. In some sense, the situation in Gobustan is comparable to that of the Alta World Heritage Site in North Norway, where carvings are located at old shore levels that gives a maximum date for the carvings within a time period from approximately 4300 to 2000 BP. The difference is both that the sequence in Gobustan might cover a period from approximately 15000 (even earlier period) to 300 BP, or even to the present when including the figures made by present time shepherds, and that the figures and cultural contexts are significantly different from those in Alta. Seen in context with Central Asia to the east and the Caucasus to the west, Russia to the north and the Middle East to the south, the complex of sites in Gobustan is unique, as they are in a global perspective.

Even though the present knowledge and understanding of the complex of rock carvings in Gobustan is judged to be sufficient to apply for the inclusion in the World Heritage List, there can be no doubt that there is a need for substantial additional research. Even though the sites have been internationally known from the late 1930s, it is not before the close present that the political situation has become such that the sites really can become a part of a global discussion. The explanation is simply that it was difficult for researchers working on the sites to reach outside the controlled boundaries, physical as well as theoretical, of the old Soviet Union prior to recent political changes and, secondly, because the researchers were few. It is imperative to rectify this situation. The inclusion of the director of the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve in the CARAD group (Central Asian Rock Art Database) is one way to improve the situation, to present papers at international conferences is another. It is now a need to bring and include the rest of the world into the world of Gobustan and to create a solid basis for increasing research and education. Experience also indicates that a strong research factor and dissemination of results are significant to enhance the awareness of the general public as well as the particularly interested researchers, to the special attributes of important prehistoric monuments and sites.

It is therefore advisable/necessary to implement:

A) a research program centred on the prehistoric settlements, the rock art and the natural environment in Gobustan;

B) to organize a conference to which researchers from different part of the world are invited.

A) The research program should be twofold:

1. Research directly on the conservation problems of Gobustan by bringing in the expertise from CARAD and Norway. This is detailed in sub-plan 1.
2. A set of research problems should be formulated that focus on the excavated sites and the connection to the rock art because there already exist vast databank that needs to be thoroughly analysed. In this connection one should immediately begin to radiocarbon date organic materials that already are collected from the settlement sites to increase the foundation for placing the sites and carvings in better chronological and cultural contexts.

Furthermore, a project group should be formed with the aim to make a detailed research project that includes a number of stipends for students and researchers at universities and the Academy of Science in Azerbaijan. Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve must play a central role in this research. The project should be both multidisciplinary and

multinational to bring in different types of experts and research experiences, with the overall aims to increase the competence of such research in Azerbaijan. The research must become parts of international networks that are so essential for stimulating the use and development of theories, methods and analysis to solve new problems as they appear.

A part of the aim is to educate young researchers to manage the future of Gobustan.

B) The conference

The project group should ultimately work out the thematic details of the conference, but it is here suggested that it should include a session on conservation and documentation as a natural follow up of the work of the CARAD group, and a session on presentation and management, although the emphasis should be on the analysis of meanings. The conference should be held in a few years time when results of the new efforts on conservation and presentation in Gobustan and research on the meanings of the rock art start to come forth.

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape:

PLAN OF ACTION

Management sub-plan 1:

Documentation and Conservation





Gobustan. Boyukdash Mountain. Cave Ovchular.

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1. Introduction

Documentation of the rock art, prehistoric settlement and activity sites and the natural environment is the starting point for research as well as for conservation, management, safeguarding, presentation and monitoring. Continued multi-topic data collection and scientific analyses of the data are of the utmost importance in order to provide the necessary background for all future activities in Gobustan.

This documentation started in Gobustan when scholars discovered the site in 1939. Besides being important documentation *per se*, photographs and other documentation materials are a valuable starting point for systematic comparisons with the present state of rock art conservation and for the evaluating the rate of erosion, changing of vegetation etc. The existing documentation is partly stored in the Reserve-Museum archives, partly at the Institute of Archaeology. All documentation material is available for the Reserve-Museum.

The traditional method of visual documenting carved images in Gobustan as well as in most parts of the world has been, and still is, photography and tracing on paper or plastic foil. Tracing, together with systematic photograph records, is a well tried-out method, which provides solid and functional panel recordings. In Gobustan, the figures are usually very deep and the panels are as a rule relatively easy to trace. As new technology develops and prices of advanced equipment drop, new methods such as scanning will be tried out and applied. Also, a special challenge is to separate overlapping figures into layers of super-impositions. Methods of documentation and recording must always be selected according to existing site situations and conditions.

The locations of settlements, settled shelters and burial grounds are partly excavated and their positions and description are GPS recorded. Settlements are located at both the upper and lower mountain terraces and the burial grounds at the lower terraces (see description in the Nomination Dossier, chapter 2, “Shelters, ancient settlements, burial sites”). The ceremonial or sacred sites (see description in the Nomination Dossier, chapter 2, “Sacred sites”) are found spread over the area in several locations. The cupules in the upper part of the Boyukdash Mountain, of which a large number is man-made and some are natural, will receive special attention regarding documentation and interpretation (see the research program and below).

The geological and history is well known and described in Gobustan (see the Nomination Dossier, chapter 2.b, “History and Development”) and is interwoven in the preconditions and understanding of the human use of the Landscape. More systematic research and documentation of the interplay between natural and human development is needed. Systematic documentation of flora, fauna and the ecological interplay is a precondition for sustainable management and site presentation.

The stone quarry, with the enormous crater on the top of the Boyukdash Mountain and the industrial remains by the foot of the mountain, represent an important part of the site history and constitute an industrial heritage site. By documentation of the remains themselves, and by the collection of old photographs, historic records and interviews with previous workers in the quarry, the quarry will represent an interesting aspect of the human activities of Gobustan and the interplay between man, society and nature.

Conservation has two aspects: Indirect and direct conservation. Indirect conservation means to work on the causes for problems and eliminate them before they develop and

may cause serious harm. Direct conservation means to work directly on the problem and remedy the harm when and where it has already developed. Indirect methods are always to be preferred. Damage documentation, based on photographs and reduced copies of tracings, is important for evaluating and monitoring the condition of the carvings and will be initiated. The records will provide the necessary information for indirect and direct conservation.

2. Documentation and recording

2.1 Background and present situation

The rock carvings of Gobustan were discovered in 1939 and documentation and recording were initiated by Soviet archaeologists. The individual panels are numbered and there are maps showing the position of the panels. The panel recordings are made by the method of tracing. The image recordings are of varying quality, and not all panels are traced. About 75 % of the rock art panels and boulders are recorded by tracings.

The area was surveyed and the individual sites (caves, shelters, boulders, panels) were numbered and recorded in Soviet times. In total, 1005 panels and boulders were recorded and marked on site. Every year new panels and figures are discovered, and altogether 1011¹ panels and boulders with about 6000 figures are known today:

At Jinghirdagh (north) Mountain: 170 panels and boulders with 1025 figures
At Boyukdash (central) Mountain: 631 panels and boulders with 3623 figures
At Kichikdash (south) Mountain: 210 panels and boulders with 1358 figures

All the sites and panels are gradually being positioned by GPS (Geographical Positioning System) and entered into a database. This work is not finished; as of March 2006, 463 rock art panels and boulders are GPS recorded and the data included in the database. Based on the GPS registration, maps with the numbered panels and boulders have been produced and are stored in the database. Other archaeological sites and structures are GPS recorded and included in the maps.

So far, threat assessment and documentation of damages (natural and cultural/human) connected with the rock art of Gobustan has not been initiated.

In Gobustan, there is a unique situation inasmuch as there are thick cultural layers in and in front of rock art caves and shelters. To a certain extent, the layers overlapped panels with rock carvings. Several sites at all the main rock art locations were excavated between 1964 and 1994. There are other archaeological sites, like cemeteries (kurgans) and settlement sites, between the three mountains. The kurgans were discovered in 1939 and 40 were excavated between 1947 and 1994 are partly excavated.

Some, but far from all archaeological data are analyzed and published. The excavated material has a huge research potential. Some of the data is not easily accessible at the present and there is a strong need to make records of all the

¹ In addition, 56 carved boulders are discovered at the Shongardag and Shikhgaya mountains, north of the Jingirdag Mountain.

excavated material to make it available for further research. This issue is dealt with in the separate research program.

The geology and quaternary geology of the Gobustan area is vital for the understanding of the chronology and cultural history of the area. While studies on the Caspian Sea and its seashore displacements have been going on since 1933, special reports on the geology of Gobustan were published in 1950s, which is a good starting point for more specialized and detailed investigations of special issues. Cooperation between archaeology and geology will be important for the contextual understanding of the area and its natural and cultural development, and for management and presentation of Gobustan.

Research on the flora and fauna of Gobustan started in 1939. The reports will be a profitable starting point for a systematic and targeted inventory of the flora and fauna in Gobustan, within the framework of an ecological investigation. The ecological evaluation is important for evaluating the carrying capacity of the area regarding presentation and sustainable use.

Research in paleo-anthropology was initiated in 1974. Altogether, the archaeological and natural-scientific contextual documentation will constitute the preconditions for the present and future safeguarding and management of the Gobustan Landscape.

Numerous cupules of different sizes, occasionally found together with adhering pecked lines of channels, constitute a very special and unusual monument category. Many of the cupules are obviously man-made, while many seem to be natural. It will be a priority to have the cupules recorded and classified according to the parameters cultural/natural by including geological expertise. This question is also included in the research program.

2.1.1 Issues and objectives

Issues

Documentation and recording of all archaeological structures (rock art, settlement sites, cemeteries, ritual sites, other archaeological structures), other cultural structures (quarry, industrial activity, prison) and relevant natural structures and features (geology, quaternary geology, botany, zoology, ecology) are the bases for research and interpretation, conservation, management and presentation of the Gobustan Landscape. Documentation of cultural and natural influences on and damages to rock art panels is necessary for the planning and execution of conservation and safeguarding measures. Such basic documentation is also required for monitoring and reporting possible changes caused by nature or previous interventions. In addition, high quality documentation is necessary for the specialists dealing with planning and execution of walkways and visitors' facilities, information and education material, etc.

Objectives

Supplement and complete documentation and recording material within relevant fields for the purposes of research and for planning and carrying out of activities and measures concerning conservation, management, monitoring, maintenance and presentation of the Gobustan Rock Art Landscape.

2.1.2 Expected outcome

- Completion of field-work for primary data collection;
- Intra- and cross-scientific compilation, systematization, mapping, interpretation and database entering of all documentation material;
- Provision of standard reference material for the implementation of conservation, management, monitoring, safeguarding and presentation of activities and routines.

2.2 Recommended strategy and actions

Strategy

Gradually complete documentation and recording within all relevant topics for research, conservation, management and presentation purposes.

Actions

2.2.1 Field work

Recruit and strengthen competent cross-scientific field teams for archaeological, historical and natural-scientific (geological, quaternary-geological, botanical, zoological, ecological) surveys to increase the understanding of the interplay between nature and culture.

2.2.2 Air photography

Survey of the whole protected area including buffer zone with special focus on the Jinghirdagh, Boyukdash and Kichikdash mountains.

2.2.3 Rock art rock art image recording

Continue rock art image recording by traditional and new methods, such as tracing, day and night photography, carbon copying and 3D laser scanning, and train researchers and field workers in the different techniques. Natural features (cracks, depressions etc.) on/in the rock surfaces are to be included in the recordings.

2.2.4 Documentation of cupules

Create a program for systematic documentation and interpretation of cupules, their context and situation as part of the overall research program. Geologist must be involved in the determination of which are natural and which are man-made, and in the determination of distinguishing hallmarks for classification.

2.2.5 Damage documentation

Initiate and carry out damage documentation of all rock art panels based on reduced copies of panel recordings, according to CARAD and Norwegian methodology. Establish cross-scientific teams (archaeology, geology, botany, conservation) for the evaluation and determination of damage to the rock surfaces and carvings and provide adequate training of field leaders and assistants in the recording, treatment and interpretation of the data.

2.2.6 GPS mapping

Continue and complete the GPS mapping and inclusion into database, and consider the CARAD methods of documentation (archaeological part, conservation part) and database recording.

2.2.7 Excavated archaeological material

Complete the database with inventories and records of previous excavations,

research and collected materials to facilitate future management and research.

2.2.8 Walkways and measures for visitation.

Documentation and mapping for establishing walkways and other installations and measures for visitation. The establishment of walkways should be based on an evaluation of the ground surface under different weather conditions and visitors' behavior. All installations shall be documented before, during and after their execution and monitored for effectiveness and durability (see sub-plan 3, chapter 4.2.2).

2.2.9 Industrial remains

Documentation and mapping of the remains of the quarry: the crater and the remains on the plain east of the Boyukdash Mountain. Documentation is to be conducted on the physical remains, through the collection of photographic and written records and through interviews.

2.2.10 International workshop

Arrange an international documentation and conservation workshop as a joint Azerbaijani-Norwegian project, in March 2007. A special workshop program will be developed and relevant parties will be applied to for financial and arrangement support. Participants should be invited from the Caucasian region, the Central Asian region and Norway.

The purpose of the documentation part of the workshop will be to evaluate the documentation and recording methods applied in Gobustan, and to try out alternative methods like topographical plans with location of surfaces, night photography with inclined artificial light, 3D laser scanning and use of the equipment, and possibly other methods.

For the purpose of the conservation part of the workshop, see chapter 3.2.5 below.

2.2.11 International conference

As a follow up of the documentation and conservation workshop, an international conference with worldwide participation will be planned for 2008 (cf. the research program).

2.2.12 Equipment

Buy necessary equipment for documentation and recording: computer equipment with software; scanner with computer and software; generator, halogen lamps and camera equipment for night and day photographs; other.

2.2.13 Training and increase of competence and capacity

Personnel must be trained in the effective and competent use and maintenance of equipment for documentation and recording.

2.3 Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
GSHAP	Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve
HAF	The Heydar Aliyev Foundation
ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
NAS	The National Academy of Science
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Field work, archaeological structures	Continue recording of rock carvings and GPS mapping	Continue recording of rock carvings and GPS mapping	Continue recording of rock carvings and GPS mapping
	Make a special map of shelters, panels and settlements in the visitors area		
		Make inventories and records of all previous archaeological excavations and resulting materials	Continue and finish inventories and records of all previous archaeological excavations and resulting materials
		Documentation and recording of cupules and their bedrocks and GPS mapping	
		Continue documentation and recording of settlement sites, cemeteries and ritual sites and GPS mapping	Continue documentation and recording of settlement sites, cemeteries and ritual sites and GPS mapping
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Damage documentation	Establish and train cross-scientific teams for documentation and evaluation of damages (archaeology, geology, conservation) (start 2007)	Systematic cross-scientific damage documentation	Systematic cross-scientific damage documentation
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT; GSHAP</i>	<i>MCT; GSHAP</i>	<i>MCT; GSHAP</i>
The quarry	Documentation and mapping, collection of records	Collection of records, interviews	Compilation, reports, publications, exhibition
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>MCT; support: HAF</i>
Natural scientific surveys and reports	Compilation of reports and materials concerning geology, quaternary geology, botany, zoology and ecology and find gaps	Documentation and recording of geological, quaternary geological, botanical, zoological and ecological features	Evaluation, consequence-studies and publications
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>NAS</i>	<i>NAS</i>	<i>NAS; GSHAP</i>
Survey	Air photography		
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT; GSHAP; support: HAF</i>		
Training and increased capacity		Training of researchers and fieldworkers in different techniques	Training of researchers and fieldworkers in different techniques
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>

International cooperation	International workshop on documentation and conservation (2007)	International conference with focus on documentation, conservation and interpretation	
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; ANCU; support: HAF and with the support from and cooperation with Norway and the CARAD group</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; ANCU; support: HAF and with support from and cooperation with Norway and the CARAD group</i>	
Equipment	Invest in necessary equipment; training of personnel in the competent use and maintenance of equipment	Invest in necessary equipment; training of personnel in the competent use and maintenance of equipment	Invest in necessary equipment; training of personnel in the competent use and maintenance of equipment
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; support: HAF</i>

3. Conservation

3.1 Background and present situation

At present, no specialists in conservation are connected to the Gobustan Reserve-Museum staff, and conservation activities are not carried out. It is a priority to engage personnel with a background in general conservation and supply further training in issues relevant to Gobustan.

It is considered a profitable solution to further involve personnel connected to Gobustan in the conservation group of CARAD (Central Asian Rock Art Database). Qualified personnel should take part in conservation fieldwork, for instance in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and share existing competence and experience. Also, an international documentation and conservation workshop is being planned as an Azerbaijani-Norwegian joint project, in March 2007.

Natural erosion caused by wind and sand in Gobustan is considerable on some open and wind-exposed panels. However, the important panels in caves and shelters are well protected from wind. Flaking, cracking and exfoliation processes have been and are ongoing on some panels, and in special situations possible conservation measures should be considered and tried out on specially selected test panels without rock art.

Cultural or anthropogenic damages are, however, at present far more serious than the natural ones. Graffiti (pecking, cutting, scratching) is a big problem on several rock surfaces both with and without carvings. By far most of the graffiti was made during the Soviet times, and the problem came under better control with the establishment of the Gobustan Reserve-Museum and the supervision of visitors by guards and guides. Besides being a serious visual and physical intrusion into the rock art, graffiti is considered to be contaminating; it may “invite” visitors to do likewise. Therefore, the graffiti problem must be dealt with, through safe and carefully selected materials and conservation methods.

In the Soviet times, it was common practice to chisel panel numbers directly into the carved panels. In the lower terraces only the numbers are pecked, and they are for the most part covered with lichens like the rest of the panel and boulder surfaces. In the upper terraces, the numbers are cut and chiseled into a prepared and leveled square. These stand out very clearly on the rock surfaces. The numbers are between 15 and 30 cm high and usually 1-2 cm deep. The numbers are extremely physically and visually disturbing and represent a grave intrusion into the integrity of the site. Measures of effective masking through carefully selected conservation materials and methods are a priority and should be finished within the plan period.

Another practice in Soviet times was to enhance carved figures with toothpaste. The purpose was visibility on photographs. It was assumed that the toothpaste would quickly wash off during rains. However, in Gobustan a number of panels are naturally protected from direct rain, and here the white toothpaste is still visible in the carvings. It is not supposed to be a major problem to remove it, but methods must be carefully selected with regard to the rock surface.

Methods of conservation (masking of graffiti and numbers; other problems) must be tried out on specially selected test sites without rock carvings but with the same rock composition (preferably boulders which can be moved and removed) before being carried out on rock carvings and carved panels. Relevant tests for toothpaste removal may be difficult. Old toothpaste behaves differently than new and measures must be carried out directly but very carefully and after consulting experienced colleagues.

No conservation measures are to be carried out on rock carving panels without documentation before, during and after their implementation. The documentation of the conservation materials, methods and results will serve as the starting point of monitoring.

A further conservation challenge is to safeguard the remains of previous archaeological excavations. Today, some of the profiles and surfaces are exposed to erosion and should be either excavated and documented, or properly preserved.

3.1.1 *Issues and objectives*

Issues

It is of importance to strengthen the Gobustan Reserve-Museum staff by conservationists (conservation leader with 1-2 assistants), adequately educated and trained for the special requirements and tasks in Gobustan.

Even though a certain natural degradation of carved surfaces is recognized, the cultural/anthropogenic damage is considered to be far more serious. Masking of graffiti and panel numbers, and the removal of image enhancement (toothpaste) are priorities. Natural conservation materials should be carefully developed and tried out on specially selected test sites and evaluated before their application.

The profiles and cultural layer remains of previous archaeological excavations are vulnerable and will be destroyed without adequate measures. Safeguarding methods should be chosen according to possibilities and resources.

Objectives

Though education and training of conservation personnel, and the arrangement of a documentation and conservation workshop in Gobustan, the objectives are to deal with the degradation of the rock art and the remains of archaeological excavations through optimal and minimum-intervention materials and methods, resulting in well preserved and presentable rock art panels and archaeological sites.

3.1.2 **Expected outcome**

- The Gobustan Reserve-Museum is strengthened with competent conservation personnel;
- Masked graffiti and numbers on carved as well as un-carved surfaces, and cleaned rock art;
- Documentation of conservation activities as a starting point for monitoring and maintenance of all measures;
- The remains of previous archaeological excavations are safeguarded.

3.2 Recommended strategy and actions

Strategy

- Conservation measures according to the principles of minimum intervention and reversibility, with a preference of indirect rather than direct methods;
- Choice of environment friendly methods and materials;
- Trying out of methods and materials for conservation of rock carvings on test sites without carvings before on-site application, followed by monitoring and evaluation;
- Monitoring and evaluation of all conservation measures.

Actions

3.2.1 Education and training of personnel

Contact conservation institutions in Azerbaijan for engagement of relevant personnel for further training and specialization in issues (materials, methods) relevant to the Gobustan conservation challenges. Conservation assistants will be appointed and trained. The conservation personnel will enter into the cross-scientific teams working with damage documentation (see chapter 2.2.5 above). All personnel shall have satisfactory conditions regarding salaries, safety and working environment.

3.2.2 Natural erosion

The conservation team together with archaeologist and geologist should give an evaluation of the natural erosion forces and recommend possible conservation measures.

3.2.3 Graffiti and vandalism

Plan and carry out remedying measures for the masking of irrelevant figures and the cleaning of figure enhancement on the Gobustan rock panels, based on an evaluation of minimum-intervention (preferably reversible and natural) materials and methods.

3.2.4 Safeguarding the remains of excavated sites

Based on an evaluation of the previous archaeological excavations, decide measures regarding the remaining unexcavated parts; whether to safeguard or to excavate.

3.2.5 International workshop

The Gobustan Reserve-Museum together with Norwegian advisers will develop a program for a documentation and conservation workshop, and both Azerbaijani and Norwegian funding will be sought for. Such a workshop is considered to be a profitable opportunity for training personnel and for trying out of conservation materials and methods, and will contribute to strengthen international cooperation on issues of general interest and importance. Colleagues from the CARAD group and from the Caucasus region will be a priority.

3.2.6 International conference

As a follow up of the documentation and conservation workshop, an international conference with worldwide participation will be planned for 2008 (cf. the research program).

3.3 Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

GSHAP	Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve
NAS	The National Academy of Science
MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
HAF	The Heydar Aliyev Foundation
ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Graffiti problem	Make a map of registered graffiti for future conservation work		
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>		
Education and training	Recruit and start training of conservation leader	2-3 person for conservation	2-3 person for conservation
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>
Conservation		Masking of graffiti and panel numbers	Masking of graffiti and panel numbers
		Cleaning of toothpaste remains from carved images	Cleaning of toothpaste remains from carved images
		Protection of remains of previous excavations	Protection of remains of previous excavations
		Evaluation of natural erosion together with geologist and recommend possible measures	Possible measures
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
International cooperation	International workshop on documentation and conservation (2007)	International conference with focus on documentation, conservation and interpretation	
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; ANCU; support: HAF and with support from and cooperation with Norway and the CARAD group</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; ANCU; support: HAF and with support from and cooperation with Norway and the CARAD group</i>	

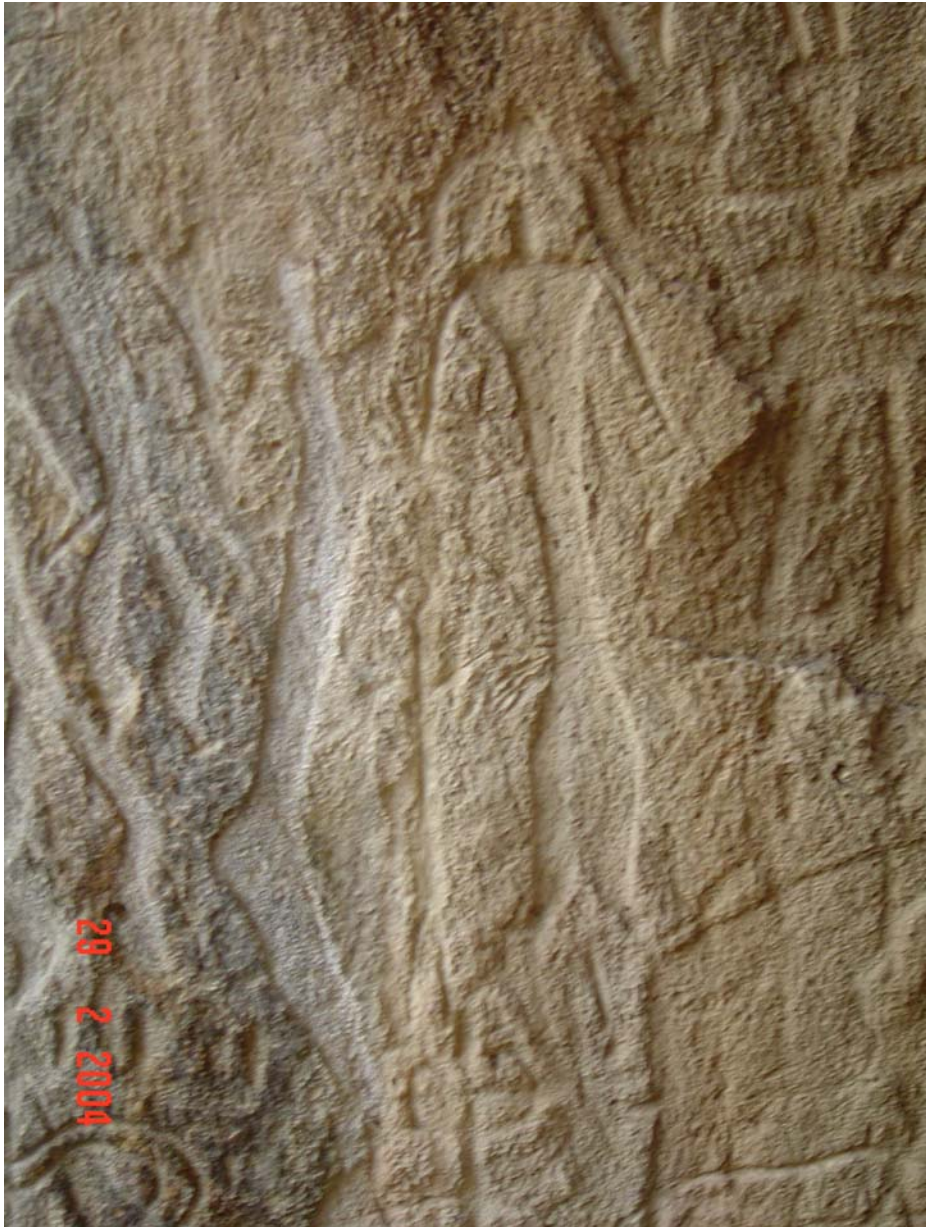
Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape:

PLAN OF ACTION

Management sub-plan 2:

Management, Monitoring and Maintenance





Gobustan. Boyukdash Mountain. Cave Anazaga.

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1. Introduction

This management sub-plan addresses the safeguarding of the Gobustan Landscape and its natural and cultural values through overall management practices. The goals of site management are to preserve, protect and safeguard the cultural and natural values through non-intrusive, minimal interventions and care. All the recommended management measures are proposed on the premises of respect for past and present manifestations of ways of life, activities, traditions and beliefs connected to the Site.

Major and irreversible changes in Gobustan have taken place over the years. Through carefully selected management practices, it is a goal to turn these into assets instead of problems. Physical impact through human activity in Gobustan is regarded as parts of the total prehistoric and historic process, and what to keep and what to erase will be a central issue for the present and future management of Gobustan.

The management practices are to a large degree directed towards concrete measures of daily physical protection and care. Effective practices imply coordination, balancing and regulation of various on-site activities, systematic monitoring and evaluation of interventions, regular and routine maintenance and care, and safe and effective application of methods resulting from good experience, tests and scientific studies (best practice).

Approved plans and regulations must be loyally respected and followed by the involved partners and site personnel. Regular revisions of plans as well as further planning are necessary in order to meet new or changing preconditions. However, neither plan revisions nor new plans must at no point of time be in conflict with or in any way challenge the basic principles and guidelines for safe, sustainable, non-intrusive management and development.

Considering the present situation, consisting of recognized positive as well as negative aspects and factors that must be dealt with through practical management measures, this sub-plan provides the premises for the preparation and implementation of annual work plans related to site management, monitoring and maintenance.

2. Management

2.1 Background and present situation

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is managed by the Gobustan State Historic-Artistic Reserve, which was established through the Decree of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan, SST N. 503 of 9 September 1966. Both before and after the declaration of the Reserve, several decrees regarding the borders of, activities in and protection of Gobustan were declared. The legal foundation is considered satisfactory and adequate.

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve covers an area of 3.633,56 ha. The Buffer Zone covers 3.096,34 ha, while the protected zones cover altogether 537,22 ha (Jinghirdagh Mountain – Yazylytepe Hill: 17,09 ha; Boyukdash Mountain: 323,27 ha; Kichikdash Mountain: 196,86 ha). The area is not inhabited today but is to a certain, though low, extent used as pastures. The town of Gobustan with 15.000 inhabitants is situated by the shore of the Caspian Sea to the east of the Reserve. Inscribed stones mark the Buffer Zone corners in all directions, although the present physical markings are not considered adequate.

Even though the number of visitors to Gobustan is fairly low (in 2005: 7.260, of which 6.098 local visitors), the trends from the past few years show that the number is quickly increasing. Measures must be carefully selected in order to come in the forefront of potential dangers caused by a growing number of visitors (preventive management). Walkways and facilities must be chosen and installed to control and reduce the pressure on the main presentation area. At the same time, careful planning and execution of management measures for sustainable visitation to only a limited part of the protected area will ease or even fully eliminate the pressure on areas not designated for visitation. Management measures in the area open for visitation must be carefully balanced with measures for visitation.

In areas not open for visitation, management measures will be directed towards protection, maintenance and care. However, it is never entirely possible to avoid all uncontrolled traffic in the area, especially by local people using it for general recreation. Therefore, special safeguarding measures must be planned and carried out.

2.1.1 Issues and objectives

Issues

The Landscape and its context

Ensure the lasting, effective and sensitive protection and preservation of the Gobustan Landscape and its contextual settings through additional protective measures. These will be related to areas of particular cultural and natural significance and/or of particular vulnerability within the territory of the Reserve-Museum.

The rock art

Preservation of the caves, shelters, boulders and panels with rock art through the careful planning, implementation and maintenance of non-intrusive visitors' walkways, supplementary presentation areas and recreation zones.

Management

- Further development of the Gobustan Reserve-Museum into an operational and effective management body with a capable and knowledgeable staff and with adequate equipment;
- Establishment of effective management systems and protocols for the implementation of the Plan of Action;
- Development of systems for coordination and regular exchange of information between all agencies, bodies and stakeholders involved;
- Risk preparedness in case of earthquakes and fire;
- Risk preparedness in the case of immediate medical crises.

Regulations

- Establishment of Temporary Regulations to provide adequate protection of the Site and its setting from any intrusive visual or physical interventions;
- Increase of the number of guard/guide personnel in pace with and optimal to the number of visitors;
- Drafting of Permanent Regulations by the end of the short-term period.

The local community

- Development of training opportunities for the local population to enable them to take advantage of local employment and other economic opportunities provided by the Gobustan Landscape and its sustainable use;
- Work towards a reduction of the unemployment rate in the local community through

the employment and training of the inhabitants when possible;

- Encourage the development and implementation of plans and ideas concerning facilities for visitors (for the production and selling of products, bed and breakfast, etc.);
- Foster community acceptance of the Plan objectives;
- Studies of the modern demographic situation in the surroundings areas of the Reserve for the elaboration of a program involving the local population in the tourism development, and in maintenance and care of the Gobustan Landscape;
- Studies of national and local traditions and customs, including those connected to local traditional ritual practices, with a purpose of making recommendations on their preservation, promotion and use in a modern context;
- Elaboration and implementation of training programs on traditional crafts for the local population, representative and valuable from the point of view of employment of the local population and attractiveness for visitors and customers.

Objectives

- Improvement of the actual protection of the Site through optimal management measures using the possibilities provided within the existing legislation framework and partnerships;
- Elimination of all possible conflicts between protection and presentation, through well planned and executed management measures;
- Develop and indicate factors of risk-preparedness.

2.1.2 Expected outcome

- The cultural and natural values of the Site and its contextual setting are preserved;
- Principles of non-intrusive and minimum intervention in the development of Gobustan are kept, respected and applied in all management planning and activities in the protection zones and the buffer zone;
- Pressures on the Gobustan Landscape, trough increased visitation and tourism or otherwise, are kept under control and met by adequate management regulations, activities, routines and provisions, ensuring that the sustainable balance between protection and presentation of the Landscape is respected, achieved and maintained;
- The area within and immediately outside the buffer zone is cleaned for disturbing and irrelevant physical and visual elements and with the possible exception of a new museum building, no new buildings or otherwise physical installations are to be established in or in the vicinity of the buffer zone;
- The Reserve-Museum is fully operational and developing effectively and professionally according to gradual Site development, and the professional capacity of its staff is rising;
- The protection and management mechanisms are effective and met with adequate provisions;
- Regulations, including risk-preparedness, are established, approved, respected and acting effectively;
- Cooperation networks are established and well-coordinated, and are based on mutual loyalty, respect and support;
- The local community is involved in Site-related activities, and is well-motivated, interested in and supportive of its preservation;
- The Management Plan is up-dated according to management experiences and evaluation, and submitted for approval by the end of the middle-term (2010).

2.2 Recommended strategy and actions

Strategy

To implement the objectives, the overall site management will follow the strategy of

gradual and sustainable development and improvement of methods and practices, based on evaluation and re-evaluation. The strategic focus is on further sustainable development of measures and mechanisms directed towards the protection, management and presentation, on the infrastructure of Gobustan, and on the maintenance and further development of the partnership and cooperation networks. Particular attention is paid to the involvement of the local community in a wide range of relevant activities related to the Gobustan Landscape, and in seeking their active support in the safeguarding of Gobustan.

The strategic challenge is to act and respond to the site holistically, and make the holistic, balanced and sustainable approach the bases for all management acts and measures.

Actions

2.2.1 Guards and guides

- Give the guards and guides the possibility to develop their knowledge of relevant languages;
- Basic courses for new guards and guides in the knowledge and understanding of the culture and nature of Gobustan, in polite and graceful treatment of visitors, and in requirements for and regulations of visitors' on-site behavior;
- Each year, give guards and guides a repetition course before the start of the tourist season. During and by the end of each season, encourage guards and guides to freely debate experiences with and suggest management improvements to their superiors;
- Offer guards and guides satisfactory conditions regarding salaries, safety and working environment.

2.2.2 Vegetation and landscape

- Recover the ground vegetation by immediate provisional demarcation of visitors' paths while permanent walkways are being planned and constructed;
- The path south of the Ana-zaga Cave leading up to panels where visitors are not allowed to go, is closed by a rope between poles but visitors still go there. The path will be closed more effectively and the ground vegetation recovered;
- Continue the planting of trees and bushes natural to the area for recovering of the vegetation, and as a natural and friendly way of stopping visitors from going where they are not supposed to go.

2.2.3 Marking and fencing of boundaries

At 10-12 points along the buffer zone boundary, erected stones mark the boundary in the terrain.

- Erection of more non-intrusive signs to better mark the boundary at other key points in the landscape (e.g. near all roads and paths and at other exposed and vulnerable points);
- Make discreet but effective fences at certain threatened and sensitive parts along the buffer zone boundary for protection against possible infringement: by the oil- and gas company grounds, the asphalt and cement works, the prison, etc.).

2.2.4 Stone quarry

Corresponding with sub-plan 3, prepare, manage and present the quarry remains on the top of the Boyukdash Mountain for visitors. A precondition is necessary management measures in addition to presentation measures. A combination of marked and strengthened walkways and the existing road can be combined for a pleasant, easy and beautiful ascent to the quarry. The steep cliffs must be secured for the protection of visitors. It will be particularly necessary to make a discreet although

effective fence along the eastern and northern cliffs.

2.2.5 Industrial plants

- The industrial stone quarry remains at the foot of the Boyukdash Mountain will be preserved and managed as a part of the industrial heritage monument, the sites cleaned up for irrelevant remains and waste, and the vegetation recovered.
- The oil installations at Kichikdash were opened in 1964 and closed in the 1970s, and is now a “frozen well”. The area will be cleaned up within the possible limits.
- A sand quarry is situated 200 m from the buffer zone in the south-eastern part of the Preserve. The Government is stopping the sand quarry activities, and the area will be restored.
- BP oil pipes cut northwest/southeast through a part of the buffer zone to the north of the Jinghirdagh Mountain. The area is, however, well protected and the owners will be asked to cooperate actively in the further protection of, control with and care for the Jinghirdagh natural and cultural environment.

2.2.6 Prison

The prison is situated on the flat seabed to the east of the middle part of the Boyukdash Mountain and north of the Roman inscriptions. Here, the buffer zone border makes a sharp, angular detour to the west of the prison ground. As present, there are talks about moving the prison functions elsewhere but no decisions are made. It would be a great advantage if the prison could be closed; in that case, what to do with the buildings necessarily will be a matter for discussion (see sub-plan 3, chapter 4.2.10).

2.2.7 Areas surrounding the buffer zone

There is a wide view from the protected areas over the surrounding landscape. Therefore, physical and visual installations and interventions must be kept to an absolute minimum and the landscape kept as pristine as possible.

2.2.8 Archives and storage

- Parts of the archives (rock art photographic material, tracings, records) are in the Baku office, parts in the museum and parts at the Institute of Archaeology. All relevant Gobustan data must be easily accessible for the Reserve-Museum, in original and/or copied/scanned.
- Many artefacts from the Gobustan excavations are stored in the museum building, some are stored at other museums: in the Archaeological Center – Museum of the National Academy of Science, and at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. The storing conditions at the Gobustan museum are not satisfactory and there is a need for conservation of artefacts, climate control and safe storage. When the new museum building is established, safe storage of archaeological material will be taken care of.
- A special archive will be established for the data concerning the stone quarry activities.

2.2.9 Equipment

The following additional equipment is needed for effective management:

- Car/minibus for transport of staff to and from Gobustan and other practical site-relevant purposes;
- Supplementing computer equipment including scanner and software for scientific treatment of documentation and management archives, systems and reporting;
- Satisfactory and safe storage of archive material (artefacts, documents, photos etc);

- Effective Internet and e-mail connection at the museum and at the Baku office.

2.2.10 Update and revision of plans

- Update the Management Plan and submit it for approval within the end of the middle-term (2010);
- Update the Plan of Action with the three sub-plans and submit it for approval within the end of the middle-term (2010);
- Make yearly work plans based on the Plan of Action, and have them approved by the end of each year.

2.3 Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
GSHAP	Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve
HAF	The Heydar Aliyev Foundation
ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
NAS	The National Academy of Science
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Guides and guards	Each year, up-date guards and guides in all relevant knowledge and regulations, and train new employees	Each year, up-date guards and guides in all relevant knowledge and regulations, and train new employees	Each year, up-date guards and guides in all relevant knowledge and regulations, and train new employees
	Gradually increase the number of guards and guides according to increased number of visitors	Gradually increase the number of guards and guides according to increased number of visitors	Gradually increase the number of guards and guides according to increased number of visitors
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCK; GSHAP</i>	<i>MCK; GSHAP</i>	<i>MCK; GSHAP</i>
Vegetation and landscape	Provisional demarcation of visitors' paths and recovering of vegetation		
	Continue planting of trees and bushes	Continue planting of trees and bushes to the extent necessary	Continue planting of trees and bushes to the extent necessary
	"Masking" of the toilet building with trees and bushes	Supplement if necessary	
	Effective closing paths and areas where visitors are not allowed, and rehabilitation of vegetation	Monitor the effectiveness of closing measures and carry out improvements	Monitor the effectiveness of closing measures and carry out improvements
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Buffer zone boundary	Supplement the number of signs along the buffer zone of the Gobustan Preserve		
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT</i>		
Quarry (the quarry itself and installations)		Planning of management measures (corresponding to sub-plans 1 and 3)	Management measures (corresponding to sub-plans 1 and 3)
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>MCK; GSHAP</i>	<i>MCK; GSHAP</i>

Gobustan management sub-plan 2: Management, Monitoring and Maintenance

Areas within and outside the buffer zone	Clean up all unwanted remains of industrial activities within the buffer zone (oil installations, sand quarry, the quarry reception area) and recovering of landscape and vegetation	Continue and finish cleaning op of unwanted industrial remains and recovering of landscape and vegetation	
	Active protection of areas outside the buffer zone against physical and visual interventions	Active protection of areas outside the buffer zone against physical and visual interventions	Active protection of areas outside the buffer zone against physical and visual interventions
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GDEP; MCT</i>	<i>GDEP; MCT</i>	<i>GDEP; MCT</i>
Organization and status		Examine the question of the status of the Gobustan Preserve	
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>MCT</i>	
The prison		Start negotiations about the possibility of moving the prison functions elsewhere; coordinate with plans for the new museum (sub-plan 3)	Decisions concerning the prison functions
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>
Archives and storage	Inventory and report of the condition of stored materials (artefacts; archives)	Establish safe storage for all stored materials (provisional, in wait of the new museum)	Permanently safe storage of all materials (artefacts; archives)
		Establish and develop a separate archive for quarry information, photo etc.	Further develop the quarry archive
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GDEP; MCT</i>	<i>GDEP; MCT</i>
Equipment	Equipment for immediate improved of storing of artifacts and archive materials	Necessary equipment for safe storing of artifacts and archive materials	Necessary supplements of equipment for permanently safe storing of artifacts and archive materials
		Provide the Reserve with minibus and landrover, computer equipment and professional digital camera	Additional equipment according to documented needs
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>MCT; support: HAF</i>
Planning		Update and revise the Management Plan and submit it for approval	
		Update and revise the Plan of Action and submit it for approval	
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>GSHAP</i>	

3. Monitoring

3.1 Background and present situation

So far, systematic damage documentation of the rock art and the carved panels is not initiated, but is a priority (see sub-plan 1, chapter 2.2.5). However, the collection of photographs from different years is a good starting point for evaluation of changes, and this material has been and is used actively if not systematically. Photographs, tracings and damage documentation on reduced tracing together will be adequate reference material for the definition of indicators and systematic monitoring of change.

Since November 2005, the Reserve-Museum staff has systematically recorded information about visitors to Gobustan and their preferences. This data gives background information as a starting point for improvements (see sub-plan 3, chapter 4.1).

The aim of monitoring is to supervise, study, record and evaluate the relationship between the state of conservation of the archaeological monuments and of natural and anthropogenic factors, in order to be able to evaluate changes and form hypotheses on the causes for changes. The relationship between changes and environmental, anthropogenic or other affecting or determining factors will set the preconditions for conservation, management and handling of visitors.

3.1.1 Issues and objectives

Issues

- Identification of affecting or determining factors (causes for change, degradation and deterioration);
- Identification of endangered parts (culture, nature, environment);
- Monitoring of test sites and evaluation of the effects and effectiveness of conservation materials and methods;
- Choice of conservation methods and materials and monitoring of their effects and effectiveness.

Objectives

- Establish appropriate monitoring arrangements and routines to measure the successful implementation of the Plan, and of a system of regular evaluation, leading to identification, prioritization and programming of necessary work.
- Decide on crucial indicators for monitoring of change concerning conservation, management and presentation. A multi-scientific team (archaeologist, conservationist, geologist, ecologist, guide/guard) cooperating in developing indicators, definitions and standards.
- Training personnel in qualified monitoring based on stated indicators, and in scientific evaluation of data as preconditions for improved management.

3.1.2 Expected outcome

The identification and monitoring of factors affecting the Site and its cultural and natural elements will:

- Make it possible to undertake targeted measures aimed to eliminate or reduce degradation, prophylactically or an early stage (indirect conservation and management);
- Set the premises for early implementation of targeted and relevant emergency actions of endangered parts;
- Make it possible to develop and choose the most appropriate techniques and

compatible materials based on the evaluation of trials at test sites;

- Provide background understanding of visitors' wishes and needs, and make targeted improvements possible.

3.2 Recommended strategy and actions

Strategy

Based on experiences from other sites and on what is realistic, create a limited though targeted set of topics, indicators and points for monitoring, for:

- Regular and systematic micro- and macro- recordings of endangered parts (nature, culture);
- Analyses, compilation and evaluation of monitoring data;
- Control of the condition of the Site with its natural and cultural elements, and over the action of affecting factors.

Actions

3.2.1 Monitoring program

Develop a monitoring program, containing relevant hypothetic monitoring indicators, monitoring methods and points for systematic monitoring. The program should be limited to what is realistic, optimal and good enough for the stated purposes.

3.2.2 Inspections and reporting

- Establish routines for standard daily inspection of points of monitoring by specially appointed and trained personnel, and for simple but optimal reporting of observations;
- Systematic inspection and standard reporting twice a year (April and October) by a specially appointed professional monitoring team (archaeologist, conservationist, geologist, ecologist).

3.2.3 Scientific compilation and treatment of data

- Standard recording of monitoring data (forms);
- Standard recording of compiled data for easy access and scientific treatment;
- Quick, relevant and targeted actions based on the evaluation of compiled and interpreted monitoring data in order to be able to reach conclusions about influencing factors and their interplay.

3.2.4 Monitoring of visitors

- Evaluation of the data from the monitoring of visitors and if optional make changes in what information to record;
- Coordination of monitoring methods and indicators with other monitoring points and methods, for effective and suitable interpretation.

3.3 Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
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ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
NAS	The National Academy of Science
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Visitors	Continue monitoring visitors and asking questions re: preferences	Continue monitoring visitors and asking questions re: preferences	Continue monitoring visitors and asking questions re: preferences
	Make yearly reports	Make yearly reports	Make yearly reports
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Vegetation	Monitor vegetation development in areas closed for visitors	Monitor vegetation development in areas closed for visitors	Monitor vegetation development in areas closed for visitors
	Monitor planted vegetation	Monitor planted vegetation	Monitor planted vegetation
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Monitoring program	Start planning definitions of relevant indicators based on experience	Develop monitoring program, including indicators, methods and points of monitoring	
		Start the monitoring program. Routine inspections	Systematic monitoring continues according to the stated program. Routine inspections
		Scientific compilation and treatment of data	Scientific compilation and treatment of data
		Evaluation and yearly reporting	Evaluation and yearly reporting
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>

4. Care and maintenance

4.1 Background and present situation

The Reserve-Museum staff has the responsibility for regular maintenance. The staff also keeps track of visitors' behavior and control that they only use the designated visitors' areas. Poles with ropes to fence off carved panels is being moved back from the panels in order to prevent visitors from touching the panels. Steps from the museum building up to the rock art and the bridge in the Ana-zaga Cave have been constructed for easy access and protection, but in sub-plan 3 it is suggested to re-construct them. There are some problems making visitors respect closed-off areas (by rope and STOP-signs), and measures for greater effectiveness are needed but without compromising the principle of minimum intervention.

The remains of the quarry are basically left as they were when the activities closed down in 1991. This means that conditions are good for documentation-based maintenance of the quarry sites.

The museum building was repaired and maintained in 2005 and is in a presentable condition. It should, however, be painted in a more discreet color for better blending into the rocky landscape. Three pavilions are situated to the south of the museum building. Two of them are in strong need of repair.

Much of the vegetation (grass) has disappeared in the visitors' area, because the visitors have been able to move more freely than they should. Making paved walkways on which visitors must walk will counteract the problem, and the vegetation will recover.

4.1.1 Issues and objectives

Issues

- Preventive maintenance measures on cultural sites and monuments;
- Preventive maintenance measures directed towards vegetation, nature and environment;
- Preventive maintenance measures to counteract wearing down of buildings, installations and visitors' walkways and facilities;
- Always keep the area clean and orderly.

Objectives

The archaeological and historical monuments, the cultural and natural landscape, and installation and facilities are in a state of condition that ensure preservation, visitors' positive experience, and use without damage or degradation, and encourage respect.

4.1.2 Expected outcome

- The Gobustan Landscape is protected from negative natural and anthropogenic influences;
- The visitors' areas, the protected areas and the buffer zone are at all times presentable and kept clean of garbage and disturbing elements;
- Buildings and installations are kept in a constantly good state of maintenance;
- Visitors' behavior is disciplined and they behave properly and with respect.

4.2 Recommended strategy and actions

Strategy

An at all times well-kept, clean and orderly area where landscape as well as buildings and installations are constantly cared for and maintained, signals quality, creates respect for nature and culture and sets a good example for proper behavior among visitors. Therefore, care and maintenance also serve as a strategy for site protection and will prevent degradation and damage.

The concept “preventive maintenance” means to hinder problems to develop and become serious and expensive to deal with. Therefore, preventive maintenance is cost-effective. Strategies for counteracting problems can be created and implemented at an early stage. Natural decay cannot be avoided, but natural degradation processes can be delayed through consciously chosen methods based on principles of authenticity, sustainability and minimum intervention. Anthropogenic degradation, however, can and should be stopped through good policies and routines.

Actions

4.2.1 Daily care and maintenance

Daily inspections

- Daily inspections of walkways, signposts and other installations;
- Daily reports submitted by guards/guides with notification of problems;
- Daily control that no new graffiti has occurred; if it has, immediately remove by approved methods.

Regular maintenance

- Regular preventive maintenance on all site components;
- Regular maintenance of buildings to keep them functional and in good repair;
- Always keep the area within the buffer zone free from garbage, and empty all garbage containers daily. The guards and guides shall always react immediately to waste;
- Establish guidelines and checkpoints of regular routine site maintenance for guards and guides and provide necessary training and motivation of the Reserve-Museum staff;
- Prevent visitors from entering sensitive areas of flora and fauna;
- Prohibition against picking flowers in the Reserve.

Maintenance of installations for visitors

- Always keep the toilets clean and presentable;
- Regular and routine maintenance and immediate repair of walkways, signposts, buildings and all other installations in case damages occur.

Maintenance program

- Develop a maintenance program related to time, tasks and responsibility;
- Clean up the previously established resting place immediate south of the museum building, close the access (by boulders or chain), remove previous installations and let the vegetation recover; regular maintenance;
- Repair the pavilions south of the museum building;
- Repaint the museum building in a discreet color for better blending into the landscape;
- Maintain the toilet building and plant bushes for its beautification;

- Regular follow-up, evaluation and improvement of the maintenance program as a joint effort of the Reserve-Museum staff.

4.2.2 Vegetation

- Regular maintenance of and care for planted trees and bushes;
- Consider temporary to close areas with worn vegetation in order to let the vegetation recover.

4.3 Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
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NAS	The National Academy of Sc
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Routines and inspections	Establish guidelines and checkpoints of regular routine maintenance for guard and guides		
	Daily inspection and removal of garbage	Daily inspection and removal of garbage	Daily inspection and removal of garbage
	Daily inspections of walkways, signposts and other installations	Daily inspections of walkways, signposts and other installations	Daily inspections of walkways, signposts and other installations
	Daily reports	Daily reports	Daily reports
	Routine preventive maintenance and immediate repair when necessary of walkways, signposts and other installations	Routine preventive maintenance and immediate repair when necessary of walkways, signposts and other installations	Routine preventive maintenance and immediate repair when necessary of walkways, signposts and other installations
	Daily graffiti control	Daily graffiti control	Daily graffiti control
	Daily control of and cleaning of toilets and other visitors' facilities	Daily control of and cleaning of toilets and other visitors' facilities	Daily control of and cleaning of toilets and other visitors' facilities
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Garbage	Organize regular removal of garbage	Regular removal of garbage	Regular removal of garbage
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; GDEP</i>	<i>GSHAP; GDEP</i>	<i>GSHAP; GDEP</i>
Vegetation	Maintenance, based on monitoring and reports	Maintenance, based on monitoring and reports	Maintenance, based on monitoring and reports
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Previous resting place (south of the museum gates)	Clean up of the area, remove old installations and provide effective closing of the site	Control and maintenance	Control and maintenance
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GDEP; GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Buildings	Yearly inspection and maintenance of the museum buildings	Yearly inspection and maintenance of the museum buildings	Yearly inspection and maintenance of all the museum buildings
	Repair and maintain the pavilions south of the museum gate	Repair and maintain the pavilions south of the museum gate	
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape:

PLAN OF ACTION

Management sub-plan 3

Presentation: Education, Information and Tourism





Gobustan. Boyukdash Mountain. Cave Anazaga.

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1. Introduction

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world and the interests of individual as well as group tourism have been changing over the past one or two decades. Tourists are no longer only interested in nice beaches and good shopping but show a growing interest in cultural and natural heritage sites around the world. Rock art sites have proved to be recognized as particularly attractive visitors targets, because of their extremely visual and thought-provoking qualities. At the same time, rock art sites are particularly sensitive to massive visitation, exactly because of their visual qualities. Presentation of and visitation to rock art sites therefore must be planned and prepared with extreme care and sensitivity regarding safeguarding measures and site carrying capacity.

Obviously, the main attraction in Gobustan is the rock art although the rock art cannot be satisfactory understood, and therefore presented, without the contextual archaeological and natural setting. Culture and nature are closely interwoven, and this fact comprises the precondition for meaningful presentation of the Site. Besides, in Gobustan, the historic development did not stop with the prehistoric settlement and the production of rock art. Instead of regarding modern activities and installations as disturbing “noise” in the prehistoric landscape, they can be turned into assets and parts of the total history of Gobustan and successfully included in the presentation program. By holistically including and combining natural, prehistoric and historic phenomena, and their ritual and practical meanings and aspects, it will be possible to present a multitude of good stories to visitors with a multifaceted specter of interests.

If one were to state that protection and preservation were the only focus of Heritage Management the consequence would be to close all sites for the “disturbing” visitors. However, the public has the right to experience, take part in, learn about and enjoy the manifestation of the past. Therefore, the challenge is to be able to welcome and manage visitation to Gobustan in ways and through methods and measures that in no ways endanger the cultural monuments or the natural environment.

Heritage site managers and visitors have a common interest in site preservation and safeguarding. Visitors seek sites to visit that are well preserved and managed, rather than overexploited and insensitively used. They will understand that restrictions and rules are necessary, and experience shows that these are respected if they are shown and told why. Therefore, the presentation of Gobustan, and educational activities connected to the presentation, will not be restricted to the stories of the Site itself but will also include the meaning of and reasons for sustainable preservation and management. All activities concerning presentation, education, information and tourism in Gobustan are chosen and will be conducted according to the principles of *sustainability*, *respect* for site integrity and *minimum interventions*.

The common objectives regarding activities concerning presentation, education, information and tourism, are to promote:

- Understanding, knowledge and appreciation of the Gobustan cultural and natural Landscape and its values and qualities;
- Understanding of and respect for the issues of protection and sustainable use of Gobustan and other heritage sites;
- Understanding of the vulnerability of rock art and other archaeological, cultural and natural heritage sites and monuments, and the requirements and rules for proper behavior;
- Motivation to visit and revisit Gobustan and other heritage sites for learning, enjoyment and leisure, and to spread the words to others.

As of today, Gobustan is not prepared for a rapid increase in the number of visitors. Therefore, the chosen measures are designed to control and carefully develop the Site infrastructure in pace with the number of visitors and according to Site carrying capacity.

2. Education and training

2.1. Background and present situation

As of today, visitors to Gobustan have the following sources of knowledge and education of issues connected to the Site:

- Guided tours in the presentation area and the possibility of asking questions to the Reserve-Museum staff when on site. The guides can present information in Azeri, Russian and English;
- Leaflet with the basic site information;
- Museum exhibition;
- Lectures in the local community;
- Education of school classes in the town of Gobustan.

At the present, tours to Gobustan are not organized by tourist agencies, which must be regarded as a clear advantage as long as Gobustan is not yet prepared for organized tourism. This offers the possibility to prepare the Site at a sensible pace, and at the same time gives the opportunity to educate guides employed by the agencies. Visitors to Gobustan are at present guided by the Reserve-Museum staff, meaning that the information conveyed to visitors is carefully chosen and controlled. Three guides are so far trained to serve visitors.

2.1.1. Issues and objectives

Issues

By “education” is here understood:

- To disseminate facts and interpretation-based knowledge rooted in research of relevant topics and their interplay (archaeology, history, the natural sciences, conservation and preservation);
- To foster interest, attitudes to and understanding of protection and respectful use of the cultural and natural heritage;
- Continuous education, training and motivation of the Reserve-Museum staff in all topics and activities relevant to management, monitoring, maintenance and presentation;
- Popular-scientific and targeted education material.

Objectives

- All staff involved in activities of site management, monitoring, maintenance and presentation and receiving visitors shall be fully trained, up-dated and motivated;
- Disseminate knowledge, understanding, appreciation and respect for the prehistoric and historic cultural expressions as part of the Azerbaijani heritage;
- Disseminate knowledge of and insight into the natural and environmental factors in Gobustan and their interplay with the cultural expressions and development.

2.1.2. Expected outcome

- At all times the Reserve-Museum staff is knowledgeable, qualified, well-motivated and conscious of their responsibilities;
- Satisfied visitors to Gobustan with increased knowledge and understanding of the site and of cultural and natural heritage issues;

- Generations of Azerbaijani children and young people bringing knowledge, positive attitudes, interest and appreciation of their cultural and natural heritage with them throughout their lives;
- Widespread understanding and appreciation of the protection and preservation of Gobustan and other heritage sites;
- Controlled and gradually increased visitation to Gobustan in pace with site management and development.

2.2. Recommended strategy and actions

Strategy

Personnel

- Adequate, targeted and repeated training and education of Reserve-Museum staff in order to fulfill the objectives of management, tourism, high-quality dissemination of information, and sustainable and non-intrusive use of the site for presentation;
- Active motivation and involvement of the Reserve-Museum staff and conscious recruitment of new personnel.

School education

- Dissemination of knowledge and understanding to increase the interest of school children and indirectly parents, relatives and friends.
- Involve schoolteachers actively in the production of targeted education packages of high pedagogical standards.

Education of tourist agency guides

Guides to Gobustan need to be certified. Such certification can only be obtained by taking special guide courses given by the Reserve-Museum.

”The general public”

Interview or give visitors questionnaires with the aim to use their answers to improve educational strategies towards different targeted groups, such as different age groups or nationalities.

Actions

2.2.1. **Reserve-Museum staff**

- Guides and guards can be periodically involved in documentation and other scientific work to increase their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of all work being conducted in Gobustan;
- The staff of the Reserve-Museum should be involved in discussions and decisions concerning topics where they have obtained particular experience;
- Guards and guides should be sensitive to the comments, ideas and criticism they receive from visitors. The responses from the public should influence the further development of educational activities.

2.2.2. **Schools**

- Offer lectures and guided tours to teachers;
- Together with teachers, arrange special tours and activities for children;
- Together with teachers, develop a visitation package for school classes, containing preparation work before the visit to Gobustan, the visit itself, and the following-up work in class after the visit;
- Make sure that entrance fees for school classes are within the capacity of school budgets. Ideally, school classes should have free access to the Site.

2.2.3. Tourist agency guides

- Arrange courses for tourist agency guides about the cultural and natural heritage in Gobustan, in particular the information and stories connected to the visitors' route, and about the rules and regulations for visitation. To have followed the course is the precondition for certification as a Gobustan guide.

2.3. Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

GSHAP	Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve
NAS	The National Academy of Science
MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
HAF	The Heydar Aliyev Foundation
ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Training and motivation of staff	Yearly courses at the beginning of the season	Yearly courses at the beginning of the season	Yearly courses at the beginning of the season
	Recruiting and training of new staff	Recruiting and training of new staff	Recruiting and training of new staff
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Schools	Develop guided tours for teachers and school children	Further develop guided tours for teachers and school children	Further develop guided tours for teachers and school children
		Develop visitation packages for school classes together with teachers; yearly evaluation	Further develop visitation packages for school classes together with teachers; yearly evaluation
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Tourist agency guides		Develop courses together with tourist agencies; certification of guides	
		Yearly courses for tourist agency guides; evaluation and further development	Yearly courses for tourist agency guides; evaluation and further development
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>

3. Public information

3.1. Background and present situation

A leaflet has been produced about the rock art in Gobustan. The site is presented on several Internet addresses, of which one produced by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Culture. An interactive CD about the rock art of Azerbaijan has been made by the UNESCO Moscow office and ARAC – Azerbaijan Rock Art Center, covering Gobustan and other rock art sites in the country. Through lectures, media presentations and other information channels, the Gobustan Landscape, with a focus on the rock art is beginning to be well known, both nationally and internationally. At present, the on-site information is presented by the guards and guides besides through the leaflet.

There is a clear understanding that all on-site information shall be discreet and moderate in quality, volume and scale and in accord with the level of visitation. Therefore, instead of making intrusive information boards on-site, the information will be presented in a

leaflet and a guidebook in the same sequence as un-obtrusive numbers along the walkways that connect the rock art panels. Information boards will be restricted to the entrance area of the museum besides at the entrance to the quarry.

A large stone with the Gobustan logo and inscription is erected south of the town of Gobustan where the local road to the Gobustan Reserve exits from the M3 highway. Other road signs do not exist at present.

3.1.1. **Issues and objectives**

Issues

Public information about the Site, its attractions and how to get there will be developed in pace with expansions in the on-site infrastructure and the number of visitors.

Three stages of information can be identified:

- General information about Gobustan and how to get there, opening hours and other practical issues;
- On-site information, covering popular-scientific descriptions and interpretations, besides information about protection, conservation and on-site rules and regulations for visitation;
- Post-visit information for visitors to take home when leaving the site.

Objectives

Following the three stages of information, the objectives are:

- Gradually and according to the development of on-site infrastructure and capacity, explore and utilize several channels of information about Gobustan, how to get there, and other practical information;
- Develop on-site information, in field and in the museum, offering visitors satisfying and high quality knowledge and experiences without physical or visual interventions;
- Develop and produce attractive popular-scientific publications of high scientific, pedagogical and visual quality.

3.1.2. **Expected outcome**

- The public information about Gobustan creates a desire to visit and learn more about the Site;
- The ability to always control the gradually increasing number of local, national and international visitors to Gobustan;
- The designed and produced information stimulate visitors to enhance their knowledge, understanding and respect as well as develop positive feelings for the uniqueness of Gobustan;
- Visitors are satisfied and wish to come back.

3.2. **Recommended strategy and actions**

Strategy

The information strategy has three aspects:

- The strategy of awareness building
- The strategy of on-site information
- The strategy of post-visit information for lasting effect.

Actions

3.2.1 Information and awareness

Gradually and in pace with on-site infrastructure development:

- Produce and install road-signs;
- Produce and spread information leaflets in tourist offices, at airports, in carpet shops, etc.;
- Further develop the Gobustan web-site;
- Produce a CD-rom: "Virtual Gobustan"
- Produce and submit information to national media;
- Produce and submit information to international travel books.

3.2.2 On-site information

- Strengthen and further develop the oral information conveyed on-site by guards and guides;
- Produce and give visitors a leaflet in Azeri, Russian and English with a map and short information according to the walkway station numbers, free of charge with the ticket;
- Produce and sell a guidebook in Azeri, Russian and English with maps, photos and popular-scientific information according to the walkway station numbers, with information about the natural and cultural features of Gobustan;
- Remove the existing information boards by the gate to the museum and replace them with one well-designed information board;
- Information in the leaflet, the guidebook and on the information board will make absolutely clear what is strictly forbidden to do on site;
- Produce and install an information board by the entrance to the quarry.

3.2.3 Post-visit information

- Produce a popular-scientific publication of high scientific, pedagogical and visual quality in Azeri, Russian and English on the rock art and archaeology of Gobustan;
- Produce a popular-scientific publication in Azeri, Russian and English on the industrial history of the Boyukdash stone quarry, of high scientific, pedagogical and visual quality;
- Produce a series of booklets in Azeri, Russian and English covering several topics of relevance to Gobustan (archaeology and rock art; geology; botany, zoology and ecology; stone quarry);
- Produce pedagogical (and fun) books for children in primarily Azeri and Russian with stories connected to the Site and its cultural and natural history, including activities for children.

3.3 Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

GSHAP	Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve
NAS	The National Academy of Science
MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
HAF	The Heydar Aliyev Foundation
ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power
BCA	Baku City Administration

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
General information		Up-date the Gobustan web-page	Up-date the Gobustan web-page
		Produce a CD-rom "Virtual Gobustan"	
		Provide media with information	Provide media with information
		Produce and spread information leaflets	Produce and spread information leaflets
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP</i>
Publications	Produce a leaflet corresponding to the visitors' walkways	Produce a guidebook to Gobustan	
		Produce a series of thematic booklets on topics relevant to Gobustan	Produce a series of thematic booklets on topics relevant to Gobustan
		Produce a series of children's books/booklets on topics relevant to Gobustan	Produce a series of children's books/booklets on topics relevant to Gobustan
			Produce a popular-scientific book on the rock art and archaeology of Gobustan
			Produce a popular-scientific book on the industrial history of the stone quarry
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; support: HAF</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; support: HAF</i>

4. Visitation and tourism

4.1. Background and present situation

Even though the yearly number of visitors to Gobustan is still fairly low, there has been a relatively sharp increase over the past years; from the lowest number recorded since 1998 to 1011 visitors in 2001, 2318 in 2002, 2312 in 2003, 5518 in 2004 and to 7260 in 2005. Every year since 1998 the local visitors greatly outnumber the foreign visitors (in 2005: 6098 vs. 1162).

As of today, Gobustan is not prepared for an increase in the number of visitors. Simple and relatively effective measures have been carried out to keep visitors to indicated

paths and routes, such as arrows painted on loose slabs showing the direction to follow, ropes between poles to prevent close encounters with carved panels, a staircase from the museum ground to the start of the visitors' route, and a stair- and bridge construction leading into the Ana-zaga Cave. A combination of temporary and permanent measures will greatly improve the combined issues of site protection, site presentation and visitors' interests.

The only part of the Gobustan Landscape open to visitation is the east central slope of the Boyukdash Mountain close to the museum, and the fenced-in panel of the Roman inscription on the plain southeast of the museum. Additional prehistoric sites and rock art panels will not be developed for presentation. The quarry on the top of the Boyukdash Mountain will be made available for visitation, where the assets, besides the impressive quarry itself, will be the magnificent view in all directions. Museum exhibitions and other information measures will be designed to compensate for the restricted on-site availability of contextual experience.

Starting in November 2005, the guides and guards have asked visitors standardized questions concerning their impressions and interest. The results are attached to this sub-plan (appendix 1). Registration of visitors cover nationality, whether local, schools/children, college or university students, or military.

Visitors arrive at Gobustan by bus, by train or by rented or private cars. The distance from Baku is 65 km. A large stone block inscribed with the Gobustan logo marks the crossroad between highway M3 and the local road that leads to the Gobustan Reserve from the southern part of the town of Gobustan with 15.000 inhabitants. The railway tracks to/from Baku follow the highway.

Visitors enter into the presentation area through a gate and buy their tickets in the museum building. The parking lot is immediately south of the gate. All visitors pay an entrance fee that is differentiated according to category (adult, child, group, school classes, student, local, foreign). They are also offered a guided tour that must be paid for. Visitors who want to go around alone are allowed to do so, but the guards keep an eye on them.

The present museum, built in the 1960s, houses an exhibition, which partly is outdated. Souvenirs, postcards etc. are sold in the museum. A toilet building is situated south of the museum and contains 2x2 toilets.

4.1.1. **Issues and objectives**

Issues

The following facilities and installations will be developed in order to be able to present the Site to a growing number of visitors to Gobustan, developed on the premises of protection, preservation and safeguarding:

a. On-site

- Information boards;
- Walkways in the presentation area;
- Numbering of attractions along the walkway, corresponding to numbered information in a leaflet and a guidebook;
- New stairs from the ground in front of the museum to the panels and sites;
- New access to the Ana-zaga Cave;
- Improved protection of carved panels;

- Presentation of and walkway to the stone quarry;
- Additional toilets.

b. Off-site

- Road-signs;
- New museum;
- Facilities in the town of Gobustan.

Objectives

- Improve and further develop the existing infrastructure in Gobustan according to high technical, functional and visual standards and sustainability, and to meet the challenges of an increasing number of visitors before problems and over-exploitation of cultural and natural values caused by visitation develop.
- Initiate and develop further minimum-intervention on-site installations for visitation and regularly monitor their quality and effect;
- Develop further facilities for visitors in pace with the number of visitors (toilets, information, café, relevant sales products, activities);
- Cooperate with tourist agencies for controlled, balanced and sustainable cultural tourism;
- Good cooperation with the local community in the planning and development of tourist facilities and offers in the area, to the benefit of all.

4.1.2. **Expected outcome**

- A gradual increase in the number of visitors to Gobustan in pace with the development of the Site infrastructure;
- Visitors to Gobustan behave properly and with respect and understanding for the rules and regulations of visitation;
- High quality on- and off-site access, facilities and offers to local, national and foreign visitors;
- Monitoring of and interviews with visitors are continued, and the analyzed information is used to improve offers and facilities;
- Increased employment and income in the local community, as well as increase in tourism-related activities in the Baku area.

4.2. **Recommended strategy and actions**

Strategy

All activities and installations connected to visitation and tourism to Gobustan shall be planned and carried out according to high standards regarding materials, design, execution and content. High quality signals the status of the site and fosters a respect that acts as a prophylactic against vandalism and degradation. Furthermore, all activities shall be developed according to sustainability, minimum-intervention and needs of the increasing number of visitors. Visitation to Gobustan shall be acknowledged as positive, attractive, valuable and fun, by locals as well as by tourists.

Actions

4.2.1. **Getting to Gobustan**

- Road signs with the Gobustan logo and distance to the Reserve itself shall be placed on the highway M3, and the exit from the M3 shall be marked . *This measure shall not be carried out until the infrastructure of Gobustan is strengthened to receive larger a number of visitors than at the present;*
- Bus tours to Gobustan shall be arranged in cooperation with tourist agencies. Tours must be pre-booked according to agreed daily limits of the number of visitors,

and if fully booked, visitors must book a later tour. *This measure shall not be implemented until the infrastructure of Gobustan is sufficient to receive a larger number of visitors than at the present;*

- Cooperate with the railway company about transport of visitors by train from Baku and Astara to Gobustan. If this can be arranged, which would be a definite asset, further transport to the museum and the visitors' site will be arranged from the railway station. *This measure shall not be carried out until the infrastructure of Gobustan is strengthened to receive a larger number of visitors than at the present;*
- The bicycle tourism to and around Gobustan suggested in the Management Plan (chapter 3.16), will be further discussed and developed;
- The parking lot by the Reserve-Museum gates must be able to receive increased traffic without compromising the landscape, the archaeological sites or Site integrity;
- When the new museum is established, the main parking lot will be positioned there and the transport up to the visitors' area arranged. Then the need for a large parking lot at the present museum will decrease.

4.2.2. **Walkways for visitors**

The size of the presentation area adjacent to the existing museum will not change. In order to keep visitors' movements better under control to protect the carved panels and let the vegetation recover, a comfortable and permanent visitors' walkway system will be constructed. The walkways will follow a slightly different route than at present (appendix 2).

Immediate measure (spring 2006):

As a temporary measure while the permanent walkways are developed, the walkway route will be marked by ropes and arrows, and guides and guards will make sure that visitors respect the restrictions on moving through the area (see appendix 3, 5 and 6).

Permanent measure

The permanent walkways will be made according to the following guidelines and techniques (see appendix 2):

- The walkways will be approximately 1,2 meters wide and follow the softly curved terrain (no straight lines). All visitors will walk in the same direction;
- The walkways will be constructed by flat stone slabs. The stones will be taken from the stone quarry, but from a part of the quarry that will not in any way reduce its value as a historic-industrial monument and without leaving destructive traces;
- To the extent possible, the new walkways shall be accessible for disabled visitors;
- The walkways will be constructed without damaging the rock art panels, rock surfaces and vegetation. No machines that can damage the zone along the walkways will be allowed;
- Visitors will be informed about the temporary and permanent measures, and about the reasons for the restrictions on movements in the area.

4.2.3. **Access to the walkway system**

At present, the access to the existing paths that connect the rock art panels is through a staircase from the existing museum ground. The design is not satisfactory and it should eventually be replaced.

Immediate measure

Keep the installation as it is.

Permanent measures

The installation will be replaced according the following guidelines:

- High quality visual and functional design;
- Choice of design and technical solutions allowing for access by disabled visitors;
- Visual and physical adaptation to the terrain and features in the landscape;
- Choice of high quality natural materials;
- Careful, professional and high quality execution of the work.

4.2.4. Access to the Ana-zaga Cave

Access to the large and important cave with rock carvings, called Ana-zaga (Ana=Mother, Zaga= Cave), is at the present via a combination of steps and a bridge. The design, and its position in relation to the carved panels, is not satisfactory as it leads visitors too close to the carved panels. Visitors are led down to the ground surface within the cave, causing wear and tear of the remaining surface and a too close access to the carved cave walls.

Immediate measure

Keep the installation as it is, but move the protective ropes for better protection of the carved panels. Put up a sign admonishing visitors not to touch the rock carvings or to climb the rocks.

Permanent measure

The installation will be replaced according to the following suggested guidelines (see appendix 4):

- A high quality visual and functional designed bridge and platform will be installed;
- The design and technical solutions should allow access by disabled visitors;
- The bridge and platform will be placed such that the carved panels cannot be reached;
- The platform will have a low railing to prevent visitors to move to the walls, and a discreet information sign explaining the relationship between the occupation layers and the carvings.

4.2.5. Keeping visitors under control

At the present, fairly thin wooden poles with strung ropes act as fences to keep visitors away from the carved surfaces. The distance between the ropes and the rock surfaces is at the present insufficient to prevent visitors from touching the carvings.

Arrows and STOP-signs painted on loose slabs instruct and direct visitors through the section of the Reserve that are opened to the public. These signs seem to function fairly well, but will be further developed according to experience and the monitoring of visitors' behavior.

Immediate measures

- The poles with ropes will be moved minimum 1-1 ½ meters from the carved panels for a better protection against intervention and positioned exactly in the route of the new walkways;
- The behavior of visitors will be monitored and additional slabs with arrows and

STOP-signs will be added according to need;

- Grass, bushes and trees will be planted where needed to control the movements of visitors (see chapter 4.2.6 below).

Permanent measures

- Replace the poles and ropes in the existing fences with thicker poles and ropes. Before digging the new poles into the ground, archaeologist must have made sure that prehistoric cultural deposits are not disturbed. Together with the permanent walkways, the fences will keep visitors at a satisfactory distance from sensitive areas, and the guides and guards will maintain their control of visitors' behavior.

In principle, large information boards are visually intrusive in a sensitive landscape and should be avoided. Instead, the following measures will be carried out:

- Define and decide stations and points of interest for viewing rock art panels, landscape features, geology, botany and other relevant topics, along the walkways;
- Produce and install numbers at the chosen points. The numbers will be made in natural materials and be discreet in design and of high quality;
- An information leaflet (short version) about the numbered stations will be given to visitors together with tickets, while a more extensive guidebook will be available for purchase.

4.2.6. Recovering of the vegetation

Directing visitors onto temporary and permanent walkways will automatically allow the ground vegetation to recover. As nature-friendly measures, the following will be carried out:

- "Help" the surface vegetation to recover quickly;
- Planting of uncomfortable plants and bushes where visitors are not supposed to go, as natural and discreet barriers. Species natural to the environment will be chosen;
- Archaeologist will carefully control all necessary interventions into the ground.

4.2.7. Access to and presentation of the stone quarry

The access to stone quarry by the old industrial road includes a nice, approximately 15-20 minutes walk. It might be possible to make some shortcuts without disturbing features in the landscape. A combination of using the road and establishing a paved pathway will be outlined and made. Safety measures, particularly along the eastern and northern cliffs are necessary for protecting the visitors. Even though the quarry will be included in the walkway numbering system, an information board with a map of the surrounding landscape will be necessary, in addition to rules for safe visitation.

Based on the systematic collection of the history of the industrial activities, photos and interviews (see sub-plan 1, chapter 2.2.9) and research (suitable for a university degree project), an exhibition in the new museum will be planned (see chapter 4.2.10) and a popular publication made (see chapter 3.2.3).

4.2.8. On-site guide service

At present, groups pay 6 New Manat (=6 USD) for a guided tour. Visitors wishing to go by themselves will get better possibilities for self-guarding with the leaflet with explanations according to the numbered stations, and the guidebook. Guards keep an eye on all visitors and can answer questions. The number of guards and guides will change in accordance with changes in the number of visitors. The guards

and guides will be equipped with discreet uniforms (e.g. cap, vest, shirt, jacket, boots) and ID-cards.

4.2.9. **The existing museum**

The existing Gobustan Reserve museum was built in the 1970s. The building is located within the buffer zone in the middle of the eastern slope of the Boyukdash Mountain. Instead of demolishing the building after the new museum is built, it will be put into use for staff as well as for visitors, and besides function as a field station.

- Plans for the building and the museum area will be developed in pace with the planning of the new museum, for coordination of activities and functions;
- The museum exhibition will be remodeled.

4.2.10. **The new museum**

A new museum is planned on the plane south of the Boyukdash Mountain. Even though this is within the buffer zone, the position is acceptable. However, the possibility of moving the prison function (see sub-plan 2, chapter 2.2.6) will be looked carefully into, and if at all possible, these grounds with existing buildings will be the first option.

If it is not possible to use the prison grounds as the new museum area, the following guidelines for the new museum will be implemented:

- Arrange an architect competition in order to be able to choose the best physical, visual and functional solutions;
- Set strong regulations for minimum intrusion, landscape adaptation, and use of building materials;
- The plan must include a reception area with café, sales and facilities, and optimal size exhibition area (all relevant topics), offices, archives and storage areas, auditoriums, and so on.

4.2.11. **Development of sales products and activities**

A few products are for sale in the present museum, and new products will be developed in pace with increased visitation. The sales activities will expand gradually according to desire and salability. All products will be of high quality and typical “tourist souvenirs” should be avoided:

- Local and traditional products (such as: silk scarves, carpets, tea, dried fruits, slippers, knives, tea glasses, etc.);
- A popular-scientific book on the rock art of Gobustan;
- A popular-scientific book on the quarry;
- Demonstration of handicrafts;
- Café with national foods for visitors;
- Activities for children;
- Special postal service (Gobustan stamps and postcards are already for sale);
- Activities for children.

4.2.12. **Tourist services in the town of Gobustan**

- Develop boarding possibilities in town;
- Organize transport to the Reserve-Museum area;
- Other offers, locally initiated.

4.2.13. **Local tourism**

Involvement of and support and positive response from the local community is of high importance. Therefore, special arrangements will be planned and carried out

- together with local contact persons and groups; such as for example:
- Continue lectures and information in the town of Gobustan;
 - Arrange guided tours for special local target groups: elderly people, women, young people, politicians, other;
 - Prepare and arrange yearly “family days” with special activities;
 - Arrange concerts and performances.

4.3. Timeframe and responsibilities for implementation

Abbreviations:

GSHAP	Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Preserve
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MCT	The Ministry of Culture and Tourism
HAF	The Heydar Aliyev Foundation
ANCU	The Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO
GDEP	The Garadagh District Executive Power
BCA	Baku City Administration

Activities and responsibilities	SHORT-TERM: 2006-2007	MIDDLE-TERM: 2008-2010	LONG-TERM: 2011-2015
Guides and guards	Increase the number of guides and guards according to increased visitation	Increase the number of guides and guards according to increased visitation	Increase the number of guides and guards according to increased visitation
	Uniforms and ID-cards for guides and guards	Uniforms and ID-cards for guides and guards	Uniforms and ID-cards for guides and guards
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>
Road signs		Produce and install road signs to Gobustan, <u>if and when the on-site infrastructure is prepared</u>	Road signs to Gobustan are in place and functioning
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>MCT; BCA</i>	<i>MCT; BCA</i>
Transport		Arrange bus tours to Gobustan in cooperation with tourist agencies, <u>if and when the on-site infrastructure is prepared</u>	Arrange bus tours to Gobustan in cooperation with tourist agencies
		Discuss and plan train transport of visitors to Gobustan that corresponds with transport to the Reserve	Train transport of visitors to Gobustan that corresponds with transport to the Reserve
		Discuss and plan bicycle tourism to Gobustan	Bicycle tourism to Gobustan
		Develop the parking lot by the museum according to needs and with regards to the landscape	
<i>Responsibility</i>		<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>
On-site information installations	Supplement arrows and STOP-signs painted on loose stones where necessary	Supplement arrows and STOP-signs painted on loose stones where necessary	Supplement arrows and STOP-signs painted on loose stones where necessary
	New information board by the museum gate	Information board with map by the museum entrance	Information board by entrance to the quarry
		A restricted number of signs on-site to prevent visitors' misbehavior	
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>

Walkways in the visitors' area	Move the ropes further from the panels (2006)	Improvements of the ropes and poles	
	Mark the walkways and delimit visitors' movements in the visitors' area (2006)	Pave the permanent walkways in the visitors' area with slabs	The walkways and installations for safe site visitation are finished
		Number the stations along the walkways corresponding to the information given in leaflet and guidebook	The walkways and installations for safe site visitation are finished
		Plant unpleasant ("sticky") bushes as natural "fences"	The walkways and installations for safe site visitation are finished
		Plan and build a new entrance from the museum to the visitors area (replace the existing staircase)	The walkways and installations for safe site visitation are finished
		Plan and build a new bridge into the Ana-zaga Cave	The walkways and installations for safe site visitation are finished
		Plan and build an artificial floor in the Ana-zaga Cave	The walkways and installations for safe site visitation are finished
Responsibility	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>
Presentation of the quarry		Plan measures to make the quarry available for visitation	Supplement the road with paved walkways when shortcuts are permissible; signposts/arrows showing the route
			Build solid, protective fences at steep and dangerous parts
			Information board, with panorama photo with names of landscape features
Responsibility		<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>
The existing museum	Develop plans in pace with the planning and development of the new museum	Develop plans in pace with the planning and development of the new museum	Develop plans in pace with the planning and development of the new museum
	Renovation of the exhibition		
Responsibility	<i>GSHAP</i>	<i>MCT; GSHAP</i>	<i>MCT; GSHAP</i>
New museum	Preliminary discussions and plans	Consider the possibility of using the prison if prison functions can be moved: if not:	
		Arrange an architect competition for the new museum	
		Start building the new museum	The new museum with all facilities is finished and functioning
Responsibility	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>	<i>MCT</i>
The Gobustan Reserve office in Baku	Make a small exhibition for guests and tourists on a short visit to Azerbaijan		
Responsibility	<i>GSHAP; MCT</i>		

Sales products etc.	Ideas of relevant sales products	Plan and produce relevant sales products together with cooperation partners and the local community	Further develop relevant sales products together with cooperation partners and the local community
			Café with national foods in the new museum
			Bed and breakfast services available in Gobustan town
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; the local community</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; the local community</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; the local community</i>
Local tourism	Special arrangements (lectures, guided tours, “family days”, activities for children, etc.)	Special arrangements (lectures, guided tours, “family days”, activities for children, etc.)	Special arrangements (lectures, guided tours, “family days”, activities for children, etc.)
<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; GDEP; the local community</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; GDEP; the local community</i>	<i>GSHAP; MCT; GDEP; the local community</i>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Results of questions to visitors to Gobustan

Appendix 2: Sketch of visitors' walkways, landscape overview

Appendix 3: Sketch of the entrance area of the Ana-zaga cave, suggested solution

Appendix 4: Sketch of Ana-zaga cave, existing and suggested solution

Appendix 5: Sketch of the Cave of hunters, suggested solution

Appendix 6: Sketch of "Pregnant women", suggested solutions

Appendix 1: Results of questions to visitors to Gobustan

Since November 2005 guides and guards have asked visitors standardized questions concerning their impressions and interest. These are the questions and answers:

Questionnaire 1:

