Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in AFGHANISTAN

Risk assessment mission to the World Heritage property of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (2017)

The property “Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam” was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger in 2002. Located in a remote mountainous area of Afghanistan with limited accessibility, the Minaret and surrounding archaeological area are exposed to risks induced by both natural and human-induced hazards. In July 2017, the World Heritage Committee stressed that it is of the utmost importance that a realistic Conservation Action Plan be established and implemented for the property. In this framework, the Heritage Emergency Fund supported an activity aimed at fulfilling the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee, through the funding of a mission to conduct an onsite survey, documentation and risk assessment of the property, in order to inform the preparation of the Conservation Action Plan. The mission took place from 20 to 24 September 2017 in close cooperation with the Afghan authorities. The findings of the mission have framed the preparation of a concept design to repair the roof of the Minaret. A multi-media exhibition of photos, videos, 3D data and drawings of the site dating back to 1967 – the date of the first known scientific survey of the Minaret – was presented in Kabul in August 2018.