



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Directorate of Local Governance
Bamyan Province

It's a matter of pleasure that ICOMOS is publishing its volume XIX of the ICOMOS publication series "Monuments and Sites": Report on Safeguarding the Bamyan Buddha Statues. At this juncture, firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the great work that ICOMOS has been doing from 2002 till now in safeguarding the remains of the Bamyan Buddha sites. Bamyan is not only important for the people of Afghanistan but a window to look into the historic past of the evolution of civilizations across the Silk Route.

Appreciation and credit go to ICOMOS for their untiring work and valuable contribution towards restoring and safeguarding the world heritage site by providing the most experienced technical professionals and committed people. We acknowledge and appreciate all the efforts made by ICOMOS and individuals to safeguard the Buddha site even when the security situation was not so conducive in the country.

Secondly, one of the key achievements of ICOMOS has been in terms of raising hope among Afghans for rebuilding the Buddhas, at least one of the statues, by using the original remaining pieces and with external materials to exhibit it as one of the memorial monuments of the historic past and as witness to the cultural journey of glory and of painful suffering, including the destruction of the Buddhas. I strongly support the idea and initiatives to restore this rich cultural heritage.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and express my appreciation to the governments of Germany and Japan and to UNESCO for their continued support of ICOMOS for safeguarding the Buddha site.

It is worth mentioning that in addition to the Buddha site all historical monuments in Bamyan are in danger and need immediate attention and support from the International Community for safeguarding and preservation, for instance Shahr-e-Zuhak, GhulGhula City, Forty Tower, Kakarak Buddha Site, Gowhar Geen and Shahr-e-Sarkhoshak. I hope we will receive more support and assistance for safeguarding and restoring the rich cultural and natural heritage of Bamyan from friends and colleagues internationally, both individually and institutionally. I believe ICOMOS will serve as a forum to forge this partnership and initiative towards this cause.

As Governor of Bamyan and on behalf of the Provincial Government we wish to announce our full support towards safeguarding and restoring the rich cultural heritage of Bamyan, including restoration and preservation of the Buddha site.

I wish ICOMOS all the very best in their future endeavors and look forward to working together on our shared purposes.

Best Wishes,

Habiba Sarabi
Governor of Bamyan
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