1. What impression has the Gobustan Preserve made on you?
99% - good
1% - normal
2. Where did you find information about Gobustan?
20% - from guidebook
80% - other sources (from friends etc.)
3. What interested you in Gobustan?
85% - the rock pictures
10% - the rock gong (“musical stone”)
5% - the Roman inscription
4. How many times have you been in Gobustan?
96% -first time
2% - second time
2% - 5-6 times
5. What part of the excursion was the most interesting for you?
100% - the excursion route
6. Has the level of the given excursion satisfied you?
70% - yes
30% - normal
7. What drawbacks did the guide have?
10% - speech
5% - knowledge
85% - no drawbacks
8. Would you like to visit Gobustan again?
100% - yes

Questionnaire 2:

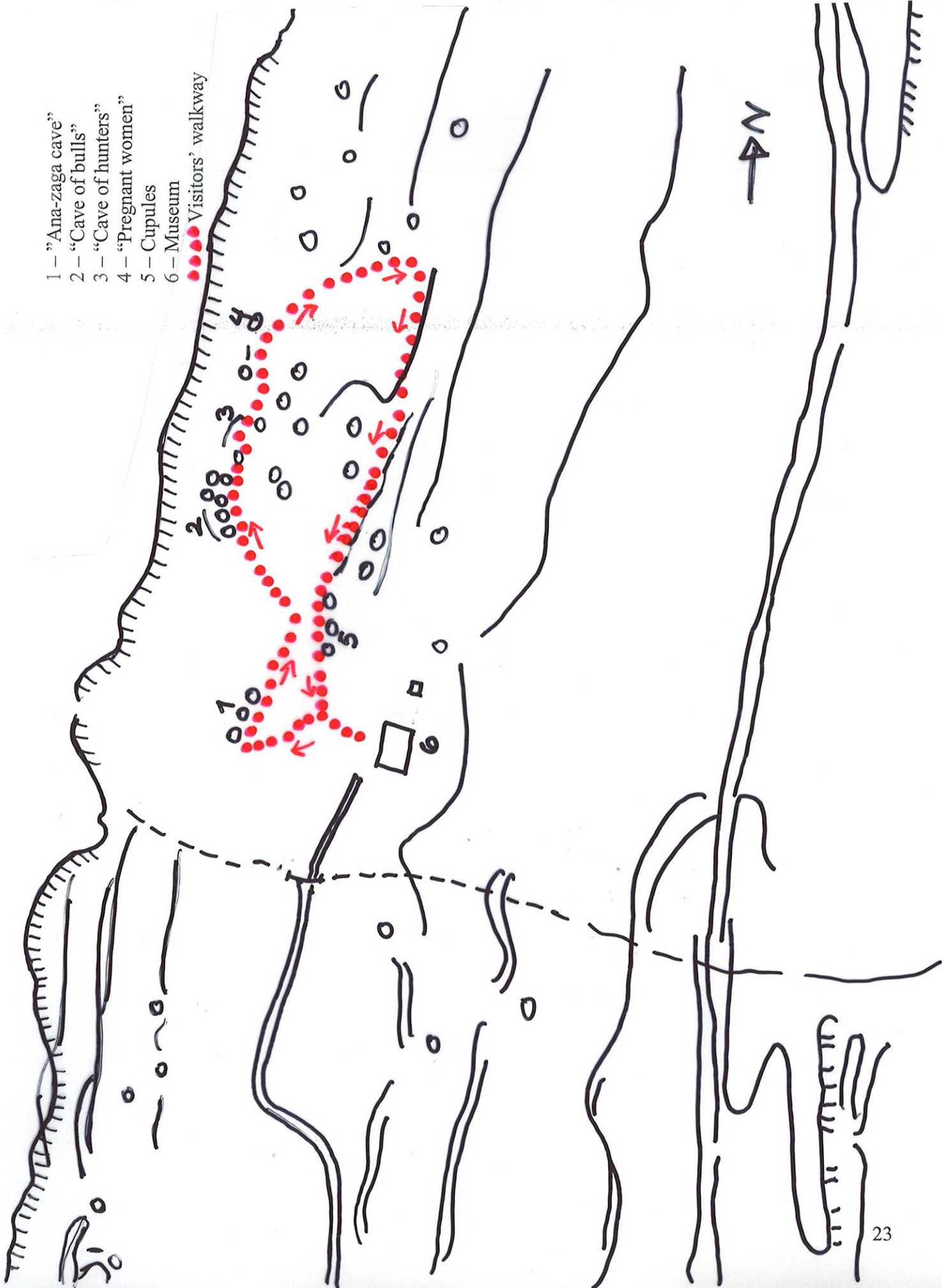
1. What interested you most in Gobustan?
98% -Rock carvings
2% - Unusual nature and rock carvings
2. How would you like to see the future of Gobustan?
100% - Some developed tourism center

3. What did you not like during your visit to Gobustan?
 - Absence of signs in English on the way to Gobustan
 - The stairs (from the museum to the Ana-zaga Cave) should be changed

4. What other kinds of service would you like to see in Gobustan?
 - coffee / tea stop
 - food / drink
 - a place to relax
 - some information texts

5. What kind of activities and measures would you like implemented in Gobustan? Note your opinion about it.
 - (most of them wrote nothing)
 - to organize concerts of music with national instruments among the mountains
 - walking-tours and camping trips

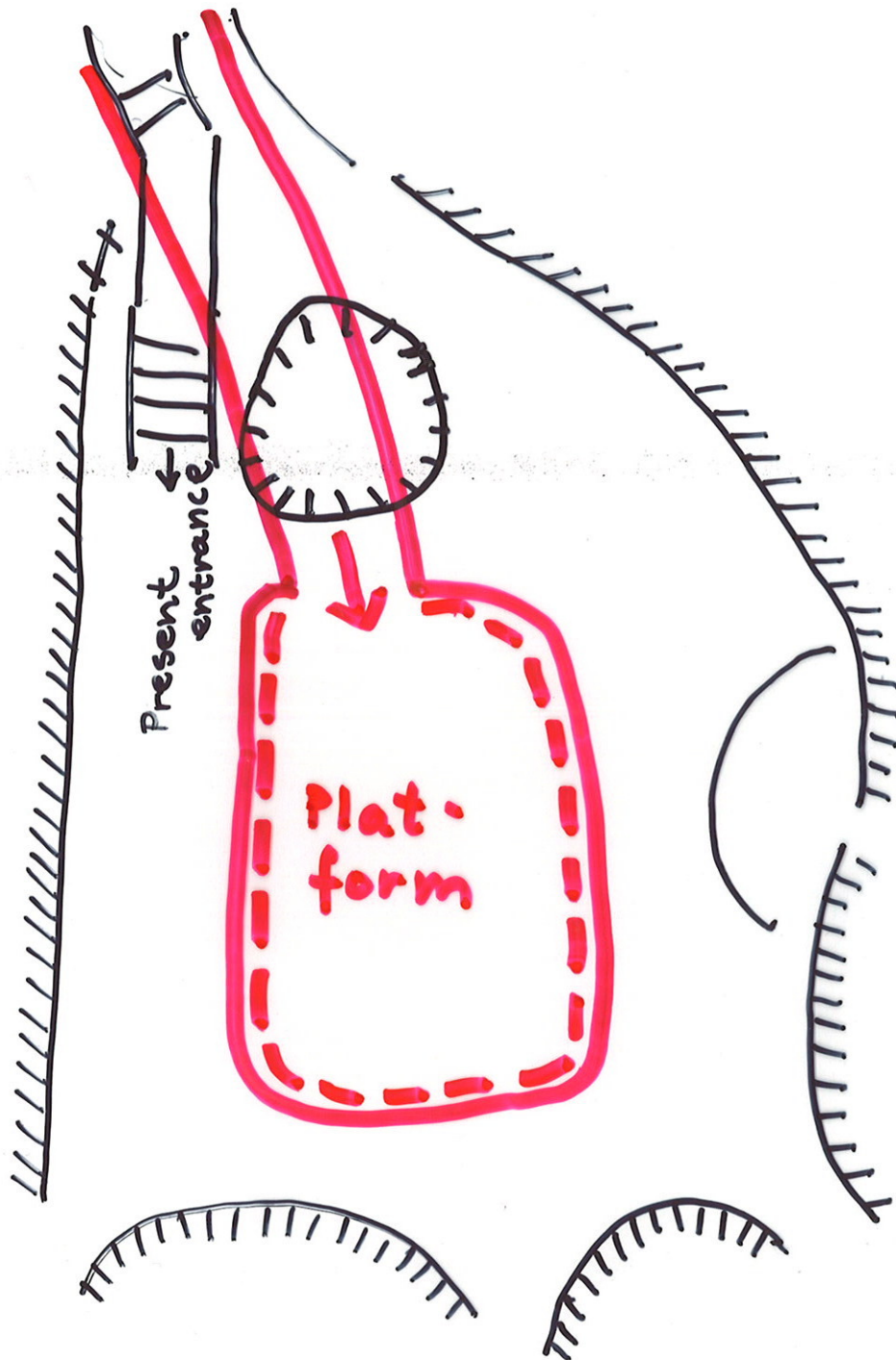
Appendix 2: Sketch of visitors' walkways, landscape overview



Appendix 3: Sketch of the entrance area of the Ana-zaga cave, suggested solution



Appendix 4: Sketch of Ana-zaga cave, existing and suggested solution



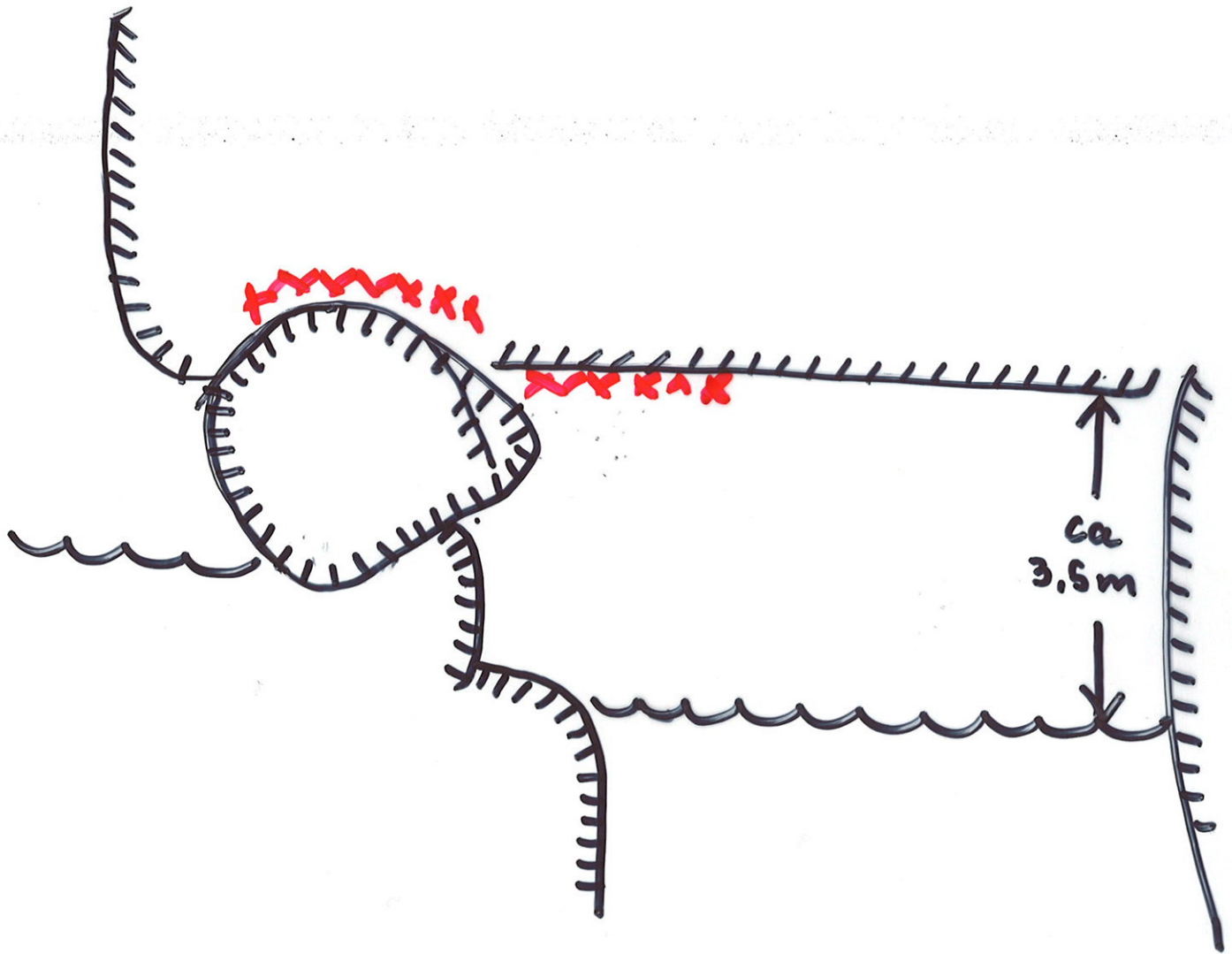
— New entrance

N ←

Appendix 5: Sketch of the Cave of hunters, suggested solution



Appendix 6: Sketch of "Pregnant women", suggested solutions



 Rock carvings
 Closed

INFORMATION

On the implementation of the actions given in the first stage of Plan of Action (2006-2007) in pursuance of formal order № 473 from August 25, 2006 of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism “About implementation of Plan of Action of Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape”

1. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism addressed the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to allocate financial resources from the state budget for the world importance monument Gobustan Rock Art Culture Landscape.
2. Finances are intended to be allocated to issue a special State document concerning lands in order to provide the inviolability of Gobustan Rock Art Culture Landscape and to permanently utilize the territory.
3. The project-estimate documents of the new administrative building of the Preserve are prepared by “Azerberpa” Scientific-Research Project Institute and are to be ready by April, 2007.
4. On demand of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism the authorization for the construction of the new administrative building is being prepared by the Executive Power of Baku City.
5. Road signs pointing the direction to the Preserve are ordered, purchased and installed on appropriate places.
6. Stones suitable for the Gobustan landscape have been brought from different regions of Azerbaijan to renovate the excursion route, to cover the walkways with natural stones and to change the existing metal stairs.
7. Additional 10 ropes on wooden posts have been installed in front of stone number 29 in the upper pavement of Boyukdash Mountain, in front of “Ana-zagha”, “Okuzler” and “Ovchular” caves to prevent any damages by tourists.
8. Installation of signs pointing the buffer zone of the Preserve is foreseen in the project “Construction of the new administrative building for Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape and the recreation of the territory” which will be implemented by “Azerberpa” Scientific-Research Project Institute.
9. Separating the territory from industrial objects by the metal net and pipes as well as clean up the buffer zone from all unwanted remains of industrial activities are foreseen in the project “Construction of the new administrative building for Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape and the recreation of the territory”. With this purpose the metal net will be extended and metal pipes will be installed on a territory of 2.5 km.

10. "Azerberpa" Scientific-Research Project Institution is installing water lines to the current museum building and sanitary units of the Preserve, as well as doing works on bringing into accordance those units with the general landscape.
11. Planting of greenery:
40 trees have been planted in the upper pavement of the Boyukdash Mountain and additional trees and bushes have been purchased and will be planted in spring (March-April 2007).
12. The staff of the Preserve is preparing an e-map indicating all caves, residential areas and rock arts in the entire territory of the Preserve.
13. The map of the registered rock arts has been prepared in order to ensure more efficient preservation of the monuments.
14. The shots of the Preserve from the satellite have been made and photos prepared.
15. The spatial coordinates of 278 stones with ancient images have been defined and included on the e-map. The work is being continued at present.
16. The problem on purchasing modern facilities to provide the work of the Preserve on a higher level is being solved. (4 computers, 2 laser scanners, 1 digital professional camera, 1 printer and 2 laser printers).
17. The Government of Azerbaijan was addressed to provide the Preserve with transport means (minibus, off-road type vehicle, motorbike) to take the employees and guests to the Preserve on a daily basis, and to register and protect the monuments in the Preserve.
18. Scientific groups to assess and to document the damages to the monuments (archeology, geology, preserving) are to be set and trained. Additional personnel are to be appointed to prepare materials and reports about geology, anthropogenic period, botany, zoology and ecology and to reveal shortcomings.
19. Uniform for the employees of the Preserve: 40 winter, 40 summer and 40 spring-autumn uniforms are being designed and are to be ordered in summer.
20. The website of Gobustan Preserve (<http://gobustan.iatp.az/gobustan>) has been operating since 2003. The website is being developed at present.
21. All the employees of the Preserve, in particular guards and guides, are constantly briefed on current trends in preservation and management of world heritage to broaden their knowledge; new employees are methodically trained.
22. The staff is periodically involved into the training seminars. This practice will be continued in future.

23. The Second International Seminar on documentation, research and preservation of rock arts is planned to be held on 25-31 March 2007 in Baku. The seminar is supported by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riskantikvaren Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Oslo and “CARAD” group.
24. Planning the classification of indicators according to the monitoring program and experience: the officials of the Preserve carry out a social survey among the tourists.
25. A book entitled “Gobustan is the ancient cultural center of Azerbaijan” has been published in Azerbaijani and English; a leaflet “Gobustan” has been prepared.
26. “Virtual Gobustan” CD has been prepared and will be presented in the Museum Center in Baku on March 1, 2007.
27. The registration of the cup deeps for gathering water has been started and almost 58 cups have been already registered.
28. Internet was installed in the administrative building of the Preserve in the second half of 2006.

Gobustan (Azerbaijan)

No 1076 rev

Official name as proposed

by the State Party: Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape

Location: Garadagh District and Apsheron District, Baku City Administrative Territory

Brief description:

Rising out of the semi-desert of central Azerbaijan, above shattered cliffs bordering the Caspian Sea, is a plateau of rocky boulders hosting an extensive collection of some 6,000 rock engravings, which are a testimony to a warm, wet period after the last ice-age when people lived in caves, harvested food from the savannah grasslands of the plains, and fished in the greater Caspian Sea, then linked to the Aral and Black Seas.

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*. In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2 February 2005) paragraph 47, it is also a *cultural landscape*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 30 September 1998

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: No

Date received by the World Heritage Centre: 27 January 2003

Background:

This is a deferred nomination (28 COM, Suzhou, 2004).

A first nomination dossier was examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). At the time, ICOMOS recommended that the property “*be deferred to allow the State Party to try and gain support for a research programme for the site, using the methodologies, which are now emerging, in other rock art sites in the region.*”

The World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision (28 COM 14B.37):

“The World Heritage Committee,

1. Defers the nomination of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, Azerbaijan, to allow the State Party

to undertake a research and analysis programme for the site, using methodologies which are now emerging in other rock art sites in the region, in order to quantify the site's significance in the wider world context.”

In 2005, the management plan was revised and on 30 January 2006 a new revised nomination document was submitted to UNESCO. This was supplemented by a plan of action in March 2006.

Since 2004 the Azerbaijani National Commission for UNESCO has initiated advisory missions from Norwegian experts. This resulted in a plan of action in 2005 that is very concrete in respect of what must be done on the property both immediately and in a long-term perspective. The Azerbaijani authorities have adopted the plan and submitted it as additional information to the nomination dossier.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Rock Art.

Literature consulted (selection):

Anati E, with J Rustamov, F. Muradova, & M. Farajova, *Gobustan Azerbaijan*, 2001.

Dzhafarzade I M, *Gobustan : naskalnye izobrazheniia*, Baku 1973.

Qobustan, Catalogue of the exhibition, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, October 2002.

Rüstamov Jäfärqulu, *Gobustan dünyasi*, Baku 1994.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 1-6 November 2003
6-10 November 2006

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 30 January 2007 and the State party submitted supplementary information on 28 February 2007.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report: 11 mars 2007

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The revised nomination provides extra material on the site and its documentation and management and this material is incorporated in the text below.

The nominated property is set above cliffs, part of a low plateau running north south, parallel to the Caspian Sea, a spur of the lower Caucasus Mountains. The property is approximately 65 km south of Baku and 6 km inland from the coast. The dramatic cliffs are highly visible from the main road south from Baku towards the Iranian border.

The property is set apart from the surrounding cliffs by a curious geological fragmentation in the rocks. The volcanic landscape rises up at the eastern end of the central Shirvan Steppe semi-desert of central Azerbaijan. The property spans three flat-topped hills covered by large calcareous blocks of Absheron limestone, which became detached as softer rocks eroded below them. This collapse formed

caves and rock shelters, mostly reached by sunlight, which could be used for shelter and habitation.

Within the property are upwards of 6,000 rock engravings, as well as the remains of settlement sites and burials, all reflecting an intensive use of the property stretching from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages. These sites reflect a warmer and wetter climate than now prevails.

The property covers three areas of the plateau:

- Jinghirdagh Mountain-Yazylytepe hill
- Boyukdash Mountain
- Kichikdash Mountain

Together the three sites cover an area of 537.22 ha (a reduction in comparison to the initial nomination). They are now linked by buffer zones covering 3,096.34 ha (compared to 2,356.26 ha in the initial nomination). The area nominated is only a small part of the much larger protected Gobustan Reservation which covers some 4,000 ha.

The nominated property consists of the following:

- *Rock Art – Engravings*
- *Prehistoric and Bronze Age sites*
- *Ancient sanctuaries and associations with traditions, ideas and beliefs*

These are considered in turn:

- *Rock Art - Engravings*

The 2004 dossier stated that the wider plateau area had not been fully explored, with rock art sites and other archaeological settlements only being found in the eastern part of the plateau - that is the area put forward for nomination. This situation still prevails in the more recent dossier.

Currently there are 1,000 known rocks with carvings and these contain over 6,000 separate images. Within the nominated property there are archaeological remains that are not recorded. For example, in the northern part of the Jinghirdagh area where the BP pipeline cuts through the buffer zone, archaeological excavations have uncovered new sites, but as the nomination dossier points out, the exploration of the area is only partial.

The known images cover a wide range of animal and human figures: bovines, equines, mother figures, hunters, fishes, reptiles and insects as well as numerous boats. The images are realistic and large – sometimes larger than life-size - for instance one fisherman image is almost 4.3 m long, and several oxen images are over 2 m.

Most of the images are engraved through pecking, incisions or sometimes rubbing. A well-analysed and dated sequence for images on the property is yet to be achieved – this is said to be a goal.

The nomination dossier groups the images into six groups related to possible ages for the work. These span from the Paleolithic to the modern period. It is suggested that the earliest images are those of boats, mother figures, wild animals, fishes and hunters. Many of the male images show hunters with bows and arrows and details of their loin cloths. The boats are like canoes with people paddling, some are small for 2-4 people while others are much larger, apparently accommodating around forty people and with the boat prow crowned with sun motifs.

The earliest images of females show fat, steatopigic «mother» figures. What is called the undisputed masterpiece of Gobustan is an image of a woman full face and one in profile. In one cave only tattooed women appear, while in another pregnant women are found.

The animals depicted such as wild buffalo, goats, deer, wild pigs, horses and lions are animals that need a moister climate than exists today. It is suggested that at the time of the earliest rock drawings the climate was wetter with verdant vegetation in the area. These images also suggest that the Caspian Sea was at a higher level – probably making the three hills virtually islands – which would explain the prevalence of boat engravings and fishes. These factors make the rock engravings an extraordinary record of climate change.

It is suggested that these early sites can be dated by their relationship to excavated material and the known levels of the Caspian Sea which has risen and fallen by many metres over several millennia.

Pollen analysis has shown that the area in pre-historic times was heavily wooded. Traces of this ancient pine-oak forest are still found in crevices around the rocks and it is said that until recently such trees were growing in the neighbourhood of Gobustan.

The Neolithic period is said to be characterised by scenes of ritual and magic such as dancing and sacrifice as well as deer, goat and the first images of domesticated animals. During the Bronze Age the images become sketchier and include more deer, goats with rolled horns and deer and cattle pens as well as carriages and riders. Also evident are images of the dismemberment of animals similar to those on Mongolian petroglyphs.

In the Iron Age, armless anthropomorphic figures appear and the most recent images from the Middle Ages include a camel caravan, armed riders, and images with Islamic themes.

- *Prehistoric and Bronze Age sites*

In Gobustan, thick cultural layers are found in and in front of many of the rock art caves and shelters. To a certain degree, the layers overlap the rock art panels and this gives a unique situation for dating.

The nomination dossier mentions that excavations have been carried out in more than 20 pre-historic sites and that «numerous» Bronze Age burials have been discovered. No further precise details are given of location of sites, dates and finds.

- *Ancient sanctuaries and associations with traditions, ideas and beliefs*

The nomination dossier states that the « ancient sanctuaries indicate Gobustan was an important place of worship... the mountains... acquired the status of holy places», and that the 'rock art is directly and tangibly associated with the events, living traditions, ideas and beliefs of the population which have live in the area for more than 10,000 years » The dossier suggests that images of headless goats testify to sacrificial sites and that documentary evidence exists in Persian manuscripts for the use of sites as cult sites in the Middle Ages. Furthermore it is suggested that images sited high up suggest that they were deliberately placed to be seen. It is also stated that the local community still reveres certain places around Gobustan as sacred and some are used as cult sites, where wishes are made and rags hung on bushes. It is suggested that the cult sites are linked to manmade depressions to collect offerings and specific rock art images – ox, sun and goat images – and particularly goats without heads suggesting sacrifices. A Persian engraved inscription of the 13th-14th century records the use of the site for cult purposes.

History and development

Initial discoveries were made in 1939-40 and systematic explorations were conducted by I. M. Djafarsade from 1947 onwards. He recorded and analysed more than 3,500 images on 750 rocks. This early inventory was expanded by R. Djafarguly who made further discoveries and carried out excavations.

Since 1965, excavations have been carried out in more than 20 prehistoric sites and numerous Bronze Age structures have been discovered. Excavations carried out by D. Rustamov of one cave uncovered a 2 m stratigraphy covering 10,000 years. This material included a fallen engraved fragment that gave a *terminus ante quem* for this anthropomorphic figure – although no further details are given.

In 1966 the property was protected as a state Historical-Artistic Reservation as part of the wider Gobustan rock art reservation.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

Integrity refers to the wholeness and intactness of the cultural values of the property. Since 2004 although extra work has been conducted on creating a sound documentation base for the rock art images, the knowledge of the site does not extend evenly across the whole rock art reservation and therefore it is still difficult to assess whether the boundaries of the site are logical and encompass the core of the rock art images.

ICOMOS can therefore only reiterate its recommendation that it would be desirable for a large-scale survey of the wider environment to be carried out to justify the corpus of the rock art and thus the extent of protection needed.

Authenticity

Authenticity varies in the three areas due to disturbances through time. The most serious intrusive element is the graffiti that is found on several of the rock surfaces. The problem will be addressed as part of the conservation of the property.

The most remote and undisturbed landscapes are without doubt the Jinghirdag Mountain-Yazylytepe hill and Kichikdash Mountain. These areas need to be fully protected in order to ensure they keep their authenticity.

The most visited site, Boyukdash, has more disturbances in the form of installations such as a prison and stone quarry.

The numbering of sites with incised numbers chiselled into the rock surface is part of the documentation system from Soviet times. In the Management Plan this is described as a disturbing element and methods of masking by conservation will be considered. Although this is a form of disturbance and an impact on the authenticity of the rock engravings, it may also be regarded as part of the site history and the scientific history connected to the property .

More serious however, is the practice of highlighting of incised lines with toothpaste (also a custom from the Soviet period), and this should be removed as part of the conservation program in Gobustan Reserve.

In conclusion ICOMOS considers that authenticity of the property is adequate. However, the integrity of the property has not been sufficiently established due to the continuing need for a large-scale survey of the wider area.

Comparative analysis

The nomination makes stylistic comparisons with sites in the Near East, Central Asia and Europe. It suggests that Palaeolithic rock engravings exist in Gobustan, which therefore gives the property an importance, as these oldest sequences are not present elsewhere in Europe.

However as a detailed analysis of the wider Gobustan images has yet to be carried out and a sequence has yet to be established, it is currently not possible to draw these conclusions and say with certainty that Palaeolithic images exist.

Within Azerbaijan there are three other major rock art complexes:

- Absheron peninsular near Baku, where around 200 images of hunting, cult rituals, humans and different animals are carved rather like bas-reliefs on limestone blocks.
- Kelbadjar region at the feet of Delidag mountain in the west where an expedition in 1967 recorded scenes of hunting and cultivation, and images of deer and leopards. In all there are about 4,000 rock images dated to the Bronze Age.
- In the south-west, in Nakhchivan, 60 kms from the city of Ordubad, on the highest peak of the Small Caucasus-Gapijik, are thousands of petroglyph images dating apparently from the 7th to 1st

millenniums BC. These display humans, goats, oxen, ibex, deer and other animal images, as well as different « written signs ».

In terms of density of petroglyphs, cultural continuity, variety and preservation of images, it is suggested in the dossier that these are not comparable with Gobustan. However ICOMOS considers that further exploration of the wider Central Asian Region might reveal complementarities with Gobustan.

In terms of technique and style Gobustan oxen have many similarities with rock images of the Foz Côa Valley (Portugal) and bone engravings from Laugerie-Basse (France). Gobustan images of tattooed women bear some resemblance to images from sites in Russia, Moravia and North Africa, while some of the early hunters particularly the large size animal figures, display stylistic analogies to Western European examples. A specific comparative analysis between Gobustan Reserve Rock Art sites and Spanish Levante rock art has been carried out by Dr. G. Burger (University of Tübingen, Germany, 1999).

During the Bronze and Iron Ages the rock art images relate to other cultures around the Black Sea and, especially, to the « Kurgan culture ». In this regard there is interest in carrying out more work on comparing finds and images from Gobustan with sites on the eastern coast of the Caspian.

It is unquestionable that the Gobustan area contains a major corpus of rock art, in terms of the number and density of rock art sites. Few have such a long time sequence as Gobustan. The horizons of Early Hunters are concentrated in Gobustan: this could indicate its role as a transit area along the great migration routes of Eurasia.

However on the basis of current knowledge, it is difficult to place Gobustan precisely within the wider Central Asian context. Nevertheless the scale and scope of the images, the potential for further finds over a wider area, the links with other sites in Azerbaijan and the wider Kurgan area, and the particular early hunting images in Gobustan all combine to give it high value.

The need to carry out further thematic studies on rock art, including Central Asia has been acknowledged by ICOMOS and a global programme of studies is under preparation.

ICOMOS considers that the current comparative analysis reflects the current state of knowledge.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is justified by the State Party as being of outstanding universal value for:

- its rich cultural landscape that reflects millennia of human evolution;
- the outstanding quality and concentration of the extensive rock engravings, and their state of conservation;
- the evidence for habitation from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Middle Ages;

- the way Gobustan is a meeting place between Europe and Asia, which provides evidence for the roots of European and Asian civilisations.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of criteria ii, iii and vi.

Criterion ii: This criterion is put forward by the State Party in connection with the Palaeolithic images. It also suggests that the property displays an outstanding range of rock engravings.

ICOMOS does not consider that sufficient information is known about the context for the rock engravings to assess whether they reflect an interchange.

ICOMOS does not consider that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion iii: The State Party justifies this criterion on the basis that the property demonstrates rock art over 40,000 years.

ICOMOS considers that the rock engravings are an exceptional testimony to a way of life that has disappeared and particularly in the way they graphically represent activities connected with hunting and fishing which reflect a time when the climate and vegetation of the area were quite different from today.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion is justified.

Criterion vi: The State Party justifies this criterion on the grounds that the ancient sanctuaries on the property were places of worship.

ICOMOS considers that with further evidence of the cult places, their disposition and use, and how they are related to the mountains, this criterion might be justified. Currently the beliefs and cult sites are not substantiated in sufficient detail in the nomination dossier to enable them to be seen as outstanding.

ICOMOS does not consider that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the Outstanding Universal Value has been demonstrated and that the nominated property meets criterion iii and might justify criteria ii and vi.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Development pressure

There is said to be no risk to the nominated area as no people live in the property.

In 2003 it was noted that there was an external development threat from an oil pipeline, which was then under construction across the northeast corner of the property's buffer zone. The pipeline is part of the line from Azerbaijan to Turkey, which was brokered by the USA

Government. The trench is 10 m wide and 4 m deep. This pipeline is now complete and during its construction further archaeological sites were identified. The pipeline has therefore impacted on the integrity of the property through damaging as yet unrecorded archaeological remains. There would seem to have been a good case for diverting this pipeline further away from the nominated property.

A further development threat is the spread of development along the coast from Baku. At the moment this development spreads from Baku beyond the property but there is currently no development between the main road and the cliff face – that is the approach to the property. However the proposed Buffer Zone does not cover this area (see below).

Lack of knowledge of the property

This is considered to be a difficult problem given the vast area of the property. Disseminating knowledge and also promoting involvement of local people would seem to be essential components in a strategy to engage the widest support for the property and thus try and give it community protection. This is addressed by the Action Plan.

Environmental pressures

Climate change and air pollution are listed as contributing towards erosion. This would be another reason to limit the nearness of industrial development to the property.

A solid waste dump near the jail adjoining the property is another problem as this prohibits reclamation of this area.

Natural disasters and risk preparedness

The main threat is from the Kaniza Volcano in the Buffer Zone, which is active, the latest eruption being in 1998. There is clearly little that can be done to mitigate the damage caused by eruptions.

Visitor/tourism pressures

At the moment visitor numbers are small – from between 2,002 to 7,260 visitors per year (estimation carried out during the period 1998-2005). Tourists are normally accompanied by guides. However it is said that school visits can cause problems with graffiti. Given the large size of the property, accompanying visitors at all times can be a problem.

Wheeled vehicles used to cause some damage being able to get close to the rock engravings, but measures have now been put in place to limit access.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the main risks to the property are a future increase in visitor numbers without sufficient resources to limit access to the property and before a more detailed survey has been undertaken to identify the sensitive areas across the nominated property.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundaries are linear and drawn to roughly encompass the main known sites in three separate areas around the highest areas of the property. However it is acknowledged that the wider area is unexplored – and even inside the nominated property. The boundary cannot be said to represent the extent of the rock art or even the main part of it. ICOMOS considers that the boundaries will need to be reconsidered once further information is known on the scope and extent of the site.

The Buffer Zone encompasses most of the wider Gobustan Reservation – a protected area. The Buffer Zone does not include the area between the main Baku road and the cliff face, currently undeveloped but with development pressure to the north and south. ICOMOS considers that consideration should be given to enlarging the Buffer Zone to include the cliff face and the flat land between it and the main road as these form the approach to the property.

The recently constructed oil pipeline cuts across the buffer zone and does therefore impinge to an extent on the wider protected area.

Although determination of the appropriate boundary and buffer zone requires further survey, ICOMOS considers that it is likely that the boundaries of the core and buffer zone are not sufficient to enclose the main occurrences of rock art and to ensure adequate protection.

Ownership

The property including the buffer zone is owned by the State.

Protection

Legal Protection

The Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reservation is protected by a decree of 1966.

The archaeological sites within the nominated property are included in the Reservation.

This general protective law is reinforced by laws concerning the protection of historical and cultural monuments and their utilisation (1978 and 1998), and by decrees concerning the implementation of these laws (1998) and on special authorisation of excavations (2000).

A decree of 1950 put the property under the control of the State Authorities and closed all stone quarries in the area.

ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

Conservation

History of Conservation

Little formal work has been carried out so far at the property in terms of active conservation. Instead measures have been aimed at preventative conservation through protecting the property by Decree and through the presence of custodians on the property. Such work that has been carried out is said to not currently be ideal and this is

linked to lack of training of the staff – something to be addressed in the action plan.

Present state of conservation

The dry semi-desert climate and the degree of remoteness of the area both help its protection. However it is noted that differences can be found between the Boyukdash area and the other two areas, which are accessible by road. Since 2003 a detailed survey of the state of conservation of the site images has been carried out.

Active Conservation measures

Custodians are tasked with regular inspections of the area, but given the size of the property, and the number of images, this is an almost impossible task. During the first evaluation mission it was noted that shepherds were assisting in surveillance: this is a very positive way of involving the local population in the management of the property to great advantage, and would seem to be the only feasible way to broaden monitoring on the property.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that special attention is needed to establish active conservation measures on the property.

Management

Day to day management for the property is the responsibility of the Director of the Gobustan State Historic-Artistic Reservation. A scientific advisory body has been appointed to monitor the state of implementation of the conservation and management policies for the nominated property. This is “Azerberpa” within the Scientific Research Institute for the Restoration of Architectural Monuments.

Thirty-one people work in the Reservation. These include 7 Researchers, 5 Custodians, 2 Tourist Guides and a Museum Monitoring Officer. Since 1996, five members of staff have attended workshops on tourism and museum management organised by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan.

A strategic management plan was submitted in February 2004. This did not set out detailed actions to follow from objectives. The objective on archaeology included the need to establish an archaeological map and prepare a framework for future archaeological work. The plan acknowledged that funding to pursue these objectives was a key issue and the Steering Group was tasked with investigating sources of funding from potential partners, nationally and internationally.

During 2005 a revised nomination dossier was produced together with an Action Plan, developed with assistance of Norwegian experts in March 2006. This plan was submitted as additional information to the previous Management Plan. The Action Plan includes three sub-plans:

1. Documentation and conservation
2. Management, monitoring and maintenance
3. Presentation: Education, Information and Tourism

Management strategies are listed and actions proposed. The most important objective will be to establish and develop the Gobustan Reserve Museum as an operational and effective base for future work in the area, including management, monitoring and maintenance. The future Museum and Visitor Centre will function both as a base for presentation and as a base for research.

ICOMOS considers that it is important that all data connected to the Reserve, both documentation and artefacts from excavations are gathered in the centre and kept in depots with adequate conditions for climate and security. Modern and professional archives and storage for old site records, photographs and sketches need to be established.

Documentation

In the plan of action, a documentation program for archaeological, geological, botanical and zoological data is set out. The program has short and long-term dimensions. The program also includes international workshops that will enable the staff to increase their competence and establish networks.

Many of the known engravings and archaeological sites are mapped with GPS and recorded in a data base. This work has been carried out since the arrival of computer equipment in 2004. It is a goal that all images on the site will be recorded by this method. This is an improvement compared to the last evaluation mission in 2004. However, no site map showing the disposition of the rock art or the archaeological sites was provided with the nomination dossier.

Conservation

The Action Plan proposes that « damage » documentation should be carried out before any conservation activities are accomplished. The plan points to the fact that one of the reasons why the conservation tasks are so poor is because the competence among the staff is poor. One of the most important tasks will therefore be to increase competence.

Some of the rock walls and boulders, especially on the lower terrace in Boyukdash, seem to be overgrown by lichen, which make it very difficult to carry out good documentation procedures by tracing or by photo. The management plan does not discuss this problem, which could be solved either by washing the surface in ethanol, by covering it for some time, or by other methods.

Presentation: Education, Information and Tourism

The third sub-plan contains issues concerning both the internal education of staff, research and presentation for the public. Important aspects will be the improvement of the on-site presentation with boards and educated guides, as well as further research. Archaeological investigation has been going on for a long time in the area and a lot of data has been collected which could be used. Development of tourism is an important issue for the Azerbaijani authorities. The Presentation and Information strategies and actions will be an important part of this development.

Development plans of tourist installations such as hotels and restaurants are being planned in the Gobustan area. ICOMOS considers that it is important to stress that this

kind of infrastructure should be kept outside the buffer zone of the property.

Resources

The Action Plan is very ambitious and aims to solve most of the problems in a period of ten years. However the success of the Plan will depend on the financial support from the government and international actors, which is not yet in place. The Department for Culture of the Executive Power of Baku has up until now had financial responsibility for the Reserve. However, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism will assume the responsibility for financial means in the coming year.

Under the Baku City Executive Power, Department of Culture annual budgets of between \$19,000 and \$24,000 were allocated between 1999 and 2002. On top of this the property is allowed to keep admission income and sales income.

ICOMOS requested assurances from the State Party that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is committed to implementing the Action Plan and will provide the necessary resources to begin implementing the Action Plan immediately, in particular the short-term actions related to documentation, training in conservation, interpretation and visitor management as set out in the sub-plans.

In response the State Party said that The Ministry of Culture and Tourism had addressed the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to allocate financial resources from the state budget for the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape. However no assurances were given that this request had been met.

ICOMOS considers that the Action Plan analyses well the main issues affecting the property and suggests appropriate actions to address these. This Action Plan as yet is unfunded. ICOMOS considers that commitment is needed to implement the Plan in order to: complete the documentation, put in place more appropriate conservation and technical support, improve the competence of staff and carry out necessary urgent conservation work.

6. MONITORING

The nomination dossier states that the latest inventory was undertaken in 2001, but also says that since 2004 staff has been working on creating a GIS database for the property, with the assistance of newly installed computers.

Monitoring of visitors and the micro-climate of the property is carried out regularly. Recently a start has been made in comparing the state of conservation of the property with its condition over the last 50-60 years through the use of photographs.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Since 2004 there have been improvements in the sense of more professional management, documentation strategies and commitment to the development of a database. Most crucially an Action Plan has been developed that addresses the needs of the site and sets out short and long term

actions. The proposed actions are in the future and if implemented will lead to a better understanding of what exists, what the values are, appropriate conservation and management methods and better training for staff.

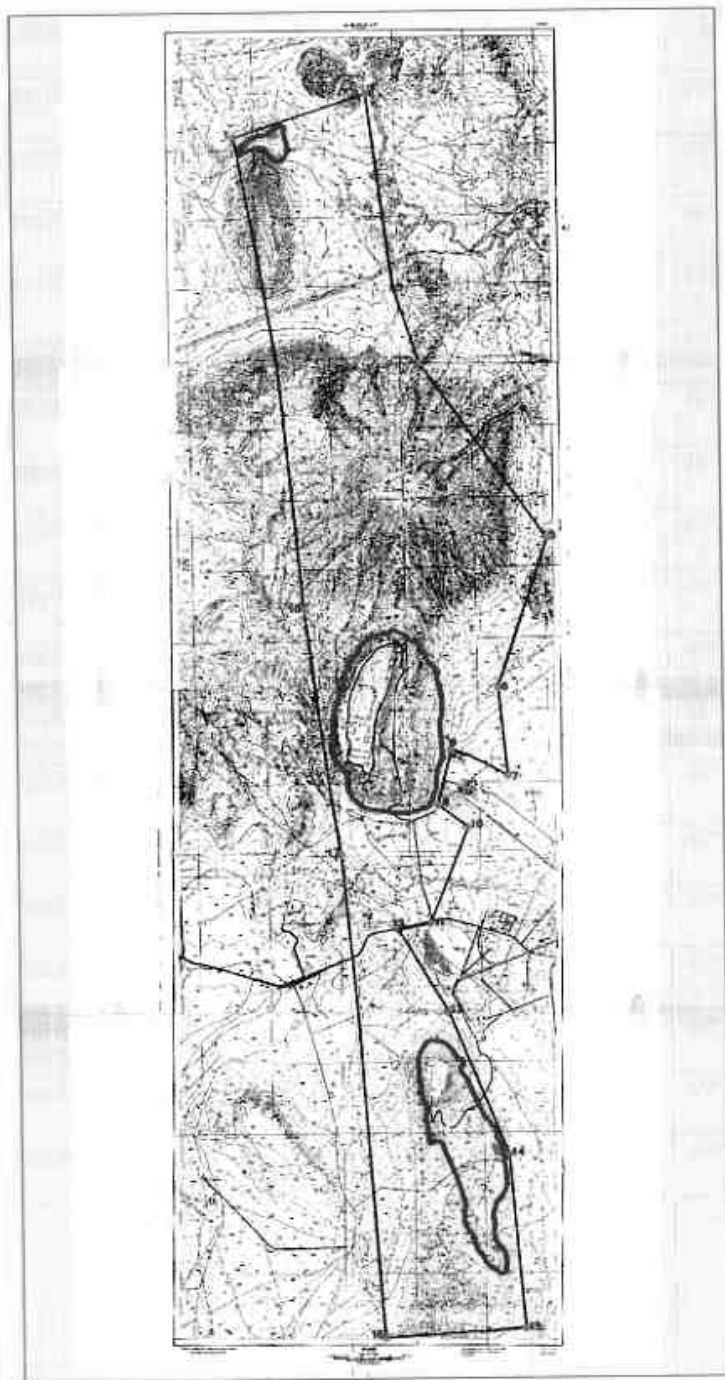
The crucial point is whether there are likely to be resources to follow up the plan of action. The general impression is that all levels in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as the National Commission for UNESCO and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation will be supportive in the sense of development and money.

Currently however there is no definite commitment from the State Party to provide the necessary resources to implement this Action Plan.

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the nomination of Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, to the World Heritage List be *referred* back to the State Party of Azerbaijan in order to allow it to:

- put in place support for the implementation of the Action Plan drawn up as part of the Management Plan and in particular to indicate a timeframe within which the property will be documented;
- consider reviewing the boundaries of the core zone in the light of a more detailed assessment of the scope and extent of the site;
- consider extending the Buffer Zone to cover the approach to the site from the east.



- WH Site Area
- WHS Buffer Zone/Gobustan Reserve
- ⊗ Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Sites

Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



General view of the site



Ana Zaga Cave at Boyukdash



Anthropomorphs at Boyukdash



Inscriptions of bulls at Boyukdash

Gobustan (Azerbaïdjan)

No 1076 rev

Nom officiel du bien tel que proposé par l'État partie : Paysage culturel d'art rupestre de Gobustan

Lieu : District de Garadagh et district d'Apchéron, territoire administratif de Bakou

Brève description :

S'élevant dans la région semi désertique du centre de l'Azerbaïdjan, un plateau rocheux abritant un vaste corpus d'art rupestre surplombe des falaises escarpées au bord de la mer Caspienne. Fort de quelque 6 000 gravures, il témoigne de l'existence d'une période chaude et humide après la dernière ère glaciaire, à une époque où les hommes vivaient dans des grottes, subsistant de la cueillette dans les prairies des plaines et de la pêche dans la mer Caspienne, alors reliée à la mer d'Aral et à la mer Noire.

Catégorie de bien :

En termes de catégories de biens culturels telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *site*. Aux termes des *Orientations devant guider la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial* (2 février 2005), paragraphe 47, il s'agit également d'un *paysage culturel*.

1. IDENTIFICATION

Inclus dans la liste indicative : 30 septembre 1998

Assistance internationale au titre du Fonds du patrimoine mondial pour la préparation de la proposition d'inscription : Non

Date de réception par le Centre du patrimoine mondial : 27 janvier 2003

Antécédents : Il s'agit d'une proposition d'inscription différée (28 COM, Suzhou, 2004).

Une première proposition d'inscription a été examinée par le Comité du patrimoine mondial au cours de sa 28^e session (Suzhou, 2004). L'ICOMOS recommandait alors : « que l'examen de la proposition d'inscription soit différé afin que l'État partie s'efforce d'obtenir un soutien pour un programme de recherche sur le site, en utilisant les méthodologies qui émergent actuellement dans d'autres sites d'art rupestre de la région. »

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial a adopté la décision suivante (28 COM 14B.37) :

« Le Comité du patrimoine mondial,

1. Diffère l'examen de la proposition d'inscription du Paysage culturel d'art rupestre de Gobustan, Azerbaïdjan, afin de permettre à l'État partie d'entreprendre un programme de recherche et d'analyse du site faisant appel aux méthodologies actuellement utilisées pour d'autres sites d'art rupestre de la région, et qui permettent de quantifier l'importance du site dans le contexte mondial. »

En 2005, le plan de gestion a été révisé et, le 30 janvier 2006, une nouvelle proposition d'inscription révisée a été soumise à l'UNESCO, complétée par un plan d'action en mars 2006.

Depuis 2004, la Commission nationale azerbaïdjanaise pour l'UNESCO a lancé des missions consultatives d'experts norvégiens, lesquelles ont engendré, en 2005, un plan d'action très concret quant à ce qui doit être fait sur le bien, à la fois immédiatement et dans une perspective à long terme. Les autorités azerbaïdjanaises ont adopté le plan et l'ont soumis en complément du dossier de proposition d'inscription.

Consultations : L'ICOMOS a consulté son Comité scientifique international sur l'art rupestre

Littérature consultée (sélection) :

Anati E, with J Rustamov, F. Muradova, & M. Farajova, *Gobustan Azerbaijan*, 2001.

Dzhafarzade I M, *Gobustan : naskalnye izobrazheniia*, Baku 1973.

Qobustan, Catalogue of the exhibition, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, October 2002.

Rüstämov Jäfärqulu, *Gobustan dünyasi*, Baku 1994.

Mission d'évaluation technique : 1-6 novembre 2003
6-10 Novembre 2006

Information complémentaire demandée et reçue de l'État partie : L'ICOMOS a envoyé une lettre à l'État partie le 30 janvier 2007 et l'État partie a fourni de la documentation complémentaire le 28 février 2007.

Date d'approbation de l'évaluation par l'ICOMOS : 11 mars 2007

2. LE BIEN

Description

La proposition d'inscription révisée donne des renseignements complémentaires sur le bien, sa documentation et sa gestion, et ce matériel est incorporé dans le texte ci-après.

Le bien proposé pour inscription se dresse au-dessus de falaises, sur un plateau à faible altitude courant du nord au sud parallèlement à la mer Caspienne, un éperon du Petit Caucase. Le bien se trouve approximativement à 65 km au sud de Bakou et à 6 km de la côte à l'intérieur des terres. Les falaises spectaculaires sont très visibles depuis la route principale au sud de Bakou, en direction de la frontière iranienne.

Le bien est séparé des falaises environnantes par une curieuse fragmentation géologique des roches. Le paysage volcanique se dresse à l'extrémité orientale des steppes semi-désertiques de Shirvan au centre de l'Azerbaïdjan. Le bien s'étend sur trois collines plates, couvertes de grands blocs de calcaire d'Abchéron, qui se sont détachés au fil de l'érosion de roches plus tendres en deçà. Cet effondrement a formé des grottes et des abris sous-roche, pour la plupart accessibles à la lumière du soleil, pouvant servir d'abris et d'habitations.

On trouve sur le bien plus de 6 000 gravures rupestres, ainsi que les vestiges de peuplements et de sites funéraires, qui reflètent tous une occupation intensive des lieux du Paléolithique supérieur au Moyen Âge. Ces sites reflètent un climat plus chaud et plus humide que celui qui prévaut aujourd'hui.

Le bien couvre trois zones du plateau :

- Mont Jinghirdagh – colline de Yazlytepe
- Mont Boyukdash
- Mont Kichikdash

À eux trois, les sites couvrent 537,22 ha (une superficie inférieure à celle de la proposition d'inscription initiale). Ils sont désormais rattachés par des zones tampon couvrant 3 096,34 ha (contre 2 356,26 ha pour la proposition d'inscription initiale). La zone proposée pour inscription n'est qu'une petite partie de la réserve protégée de Gobustan, bien plus vaste, qui s'étend sur 4 000 ha environ.

Le bien proposé pour inscription comporte :

- Art rupestre – Gravures
- Sites préhistoriques et sites de l'âge du Bronze
- Anciens sanctuaires et associations avec des traditions, des idées et des croyances

Ces éléments sont envisagés tour à tour :

- *Art rupestre - Gravures*

Le dossier de 2004 indiquait que la zone du plateau n'avait pas été pleinement explorée, les sites d'art rupestre et autres peuplements archéologiques n'ayant été découverts que dans sa partie orientale - il s'agit de la zone présentée pour inscription. Cette situation prévaut encore dans le dossier plus récent.

Actuellement, on recense plus de 1 000 roches présentant des gravures rupestres, comptant au total plus de 6 000 images distinctes. Au sein du bien proposé pour inscription, on trouve des vestiges archéologiques qui ne sont pas inventoriés. Par exemple, dans la partie nord de la zone de Jinghirdagh, où le pipe-line BP traverse la zone tampon, des fouilles archéologiques ont mis au jour de nouveaux sites mais, comme la proposition d'inscription le souligne, l'exploration de la zone n'est encore que partielle.

Les images connues couvrent un large éventail de figures animales et humaines : bovidés, équidés, figures maternelles, chasseurs, poissons, reptiles et insectes, ainsi que de nombreuses embarcations. Les images sont réalistes et de grande taille, parfois plus grandes que nature : ainsi, on recense une image de pêcheur de presque 4,3 m de long et plusieurs représentations de bœufs de plus de 2 m.

La plupart des images sont gravées au pic, par incision, voire par frottement. L'analyse et la datation précise de la séquence des images dans le bien restent à réaliser - il s'agirait d'un objectif déjà fixé.

Le dossier de proposition d'inscription regroupe les images en six ensembles, en fonction de la datation possible des œuvres, qui s'échelonnent du Paléolithique à l'ère moderne. On suggère que les plus anciennes images sont celles de bateaux, de figures maternelles, d'animaux sauvages, de poissons et de chasseurs. Beaucoup des images masculines dépeignent des chasseurs équipés d'arcs et de flèches, avec des pagnes. Les bateaux ressemblent à des canoës propulsés par des pagayeurs. Certains sont de petites embarcations pour deux à quatre personnes, tandis que d'autres, bien plus grands, avec une proue ornée de motifs solaires, pouvaient apparemment accueillir une quarantaine de passagers.

Les plus anciennes figures féminines sont des figures de « mères » grasses et stéatopyges. Ce qui est considéré comme le chef-d'œuvre incontestable de Gobustan est une image de femme de face et d'une autre de profil. Dans une grotte seulement des femmes tatouées apparaissent, tandis qu'on trouve dans une autre des images de femmes enceintes.

On dénombre parmi les animaux dépeints : buffles sauvages, chèvres, cervidés, sangliers, chevaux, lions, qui sont des animaux exigeant un climat plus humide que le climat actuel. Il est donc suggéré que, au temps des premiers dessins rupestres, le climat était plus humide, avec une végétation verdoyante dans la zone. Ces images suggèrent aussi que la mer Caspienne était plus haute - il est probable que les trois collines étaient des îles -, ce qui expliquerait l'abondance des gravures d'embarcations et de poissons. Ces facteurs feraient de ces gravures d'extraordinaires archives du changement climatique.

Il est suggéré que ces anciens sites peuvent être datés grâce à leur relation aux matériels mis au jour et aux niveaux connus de la mer Caspienne, qui se sont élevés et ont baissé de plusieurs mètres pendant plusieurs millénaires.

L'analyse des pollens a montré qu'à l'époque préhistorique la région était très boisée. On trouve encore des traces de cette ancienne forêt de chênes et de pins dans des crevasses rocheuses, et l'on dit que, jusqu'à il y a peu, ces arbres poussaient dans le voisinage de Gobustan.

L'époque néolithique est censément caractérisée par des scènes de rituels et de magie telles que danses et sacrifices ainsi que par des cervidés, des chèvres et les premières images d'animaux domestiques.

À l'âge du Bronze, les images deviennent plus sommaires et incluent plus de cervidés, des chèvres aux cornes incurvées, des enclos à cerfs et à bétail, des chariots et des cavaliers. On note également des images de

démembrement d'animaux similaires à celles des pétroglyphes de Mongolie.

À l'âge du Fer, des figures anthropomorphiques sans bras apparaissent et les images les plus récentes du Moyen Âge comprennent une caravane de chameaux, des cavaliers en armes et des images aux thèmes islamiques.

- *Sites préhistoriques et sites de l'âge du Bronze*

À Gobustan, on trouve d'épaisses couches culturelles dans beaucoup des grottes d'art rupestre et des abris sous-roche, ainsi qu'autour. Dans une certaine mesure, les couches chevauchent les panneaux d'art rupestre, une situation unique du point de vue de la datation.

Le dossier de proposition d'inscription mentionne la réalisation de fouilles sur plus de vingt sites préhistoriques et la découverte de « nombreux » sites de l'âge du Bronze. Aucun détail plus précis n'est donné quant à l'emplacement des sites, les dates et les découvertes faites.

- *Anciens sanctuaires et associations avec des traditions, des idées et des croyances*

La proposition d'inscription stipule que « les anciens sanctuaires indiquent que Gobustan était un important lieu de culte... les montagnes... étaient devenues des lieux sacrés », et que « l'art rupestre représente une association directe et matérielle avec les événements, les traditions vivantes, les idées et les croyances de la population qui a vécu dans cette région pendant plus de 10 000 ans ». Le dossier suggère que les images de chèvres décapitées attestent de sites sacrificiels et qu'il existe dans des manuscrits perses des preuves documentaires d'utilisation de ces sites comme lieux de culte au Moyen Âge. En outre, la place des images, en hauteur, suggère qu'elles ont délibérément été placées là pour être en vue. On déclare également que la communauté locale révère toujours certains lieux autour de Gobustan comme des lieux sacrés, et que certains sont utilisés comme des lieux de culte, où l'on fait des vœux en accrochant des haillons aux branches des buissons. On suggère que les lieux de culte sont associés à des dépressions artificielles, servant à recueillir les offrandes, et à des images rupestres particulières – bœufs, soleil et chèvres, plus particulièrement des chèvres sans tête suggérant des sacrifices. Une inscription perse du XIIIe-XIVe siècle consigne l'usage cultuel du site.

Histoire et développement

Les premières découvertes ont été faites dans les années 1939-1940 et des explorations systématiques ont été conduites par I. M. Djafarsade à partir de 1947. Il a enregistré et analysé plus de 3 500 images sur 750 roches. Ce premier inventaire a été élargi par R. Djafarguly, qui a fait d'autres découvertes et réalisé des fouilles.

Depuis 1965, des fouilles ont été réalisées sur plus d'une vingtaine de sites préhistoriques et de nombreuses structures de l'âge du Bronze ont été découvertes. Des fouilles réalisées par D. Rustamov dans une grotte ont révélé une stratigraphie de 2 m, couvrant 10 000 ans. Ces matériels incluaient un fragment gravé tombé, donnant un *terminus ante quem* pour cette figure anthropomorphique. Il n'y a toutefois pas d'autre détail fourni.

Depuis 1966, le bien est protégé en tant que réserve historique et artistique d'État, dans le cadre de la réserve d'art rupestre de Gobustan.

3. VALEUR UNIVERSELLE EXCEPTIONNELLE, INTÉGRITÉ ET AUTHENTICITÉ

Intégrité et authenticité

Intégrité

Par intégrité, on entend le caractère entier et intact des valeurs culturelles du bien. Depuis 2004, bien que des travaux supplémentaires aient été menés pour créer une base documentaire solide pour les images d'art rupestre, la connaissance du bien ne s'étend pas équitablement à toute la réserve d'art rupestre, et il demeure donc difficile d'évaluer si les frontières du bien sont logiques et comprennent le cœur des images d'art rupestre.

L'ICOMOS ne peut donc que réitérer ses recommandations, en indiquant qu'il serait souhaitable de réaliser une étude à grande échelle de l'environnement global, afin de justifier le corpus d'art rupestre et ainsi l'envergure de la protection nécessaire.

Authenticité

L'authenticité varie dans les trois zones, du fait des perturbations qu'elles ont subies au fil du temps, les éléments les plus intrusifs étant des graffitis que l'on retrouve sur plusieurs des surfaces rocheuses. Le problème sera abordé dans le cadre de la conservation du bien.

Les paysages les plus isolés et les plus intacts sont sans nul doute le mont Jinghirdag - colline Yazlytepe et le mont Kichikdash. Ces zones doivent être pleinement protégées afin de s'assurer qu'elles conservent leur authenticité.

Le site le plus visité, Boyukdash, a été plus perturbé, avec des installations telles qu'une prison et une carrière de pierre.

La numérotation des sites avec des numéros incisés ciselés dans la surface rocheuse s'inscrit dans le système de documentation de l'ère soviétique. Dans le plan de gestion, ce point est décrit comme un élément perturbateur et des méthodes de masquage par la conservation doivent être envisagées. Mais, bien que ce soit une forme de perturbation et un impact sur l'authenticité des gravures rupestres, on peut aussi le considérer comme une partie de l'historique du site et de l'histoire scientifique associée au bien.

Une pratique plus ennuyeuse, cependant, consiste à mettre en évidence les lignes incisées avec du dentifrice (là aussi une coutume de l'ère soviétique), pratique qui doit être éliminée dans le cadre du programme de conservation de la réserve de Gobustan.

En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère que le bien répond de façon appropriée aux conditions d'authenticité. Toutefois, l'intégrité du bien n'a pas été suffisamment établie, du fait de la nécessité encore insatisfaite d'une étude à grande échelle de la zone plus vaste.

Analyse comparative

La proposition d'inscription dresse des comparaisons stylistiques avec des sites au Proche-Orient, en Asie centrale et en Europe. Elle suggère qu'il existe à Gobustan des gravures rupestres paléolithiques, ce qui confère une importance au bien, les séquences les plus anciennes étant absentes ailleurs en Europe.

Cependant, une analyse détaillée de l'ensemble des images de Gobustan reste à réaliser et une séquence à établir ; il n'est donc pas possible pour l'instant de tirer ces conclusions et d'affirmer avec certitude la présence d'images du Paléolithique.

On trouve en Azerbaïdjan trois autres grands ensembles d'art rupestres :

- La péninsule d'Apchéron près de Bakou, où quelque 200 images de chasse, de rites culturels, d'hommes et d'animaux sont sculptées à la manière de bas-reliefs dans des blocs de calcaire.
- La région de Kalbajar, au pied du mont Delidagh, à l'ouest, où une expédition a enregistré en 1967 des scènes de chasse et d'agriculture, et des images de cervidés et de léopards. Au total, cela représente environ 4 000 images rupestres datées de l'âge du Bronze.
- Au sud-ouest, à Nakhchivan, à 60 km de la ville d'Ordubad, sur le plus haut pic du Petit Caucase-Gapjik, se trouvent des milliers d'images pétroglyphes datant apparemment du VII^e au I^{er} millénaire av. J.-C. Celles-ci dépeignent des hommes, des chèvres, des bœufs, des bouquetins et d'autres images animales, ainsi que différents « signes écrits ».

Le dossier suggère que, en termes de densité des pétroglyphes, de continuité culturelle, de variété et de préservation des images, ils ne sont pas comparables à Gobustan. Toutefois, l'ICOMOS est d'avis qu'une plus ample exploration de la région d'Asie centrale pourrait révéler des complémentarités avec Gobustan.

En termes de technique et de style, les bœufs de Gobustan présentent de nombreuses similitudes avec les images rupestres de la vallée de Foz Côa (Portugal) et les gravures sur os de Laugerie-Basse (France). Les images de femmes tatouées de Gobustan présentent une certaine ressemblance avec les images de sites de Russie, de Moravie et d'Afrique du Nord, tandis que certaines images de la séquence des chasseurs primitifs et notamment les figures d'animaux de grande taille manifestent des analogies stylistiques avec des exemples d'Europe occidentale. Une analyse comparative spécifique entre les sites d'art rupestre de la réserve de Gobustan et l'art rupestre du Levant espagnol a été réalisée par le docteur G. Burger (université de Tübingen, Allemagne, 1999).

Pendant l'âge du Bronze et l'âge du Fer, les images rupestres se rattachent à d'autres cultures autour de la mer Noire, et particulièrement à la « culture de Kurgan ». À cet égard, il serait intéressant de conduire des travaux supplémentaires afin de comparer les découvertes et les

images de Gobustan avec des sites de la côte orientale de la mer Caspienne.

