

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

On the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore World Heritage Site and the Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT)

The World Heritage Committee (WHC) has released its Draft Decision on the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore WHS and the Orange Metro Line under construction inside the 61m protective buffer zone of the property. This decision will be finalized through a vote of member states in the upcoming WHC meeting in July 2017.

The Orange Line Train poses an irreversible and permanent threat to the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore World Heritage Site, which may be taken off the World Heritage register permanently if the project goes ahead as planned.

The 4th International Civil Society Forum on World Heritage at Risk submits the following to the World Heritage Committee:

The OLMT will irreversibly compromise the authenticity and integrity of the property and will be a potential threat to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

1. That the full impact of the project on the OUV of the Shalamar Gardens will be highly adverse and goes beyond vibration and visual impacts.
2. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) provided to the WHC by the Pakistan State Party is not in line with international standards and fails to address the full range of impacts of the project.
3. It is not clear on what grounds the State Party decided that the OLMT would have no negative impacts on the OUV of the property, nor on what basis the Punjab Department of Archaeology issued a Non-Objection Certificate for this project.
4. In the absence of any alternative solutions proposed by the State Party, it recommended that the Committee immediately inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
5. that the Committee request the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring Mission to review the situation on the ground and make recommendations.
6. that the Committee request the State Party to immediately stop construction work on the OLMT where it approaches Shalamar Gardens.

The seriousness of the threat posed to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Shalamar Gardens by the Orange Line is substantiated in the text of Draft Decision 41COM 7B.96, the World Heritage Committee:

- Decides to inscribe the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Urges the State Party to immediately suspend without delay any further work in the immediate vicinity of Shalamar Gardens
- Requests the state party to identify an alternative location for the Orange Line
- Deeply Regrets that the Reactive Monitoring Mission was not invited (given visas by the Pak Govt) as requested by the World Heritage Committee.
- Expresses utmost concern that the Dept of Archaeology Punjab issued a non objection certificate for the Orange Line
- Takes into account that the Pakistan Government has not complied with the requests made by the Committee, nor proposed any clear way forward
- Considers the fact that construction work undertaken and planned for the Orange Metro Line represents a threat to the OUV of the property.
- Deeply regrets that no exhaustive impact assessment was undertaken for the Orange Line Project or Visual Impact Study as requested by the World Heritage Committee.
- Requests the state party to carry out a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment in line with WHC/ICOMOS guidelines including a Visual Impact Study to inform the search for alternative locations
- Expresses utmost concern that the Supreme Court will likely issue a decision on the Orange Line Metro Project before the requested Reactive Mission has been given a chance to visit the property and requests the Pakistan Government to issue the necessary visas.

It is clear from the world's highest authority on heritage protection that Shalamar and other heritage sites will be irreversibly damaged if this project continues as planned.

Non-governmental organizations and scientists participating in the 4th International Civil Society Forum on World Heritage at Risk strongly urge the Pakistan Government to recognise its responsibility to the people and heritage of Pakistan and modify the Orange Line project to ensure heritage protection. We urge the government to honour the country's international commitments to the UN and reconfirm our belief that no government has the mandate or right to deprive future generations of their fundamental right to their heritage and history.

Krakow, 1 July 2017