PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

The archive of cuneiform clay tablets from Boğazköy (ancient Hattusas) presents the only extant recorded material about the civilization of Hittites, one of the most powerful political organisations of the Middle East during the 2nd millennium B.C. Most of our knowledge relating to that period of history in Asia Minor and partially in the Middle East come from the cuneiform tablets found at Boğazköy. This archive that totals up nearly 25,000 tablets includes the records of social, political, commercial, military, religious, legislative and artistic lives of the era.

The archive includes tablets of Treaty of Quadesh signed between Hittites and Egypt. This well-known treaty of “eternal peace” guaranteed peace and security throughout the area.

The archive includes tablets of many literary works, chiefly of an epic and mythological character; some of the most important of these tell the story of the exploits and quarrels of the gods, which in their essential features differ little from those of other Middle Eastern peoples.

The Hittite civilisation while being linked with that of the Akkadians and Sumerians and was not free from Egyptian and Hurrian influences, it seems also that, in its turn, Hittite arts and civilization had some influences on the arts of the Eagean.

1. Identity and Location

1.1 Name of documentary heritage
The Hittite cuneiform Tablets from Boğazköy.

1.2 Country
Turkey

1.3 State, province or region
Istanbul and Ankara

1.4 Address
A- Archaeological Museums
34400 Sultanahmet / Istambul - Turkey
Tel: +90 212 520 7740
Fax: +90 212 527 4300
2. **Legal Information**

2.1 Owner (name and contact details)
The Ministry of Culture

2.2 Custodian (name and contact details)
a- Istanbul Archaeological Museums
b- Ankara Anatolian Civilisations Museum

2.3 Legal status (if different from 2.1)
   
   (a) category of ownership (e.g. public, corporate or private)
   Public property

   (b) details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage
   It's under the protection of the Preservation of Cultural and Natural Properties Law of 1983 no: 2863 and 1987 No: 3386.

   (c) accessibility
   With the permission of the Ministry of Culture, the General Directorate of Monuments and Museums.

   (d) copyright status

2.4 Responsible administration

details should be given of the mechanism or organization already established, or to be established, to ensure the proper management of the documentary heritage

A- Directories of Istanbul Archaeological Museums
B- The Directory of Ankara Anatolian Civilisations Museum

3. **Identification**

3.1 Description and inventory
The Hittites, who are usually thought to come from the Caucasus to Central Anatolia, established a powerful state within the bend of the Kızılırmak (ancient Halys). Their capital was Hattusas (Boğazköy). During the 2nd millennium B.C., the Hittite Empire became one of the two super states of the period and ruled in Anatolia for nearly 600 years. The civilisation of the Hittites was most advanced in those aspects, which can be referred to the ruling caste, namely in military genius, political organisation, legislation, and the administration of justice.

The Hittite state had a federal structure, and the central government headed by the king who was at the same time, the commander of the army, supreme judicial authority, and the chief priest, though he was never actually deified. In fact, the Hittite king, for the first time in the history of the ancient east, possessed no divine attributes.

Another peculiar feature of the Hittite monarchy is the strongly independent position of the queen. She played a prominent part in affairs of state, and was regularly associated with her husband in all state documents. The text of the Quadesh Treaty testifies that she possessed her own official seal.

From the cuneiform tablets found at Boğazköy, it was possible to distinguish the existence of eight different languages, which indicate the polyglot nature of the Hittite Empire. Yet two languages only –Hittite and Akkadian – were used by the Hittite kings for their official documents. The Hittite language was of the Indo-European origin and used extensively. The Akkadian, on the other hand, was a well-known Semitic language. It was widely used in the Near East for diplomatic correspondence and documents of an international character, and the Hittite kings followed this custom when dealing with their southern and eastern neighbours. Many Hittite treaties and letters were therefore wholly in Akkadian, among them the famous Quadesh Treaty which is known as a treaty of "eternal peace" since it guaranteed the peace and security throughout the area for a considerable length of time.

So far as the religion is concerned the Hittites were polytheist, and it proves the composite nature of their civilisation. Together with their own gods and goddesses they had the deities with Hurrian and Mesopotamian origin; so much so that the Hittites were known as the people of the thousand gods.

As for the military power, the Hittites had a well-disciplined, well-equipped, well-trained regular army. The infantry of the Hittite army were more numerous than the charioteers, but in open battle, which the Hittites generally sought, they played a subordinate part. There was no cavalry, though occasionally messengers on horseback were used to speed up the dispatching of messages.

The wars were terminated by signing well-prepared treaties. The most famous among them was the Quadesh Treaty which was known, as indicated above, the treaty of the "eternal peace". Because the keynote of such treaties was the establishment of a relation of "brotherhood". This implies the impossibility of war between the two powers and an alliance for offence and defence. Consequently the Quadesh Treaty was a treaty of eternal peace which guaranteed the peace and security throughout the area.

The text of the treaty was in Akkadian and had been inscribed on clay tablets in cuneiform. (The tablets are exhibited in Istanbul Archaeological Museum at present) The copy of the text was inscribed on a silver plate and sent to Egypt where it somehow was lost completely. The text on the walls of Karnak Temple in Egypt is in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Due to the international importance of its depicting the "eternal peace", the copy of the Quadesh Treaty adorns the walls of the United Nations Building, USA.

The Boğazköy archive consists of nearly 25,000 cuneiform clay tablets. They are mostly on political, military, social, commercial, religious and artistic lives of Hittites and the neighbouring nations. The archive also includes sets tablets on law codes, national and international treaties and correspondence.
The tablets are divided into groups according to their subject coverage, and are kept in wooden shelves.

3.2 Bibliographic/Registration details
The transcriptions and classification of all the tablets have been completed. The negatives and photographs are available.

3.3 Visual documentation, if appropriate (for example, photographs or a video of the documentary heritage)
Ankara Anatolian Civilisations Museum has begun to record the tablets on CD-ROM.

3.4 History

1834 - Charles Texier found the ruins of Hattusas on the 28th of July. He made the sketches of the relieves of Yazilikaya (open air Pantheon of Hattusas) and the city plan. He thought he found the Median City Pteira.

1836 - William J. Hamilton came to Hattusas for a day and made drawings. The drawings included the plan of the Temple I. He thought it was, a Galatian/Tavium Roman city

1858 - Also, Heinrich Barth and Andreas Mordtmann drew the ruins of Temple I and they excavated Small Room B in Yazilikaya and brought to light the relieves.

1864 - Gorge Perrot, Edmond Guillaume, and Jules Delbert drew the relieves of Yazilikaya more detailed, and they first published the photographs of inscriptions of Yazilikaya, Yenicekale, and Nisantas.

1864 - Henry J. van Lennep drew Yazilikaya again.

1882 - Karl Humann made a topographical plan and took plaster copies of many relieves of Yazilikaya.

1893-94 - Ernest Chantre made short time excavations in Great Temple, Büyükkale (Great Castle), and Yazilikaya. He published the first cuneiform tablets from Hattusas.

1906 - Hugo Winckler and Theodore Makridy made excavations Büyükkale (Great Castle). 2500 cuneiform tablet fragments have been found; and so it was absolutely understood that this site was Hattusas, capital of Hittites.

1907 - The first excavation by German Archaeological Institute: This first excavation was directed by Winckler, Makridy, and Otto Puchstein. They prepared a detailed topographical map and made the first complete documentation of the ruins with many plans and photographs.

1915 - Bedrich Hrozný deciphered the Hittite language with the help of cuneiform tablets found in Hattusas

1931-39, and from 1952 to the present - The excavations are carried on up to today by German Archaeological Institute under the directorship of Kurt Bittel (till 1977), Peter Neve (until 1993), and Jürgen Seeher from 1994.
3.5 Bibliography: Please indicate up to three published sources describing the proposed documentary heritage.

A - Serial Publications:

- Keilschrifttexte aus Boğazköy (Berlin) 1,1923 – 41,1999
- Keilschrift-Urkunden aus Boğazköy (Berlin) I,1921 – LX,1990

B - Selected Monographs:

- H. Otten, Die hethitischen historischen Quellen und die altorientalische Chronologie. Abhandlungen der Geistes und Sozialwissenschaftlichen Klasse. 1968, Nr. 3
- A. Goetze, Kizzuwatna and the Problem of Hittite Geography. New Haven 1940
- H. Otten, Puduhepa, eine hethitische Königin in ihren Textzeugnissen. Mainz 1975
(Thousands of scientific articles have also been published on these subjects.)

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Prof. Dr. Hayri Ertem
Oran Şehri 1. Cad.
D.1 Blok No: 703
Çankaya – Ankara-Turkey

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Otten
Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur
Kommission für den Alten Orient
Geschwister-Scholl Str. 2
D-55131 Mainz - Germany

Prof. Dr. Harry A. Hoffner
University of Chicago
Oriental Institute
1155 East 56th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 - USA

Prof. Dr. John David Hawkins
University of London
School of Oriental and African Studies
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square
GB-London WC1H 0XG - UK
4. Management plan – see below Annex 1

The archives are under the management of the museums where they are kept. The museums work under the administration of Directorate General of Monuments and Museums.

5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria

5.1 Assessment of the documentary heritage against each criterion described in Annex 2.

Anatolia, forming a bridge between the two continents, has been universally accepted as the cradle of many civilizations. The Hittite Empire which ruled nearly 600 years in the 2nd millennium BC in the area, was a strong power of military genius, political organization, legislation, and the administration of justice. They were concerned primarily with the preservation of law and order. Their military, political, social and commercial relations with the neighbouring countries were all recorded and kept in archives meticulously. Therefore any kind of research on the people and the states of the area during that period, has to be based on the data recorded on those tablets. For instance, the tablets on Quadesh Treaty is important because of its emphasis on “eternal peace”, while the tablets on Law Code which contains many clauses on treating the servants as persons and protecting their lives and bodily integrity, cannot be ignored so far as the human rights are concerned. The Boğazköy Archive sheds light on not only that area and period, but also the history and the civilisation of the human kind as a whole.

5.2 Contextual assessment including an assessment of the importance of a series of documents, the importance of a series of documents in a particular setting, and the assessment against other documentary heritage

Boğazköy archive of cuneiform tablets is the only source of information relating to Hittites as well as to the social, political, commercial activities of the area.

5.3 An evaluation of the authenticity

All the documents have been found in the Great Palace and in the Great Temple during the excavations made from 1906 till 1970. Therefore they are authentic.

5.4 An assessment of rarity (if appropriate)

The palace and the temple archives of Hattusas, the capital city, which have been completely excavated, consist of many political and diplomatic documents. The documents on religion, law, political and daily life enlighten the life style of the Hittite period. The correspondence and other documents in the archive have a universal importance since they contain important information not only on the Hittite Empire, but also on the political and civil life of other Near Eastern states and cities. The uniqueness of this large archive is much emphasised since only at three places, excluding Hattusas, tablets have been found in small groups. This shows that the event of archiving the documents focused in the capital, and all the important state documents were kept there. Among these, in addition to its rarity, the text of the “Quadesh Treaty” has a great importance being the first surviving written document signed after a battle.
6. Consultation

6.1 Details of consultation about the nomination with the:

(a) Owner
The Ministry of Culture

(b) Custodian
a-The Directorates of Istanbul Archaeological Museums
b-The Directorate of Ankara Anatolian Civilizations Museum.

7. Nominator

7.1 Name
1-Dr. Alpay Pasinli
2-Dr. Jürgen Seeher

7.2 Relationship to documentary heritage
1- The Directorate General of Monuments and Museums
2- The Director of Boğazköy (Hattusas) excavations

7.3 Contact person (if appropriate)

1 - Directorate of Istanbul Archaeological Museums
Tel : ++90 212 520 77 40
Fax : ++90 212 527 43 00

2 - Directorate of Ankara Anatolian Civilizations Museum
Tel : ++90 312 324 31 60
Fax : ++90 312 311 28 39

3 - German Archaeological Institute in Istanbul
Tel : ++90 212 252 34 90
Fax : ++90 212 252 34 91
E-mail: daiist @ attglobal.net

PART B –SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8. Assessment of Risk

8.1 Nature and scope of threats to the documentary heritage. The information provided in the General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage (CII-95/WS-11), Chapter 7 Section 2, will assist in assessing the risk to the documentary heritage.

- political climate :
  There isn’t any problem regarding to this matter.
- environmental conditions: The archive is not affected by environmental conditions as they are kept in the museums.

- physical conditions: Good

- preservation budget: From the appropriations of the museums.

- extent and nature of use: They are only used for exhibition in the museums and for scientific studies.

9. Preservation Assessment

9.1 An assessment of the preservation of the documentary heritage should include the following considerations. The information provided in the General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage, Chapter 7, Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, will assist in conducting this assessment.

- Present physical state: The tablets are well preserved and looked after.

- History of preservation Since 1906, all the tablets are under protection in the mentioned museums.

- Current preservation policy in relation to proposed nominated documentary heritage There isn't any problem regarding preservation.

- Person or organization responsible for preservation 
  - Istanbul Archaeological Museums
  - Ankara Anatolian Civilisations Museum
Fig.3 - Hattusas - King's Gate

Fig.4 - Great Palace - Reconstruction
Fig. 5 - The ruins of Great Palace

Fig. 6 - The ruins of Great Palace
Fig. 7 - Great temple - Archive rooms

Fig. 8 - The plan of Great Temple
Fig.9 - Great Temple - Reconstruction

Fig.10 - Yazilikaya open air sanctuary - General view
Fig. 11 - Yazilikaya - Relieves of weather-god Teshub and sun-goddess Hepat

Fig. 12 - The text of the Qadesh Treaty written on a clay tablet
Fig. 13 - Fragments of cuneiform Tablets

Fig. 14 - Cuneiform tablet with a hieroglyph seal stamp at the center
Fig. 15 - Cuneiform tablet

Fig. 16 - Cuneiform tablet with a hieroglyph seal stamps at the center
Fig. 17 - Tablet with a hieroglyph seal stamp and its reverse

Fig. 18 - Fragments of cuneiform tablet published in 1893 for the first time
Fig. 19 - Cuneiform Bronze tablet, discovered in 1986 is a treaty signed in 1240 B.C. between Hittite King Tuthalia and the king of a neighbouring country.
Fig. 20 - Cuneiform text about a festival celebrated for the god Teshub and the goddess Hepat.
Fig. 21 - A cuneiform soothsaying tablet in the shape of liver.

Fig. 22 - Cuneiform tablet about the discoveries of King Hattusilis I (in Hittite and Akkadian).
Fig. 23 - A fragment of a cuneiform tablet about the Hittite laws.
Fig. 24 - Cuneiform tablet about the construction of a palace.
Fig. 25 - Letter written by Egyptian Queen Napterea to Hittite Queen Puduhepa. One of the fragments of this letter in Akkadian was bought in an auction in England a few days ago, and was united with the other fragment.

Fig. 26 - Cuneiform tablet. Front and reverse surfaces.