Incontestablement, la région de Gobustan abrite un corpus majeur d'art rupestre, aussi bien pour le nombre que pour la densité des sites. Peu d'exemples présentent une séquence aussi longue que Gobustan. Les horizons de la séquence des chasseurs primitifs sont concentrés à Gobustan, ce qui pourrait indiquer qu'il s'agissait d'une zone de transit le long des grandes routes migratoires d'Eurasie.

Toutefois, en l'état actuel des connaissances, il est difficile de situer précisément Gobustan dans le contexte global de l'Asie centrale. Néanmoins, l'échelle et la portée des images, la possibilité de nouvelles découvertes sur une zone plus vaste, le lien avec d'autres sites d'Azerbaïdjan et la vaste zone de Kurgan, et les images de chasse primitive particulières de Gobustan se combinent pour lui conférer une très grande valeur.

L'ICOMOS a reconnu la nécessité de conduire d'autres études thématiques sur l'art rupestre, notamment en Asie centrale, et un programme d'étude global est en préparation.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'analyse comparative actuelle reflète l'état actuel des connaissances.

Justification de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle

L'État partie justifie la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du paysage culturel d'art rupestre de Gobustan par :

- son riche paysage culturel, qui reflète des millénaires d'évolution de l'humanité ;
- la qualité et la concentration exceptionnelles des grandes gravures rupestres, et leur état de conservation ;
- les traces d'habitation du Paléolithique supérieur au Moyen Âge ;
- le caractère de carrefour de Gobustan, à la croisée des chemins entre l'Europe et l'Asie, qui apporte des traces des racines des civilisations d'Europe comme d'Asie.

Critères selon lesquels l'inscription est proposée

Le bien est proposé pour inscription sur la base des critères ii, iii et vi.

Critère ii : L'État partie avance ce critère par rapport aux images du Paléolithique. Il suggère également que le bien manifeste un éventail exceptionnel de gravures rupestres.

L'ICOMOS considère que les informations sur le contexte des gravures rupestres sont insuffisantes pour décider si elles reflètent ou non un échange.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère n'a pas été justifié.

Critère iii : L'État partie justifie ce critère au motif que l'art rupestre sur le bien s'étend sur plus de 40 000 ans.

L'ICOMOS considère que les gravures rupestres sont un témoignage exceptionnel sur un mode de vie disparu, particulièrement par la manière dont elles représentent graphiquement des activités associées à la pêche et à la chasse, qui reflètent une époque où le climat et la végétation de la région différaient beaucoup de ce qu'ils sont aujourd'hui.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère est justifié.

Critère vi : L'État partie justifie ce critère au motif que les sanctuaires anciens sur le site étaient des lieux de culte.

L'ICOMOS considère qu'avec plus d'éléments sur les lieux de culte, leur disposition, leur utilisation et leur rapport aux montagnes, ce critère pourrait être justifié. Actuellement la proposition d'inscription n'apporte pas suffisamment de détails sur les croyances et les lieux de culte pour permettre de les considérer comme exceptionnels.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère n'a pas été justifié.

L'ICOMOS considère que la valeur universelle exceptionnelle a été démontrée et que le bien proposé pour inscription répond au critère iii et pourrait justifier les critères ii et vi.

4. FACTEURS AFFECTANT LE BIEN

Pressions liées au développement

Il n'y aurait aucun risque dans la zone proposée pour inscription, dans la mesure où personne n'y vit.

En 2003, on a noté une menace de développement externe liée à la construction d'un oléoduc à l'angle nord-est de la zone tampon du bien. L'oléoduc fait partie de la ligne qui relie l'Azerbaïdjan à la Turquie, administrée par le gouvernement américain. La tranchée fait 10 m de large et 4 m de profondeur. L'oléoduc est désormais terminé et, pendant sa construction, on a identifié d'autres sites archéologiques. L'oléoduc a donc affecté l'intégrité du bien, en endommageant des vestiges archéologiques encore non répertoriés. Il semble qu'il aurait été tout à fait justifié de détourner cet oléoduc pour le faire passer plus loin du bien proposé pour inscription.

Le développement côtier depuis Bakou est une autre menace liée au développement. Pour l'instant, il s'étend depuis Bakou, au-delà du bien, mais il n'y a pas actuellement de développement entre la route principale et le versant de la falaise - c'est-à-dire les abords du bien. Cependant, la zone tampon proposée ne couvre pas cette zone (voir ci-après).

Manque de connaissance du bien

Il s'agit là d'un problème délicat, étant donné l'étendue du bien. La diffusion des connaissances ainsi que l'implication de la population locale semblent des éléments essentiels dans une stratégie visant à obtenir le plus large soutien pour le bien et essayer ainsi de le mettre sous la

protection de la communauté. Le plan d'action traite ce problème.

Pressions environnementales

Le changement climatique et la pollution de l'air sont cités parmi les facteurs d'érosion, un argument de plus en faveur d'une limitation du développement industriel autour du bien.

À proximité de la prison proche du bien, une décharge pose un autre problème, en ce qu'elle empêche toute amélioration de cette zone.

Catastrophes naturelles et préparation aux risques

La principale menace émane du Kaniza dans la zone tampon, un volcan en activité dont la dernière éruption remonte à 1998. Il est clair qu'on ne peut pas faire beaucoup pour atténuer les dégâts causés par les éruptions.

Pressions liées aux visiteurs et au tourisme

Pour l'instant, les visiteurs sont en faible nombre (de 2 002 à 7 260 par an, d'après une estimation réalisée sur la période 1998-2005). Les touristes sont normalement accompagnés par des guides. On dit toutefois que les visites scolaires peuvent provoquer des dégradations par graffiti. Étant donné la grande étendue du bien, il est difficile d'accompagner en permanence les visiteurs.

Les véhicules à roues, qui pouvaient auparavant s'approcher des gravures, ont causé certains dégâts, mais des mesures de limitation de l'accès sont désormais en place.

En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère que le principal risque pesant sur le bien est une future augmentation du nombre de visiteurs sans ressources suffisantes pour limiter l'accès au bien et avant qu'une étude plus détaillée ait été entreprise pour identifier les zones sensibles dans tout le bien proposé pour inscription.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION ET GESTION

Délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon

Les délimitations sont linéaires et tracées de façon à englober plus ou moins les principaux sites connus, en trois zones distinctes autour des hauteurs du bien. Toutefois, il est reconnu que la zone plus vaste est inexplorée, et ce, même à l'intérieur du bien proposé pour inscription. On ne peut dire que la délimitation représente l'étendue de l'art rupestre ni même sa partie principale. L'ICOMOS considère que les délimitations devront être reconsidérées une fois que l'on disposera de plus d'informations sur l'envergure et l'étendue du bien.

La zone tampon comprend la plus grande partie de la réserve de Gobustan - une zone protégée. La zone tampon n'englobe pas la zone entre la grande route de Bakou et la façade rocheuse, actuellement sans développement mais soumise à des pressions de développement au nord et au sud. L'ICOMOS considère qu'il convient d'envisager d'élargir la zone tampon pour inclure la façade rocheuse et

les plaines entre la falaise et la route principale, celles-ci formant les abords du bien.

L'oléoduc récemment construit coupe la zone tampon et empiète donc dans une certaine mesure sur la zone protégée plus vaste.

Bien que la définition des délimitations et de la zone tampon appropriées nécessite plus d'étude, l'ICOMOS considère que les délimitations de la zone principale et de la zone tampon sont très probablement insuffisantes pour englober les principaux éléments de l'art rupestre et assurer une protection appropriée.

Droit de propriété

Le bien proposé pour inscription, zone tampon comprise, appartient à l'État.

Protection

Protection légale

La réserve historique et artistique d'État de Gobustan est protégée par un décret de 1966.

Les sites archéologiques compris dans le bien proposé pour inscription sont inclus dans la réserve.

Cette loi de protection générale est renforcée par des lois concernant la protection de monuments historiques et culturels et leur utilisation (1978 et 1998), et par des décrets concernant la mise en œuvre de ces lois (1998) et les autorisations spéciales de fouilles (2000).

Un décret de 1950 a placé le bien sous le contrôle des autorités nationales et a fermé toutes les carrières de pierre de la zone.

L'ICOMOS considère que les mesures de protection du bien sont appropriées.

Conservation

Historique de la conservation

Peu de travaux formels ont jusqu'à présent été entrepris sur le bien en termes de conservation active. Au lieu de cela, des mesures de conservation préventives ont été mises en place, grâce à la protection du bien par décret et par la présence de gardes sur le bien. Les travaux réalisés ne sont pas actuellement jugés comme étant parfaits, du fait du manque de formation du personnel - un point qui doit être traité dans le plan d'action.

État actuel de conservation

Le climat semi-désertique sec et le degré d'isolement de la zone favorisent tous deux sa protection. Toutefois, on note des différences entre la zone de Boyukdash et les deux autres, accessibles par la route. Depuis 2003, une étude détaillée de l'état de conservation des images du site a été menée à bien.

Mesures de conservation actives

Les gardiens sont chargés d'inspecter régulièrement la zone mais, compte tenu de la taille du bien et du nombre des images, c'est une tâche quasiment impossible. Pendant la première mission d'évaluation, on a noté que des bergers aidaient à la surveillance : c'est une façon très positive d'impliquer la population locale dans la gestion du bien et semblerait être le seul moyen possible pour élargir le suivi sur le bien.

En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère qu'il faut accorder une attention toute particulière à la mise en place de mesures de conservation actives sur le bien.

Gestion

La gestion courante du bien est sous la responsabilité du directeur de la réserve historique et artistique d'État de Gobustan. Un comité scientifique consultatif a été nommé pour suivre la mise en œuvre des politiques de conservation et de gestion pour le bien proposé pour inscription. Il s'agit de « Azerberpa », sous l'égide de l'Institut de recherche scientifique pour la restauration des monuments architecturaux.

31 personnes travaillent dans la réserve, dont sept chercheurs, cinq gardiens, deux guides touristiques et un responsable de la surveillance du musée. Depuis 1996, cinq membres du personnel ont assisté à des ateliers sur la gestion du tourisme et du musée organisés par le ministère de la Culture d'Azerbaïdjan.

Un plan de gestion stratégique a été soumis en février 2004. Il n'exposait pas d'actions détaillées découlant des objectifs. Ces derniers, concernant l'archéologie, comprenaient la nécessité d'établir une carte archéologique et de préparer un cadre pour les travaux archéologiques à venir. Le plan reconnaissait que le financement pour réaliser ces objectifs était un élément essentiel et son groupe directeur a été chargé de rechercher des sources de financement auprès de partenaires potentiels au niveau national et international.

En 2005, un dossier de proposition d'inscription révisé a été produit, avec un plan d'action élaboré avec l'aide d'experts norvégiens en mars 2006. Ce plan a été soumis en complément d'information du plan de gestion précédent. Il comprend trois volets secondaires :

1. Documentation et conservation
2. Gestion, surveillance et entretien
3. Présentation : formation, information et tourisme

Des stratégies de gestion sont énumérées et des actions proposées. L'objectif le plus important sera l'établissement et le développement du musée de la réserve de Gobustan, base opérationnelle et effective pour les travaux futurs dans la région, y compris la gestion, le suivi et l'entretien. Le futur musée et centre de visiteurs fonctionnera à la fois comme une base pour la présentation et comme une base pour la recherche.

L'ICOMOS juge important que toutes les données relatives à la réserve, qu'il s'agisse de documentation ou d'objets issus des fouilles, soient rassemblées au centre et

conservées en dépôts dans des conditions climatiques et de sécurité appropriées. Des archives modernes et professionnelles et le stockage des anciens enregistrements, photographies et croquis du bien doivent être mis en place.

Documentation

Dans le plan d'action, un programme de documentation pour les données archéologiques, géologiques, botaniques et zoologiques est exposé. Il possède des dimensions à court et à long terme. Le programme comprend aussi des ateliers internationaux qui permettront au personnel d'accroître ses compétences et d'établir des réseaux.

Beaucoup des gravures et des sites archéologiques connus ont été cartographiés par GPS et enregistrés dans une base de données. Ce travail a été effectué depuis l'arrivée d'un équipement informatique en 2004, l'idée étant d'enregistrer toutes les images du bien par cette méthode. C'est une amélioration par rapport à la dernière mission d'évaluation de 2004. Cependant, aucune carte du bien montrant la disposition de l'art rupestre ou des sites archéologiques n'a été fournie avec la proposition d'inscription.

Conservation

Le plan d'action propose qu'une documentation des « dommages » soit entreprise préalablement à toute activité de conservation. Le plan souligne que l'une des raisons expliquant la médiocrité des tâches de conservation réside dans les compétences limitées du personnel. L'une des tâches primordiales sera donc d'accroître les compétences.

Une partie des façades et des blocs rocheux, particulièrement sur le plateau inférieur de Boyukdash, semblent envahis par le lichen, ce qui rend très difficile de suivre correctement les procédures de documentation par le traçage ou par la photo. Le plan de gestion n'évoque pas ce problème, qui pourrait être résolu en nettoyant la surface à l'éthanol, en la recouvrant un certain temps ou en recourant à d'autres méthodes.

Présentation : formation, information et tourisme

Le troisième volet du plan aborde des sujets concernant à la fois la formation interne du personnel, la recherche et la présentation au public. Parmi les aspects importants figurent l'amélioration de la présentation du bien avec des panneaux et des guides qualifiés, ainsi que des recherches complémentaires. Les fouilles archéologiques se poursuivent depuis longtemps dans la région et beaucoup de données utilisables ont été recueillies. Le développement du tourisme est un sujet cher aux autorités azerbaïdjanaises. Les stratégies d'information et de présentation ainsi que les actions joueront un rôle important dans ce développement.

Les plans de développement des installations touristiques tels qu'hôtels et restaurants sont prévus dans la région de Gobustan. L'ICOMOS juge important de souligner que ce genre d'infrastructure doit rester en dehors de la zone tampon du bien.

Ressources

Le plan d'action est très ambitieux et vise à résoudre la plupart des problèmes en dix ans. Toutefois, son succès dépendra du soutien financier du gouvernement et des acteurs internationaux, qui n'est pas encore en place. La responsabilité financière de la réserve incombait jusqu'à présent au département de la culture du pouvoir exécutif de Bakou, mais le ministère de la Culture et du Tourisme assumera la responsabilité des ressources financières dans l'année à venir.

Sous l'égide du pouvoir exécutif de Bakou, le département de la culture allouait des budgets annuels compris entre 19 000 et 24 000 dollars US entre 1999 et 2002. De surcroît, le bien est autorisé à conserver les recettes des entrées et des ventes.

L'ICOMOS a demandé à l'État partie l'assurance que le ministère de la Culture et du Tourisme s'engage à mettre en œuvre le plan d'action et fournisse les ressources nécessaires pour lancer immédiatement cette mise en œuvre, en particulier des actions à court terme relatives à la documentation, à la formation, à la conservation, à l'interprétation et à la gestion des visiteurs tels qu'exposés dans les volets du plan.

En réponse, l'État partie a déclaré que le ministère de la Culture et du Tourisme s'était adressé au gouvernement de la République d'Azerbaïdjan pour allouer des ressources financières du budget de l'État au paysage culturel d'art rupestre de Gobustan. Toutefois, aucune assurance n'a été donnée quant au respect de cette requête.

L'ICOMOS considère que le plan d'action analyse bien les principales questions affectant le bien et suggère des actions appropriées pour les résoudre. Le plan d'action ne bénéficie pour l'instant d'aucun financement. L'ICOMOS considère qu'un engagement est nécessaire pour mettre en œuvre le plan, afin de compléter la documentation, de mettre en place une conservation et une assistance technique appropriées, d'améliorer la compétence du personnel et de réaliser les travaux de conservation urgents nécessaires.

6. SUIVI

Le dossier de proposition d'inscription indique que le dernier inventaire a été entrepris en 2001, mais aussi que depuis 2004 le personnel travaille à la création d'une base de données GIS pour le bien, grâce à des ordinateurs nouvellement installés.

Un suivi des visiteurs et du microclimat du bien est régulièrement réalisé. Récemment, on a commencé à comparer l'état de conservation du bien avec son état ces 50-60 dernières années au moyen de photographies.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Depuis 2004, on observe des améliorations, dans le sens d'une gestion plus professionnelle de stratégies de documentation et d'un engagement au développement d'une base de données. Qui plus est, un plan d'action a été élaboré ; il traite des besoins du bien et énonce des actions à court et à long terme. Les actions sont envisagées pour l'avenir et, si elles sont mises en œuvre, elles conduiront à

une meilleure compréhension de ce qui existe, des valeurs, des méthodes appropriées de conservation et de gestion et à une meilleure formation du personnel.

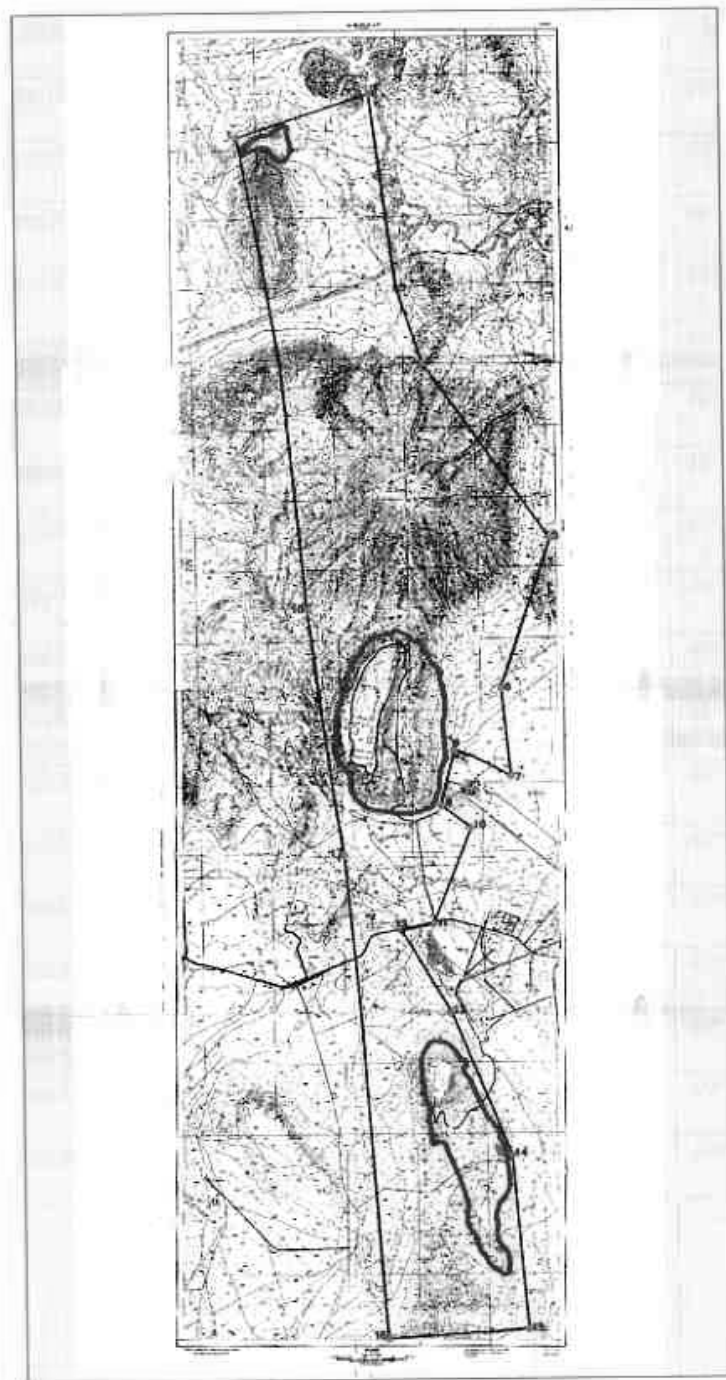
La question cruciale est de savoir s'il y aura des ressources pour suivre le plan d'action. De l'avis général, il semble que tous les échelons du ministère de la Culture et du Tourisme ainsi que la Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO et la Fondation Heydar-Aliyev apporteront leur soutien au développement et au financement.

Cependant, l'État partie n'a pris à ce jour aucun engagement ferme concernant la mise à disposition des ressources nécessaires pour mettre en œuvre ce plan d'action.

Recommandation concernant l'inscription

L'ICOMOS recommande que la proposition d'inscription du paysage culturel d'art rupestre de Gobustan, sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial soit **renvoyée** à l'État partie de l'Azerbaïdjan, afin de lui permettre de :

- mettre en place le soutien à la mise en œuvre du plan d'action élaboré dans le cadre du plan de gestion, et plus particulièrement indiquer un délai pour la documentation du bien ;
- considérer la révision des limites de la zone principale à la lumière d'une évaluation plus détaillée de l'envergure et de l'étendue du bien ;
- considérer l'extension de la zone tampon afin de couvrir les abords du bien depuis l'est.



- WH Site Area
- WHS Buffer Zone/Gobustan Reserve
- ⚡ Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Sites

Plan indiquant les délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription



Vue générale du site



La Grotte Ana Zaga à Boyukdash



Représentations anthropomorphiques à Boyukdash



Représentations de taureaux à Boyukdash

