



State of Libya

# Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report

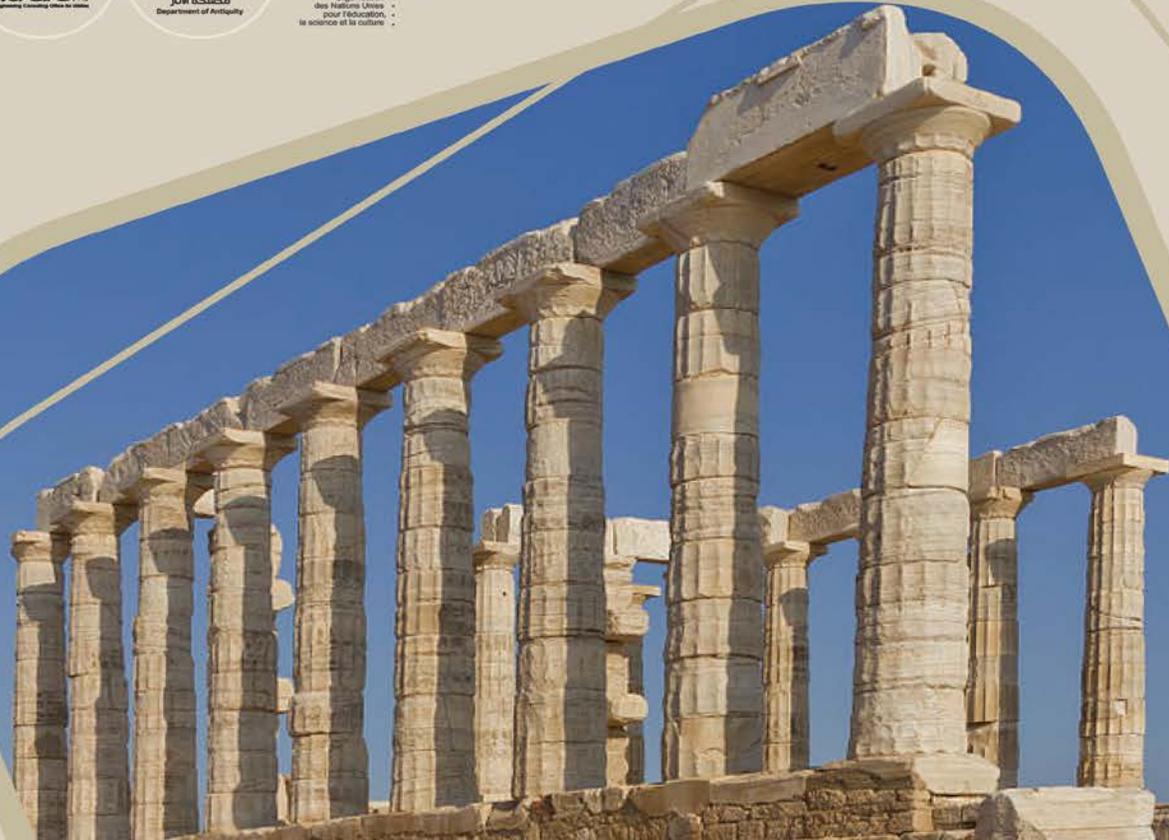
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CYRENE  
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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World Heritage 43 COM





# 1. Executive Summary

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The State of Libya (Libya) would like to express its gratitude to the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and its advisory bodies for the efforts and endeavours they have undertaken to monitor the status of the archaeological site of Cyrene in order to remove it from the World Heritage in Danger List.

This report has been prepared, in accordance with Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and compiled in response to WHC decision 42 COM 7A.22 at the forty-second session held in Manama, Bahrain (24 June - 04 July- 2018). In this session, the WHC commended the efforts made by the Antiquities Authorities and local authorities to develop a strategy for the protection and preservation of the Libyan properties listed in the World Heritage List, including this site (Cyrene). The Department of Antiquities (DoA) has continued to work alongside the civil society of the area to maintain the outstanding universal value of the property.

The DoA will continue to make the WHC aware of the evolving status of the property, of any new measures taken to ensure its protection and preservation and provide detailed information on the work accomplished.

The threat of urban encroachment inside the site boundary has decreased significantly, but with a marked increase in the designated buffer zone (land belonging to locals), the DoA jointly with the Urban Planning Authority is in the process of creating guidelines for the use of these properties.

Both forest fires, in and around the site, and sewage drainage from the neighbouring modern city of Shahat remains outstanding issues. The DoA, in cooperation with the local council, is preparing a request for aid to solve both issues which affect the archaeological and natural landscape of the site. The Antiquities Authority has been able to obtain funding of 2,792,862.00 LD from Libya for urgent maintenance work.

In its efforts to strengthen the protection against looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property in the area, DoA staff, Tourist Police and Customs officers working in the area have received training to better deal with this issue. In relation to fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property, DoA employees were trained on modern methods of documentation of archaeological objects; work is underway to record all objects in the museums and storages. In addition minor restoration work and vegetation removal took place in selected monuments in the site.

The DoA would like to reiterate their invitation to a joint WHC / ICOMOS mission to assess the status of the property on site and to provide advice to the DoA.

Libya intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support, including from the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO.