



State of Libya

Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report

OLD TOWN OF GHADAMÈS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

C 362

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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 Old Town of Ghadamès (the site) 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.25 at the forty-second session held in Manama, Bahrain (24 June - 04 July- 2018). In the report, the WHC commended the efforts made to develop a strategy for the protection and preservation of the Libyan properties listed in the World Heritage sites, including the site by the of the Antiquities Authorities and local authorities of Libya. The Department of Antiquities (DoA) has for many years worked alongside the civil society of the area to maintain the outstanding global 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.

Since 2011 the people of Ghadamès have shown unfailing commitment to the protection of "the Pearl of the Desert" their cultural heritage, demonstrating that such irreplaceable heritage cannot be held hostage to the current conflict in the area.

Libya would like to assure the WHC that there have been no security violations in the area of Ghadamès since 2011 and that the site is not in any danger and therefore should be taken off the endangered list.

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

The Old Town of Ghadamès has been able to obtain funding of 800,000.00 LD from Libya for urgent maintenance work. Libya intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support, including from the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO.