

The following report is herewith submitted in response to the recommendations of the 39th session of the WHC committee in Bonn, Germany, 2015 about Abu Mina world heritage site:

In the beginning we will give an overview of the current status of the site, which is summarized as follows:

1. Groundwater lowering Project stopped because of the poor efficiency of groundwater suction pumps.
2. The project of eliminating dangers and restorations stopped since 2012 because of the lack of financial resources.
3. Deterioration of the historic buildings in the baptism, pilgrims court and the north bathroom extensively, as result of the weather conditions and the groundwater.
4. The construction of the fence surrounding the archaeological area stopped because of the lack of financial resources.
5. Excavations in the site stopped completely

We would like to inform the WHC that due to the current situation of the country and the lack of financial resources of the Ministry of Antiquities, it has not been possible to implement any significant efforts to reverse any damage on the site. Furthermore, the Ministry has drafted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the World Heritage property according to the original Nomination file and the Advisory Body evaluation. There are some efforts that have been done and others that are ongoing by the Ministry of Antiquities to improve the effectiveness of the project and shifting the focus away from monuments and significant buildings towards a larger approach that better encompasses and preserve all the elements that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in this regard, the Ministry of Antiquities as a government officials about the site has made many efforts to preserve the site we will show in the following:

1. Preparing a proposal project for restoration and rehabilitation of the site in cooperation with the Monastery administration.
2. New digital maps updated after redrawing the boundaries of the site linked with Satellite Image.
3. The committee which was formed by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Advisory committee of Abu Mina Monastery met on October 2015 to study the best ways and secure methods which help on the suction of groundwater from the tomb of St. Mina, The Committee agreed on the importance to develop a plan to resolve the problems of the archaeological Site and based on the recommendations of this Committee, the Ministry of Antiquities launched a public bid for the maintenance and running lowering the groundwater table project in the Archaeological site in the Egyptian news papers on 20 and 21 December 2015, upon choosing the company that will complete the work. It is expected to begin the work on February 2016.
4. The Minister of Antiquates sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture to participate in preserving the site by the following:
 - a. Preparing a study by the specialists of the Ministry of Agriculture about the possibility of changing the system of irrigation in the agricultural area surrounded the Archaeological Site from the flood irrigation to drip irrigation.

- b. Cleaning and expending the water sinks around the Archaeological Site.
- c. Contributing in the maintenance and operation the water suction pumps groundwater.
- 5. The Alexandria Governorate created a permanent committee for the Antiquities in Alexandria in coordination with the Ministry of Antiquities; this committee is responsible for all the Antiquities issues in Alexandria including the Archaeological Site (Abu Mina). Furthermore, the Alexandria Governorate, through this committee, will participate in preserving the Site in cooperation with the Ministry of Antiquities and the Monastery administration.
- 6. The Ministry of Antiquities in cooperation with the Alexandria Governorate removed all the Bedouin's encroachments on the site and on the buffer zone.

Projects an ongoing preparation to serve the Site:

- 1. preparing a project for the site documentation by using 3D Laser scanning (Abu Mina 3D Laser scanning Documentation project) in cooperation with the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing and space sciences, this project is being examined by the preeminent committee of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities of Ministry of Antiquities, it will be funded by the American Research Center (ARC) in Egypt.
- 2. The definition of a complete management system will occur next year. A close consultation with the concerned stakeholders involved in the protection of the site to establish a comprehensive and integrated documenting for the whole site, to be available to all stakeholders at any time.
- 3. Ongoing encouragement for the foreign missions to do excavations to continue the previous excavations.
- 4. Preparations for a visitor's center project in cooperation with the Monastery administration and Alexandria Governorate.
- 5. Addition of guiding plates for the Site on the World Heritage Center and Ministry of Antiquities logos.
- 6. Preparing archaeological group to make a condition survey of the archaeological remains as a basis for a future database.
- 7. Preparing a study for the possible designs for the conservation of the archaeological elements and the rehabilitation of the site, the surrounding area, and the roads out the site in cooperation with the Alexandria Governorate, Ministry of tourism and the Monastery administration.
- 8. Preparing a press conference on the site and invite all the Alexandria businessmen to participate on preserving the site in cooperation with Alexandria Governorate and Alexandria library.