



State of Libya

Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF SABRATHA
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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World Heritage 43 COM





1. Executive Summary

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The State of Party, (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 Sabratha (the property) in order to remove it from the list of endangered sites.

This report has been prepared, in accordance with Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and compiled in response to WHC decision 42 COM 7A.24 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 of 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 (Sabratha). The Department of Antiquities (DoA) continues 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 main threat to the Site of Sabratha remains the degradation of the monuments by the environment, due to the nature of the building material in the site. Preservation of the monuments on the site requires substantial financial as well as technical support.

The DoA is in the process of securing funding and technical support from the international community and other specialized institutions. Efforts to control vegetation growth by the DoA office of Sabratha, in order to limit the damage to the floor mosaics and monuments in the site, continue year round.

Due to the armed conflict that took place inside the Site (mainly around the Theatre area), several locations were damaged (minor damage from small arms). The most prominent is the visual scarring of some parts of the Theatre.

The DOA has conducted detailed assessment and documentation of the damage and is in the process of conducting further studies to ensure the stability of the structure and study future possible interventions.

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. And in this context we request the aid of the WHC in providing assistance in calling the international community to provide more financial and technical support, including from the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO.