



Arab Republic of Egypt

**State of Conservation Report:
I. Memphis and its Necropolis,
The Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur, 2019**



Ministry of Antiquities



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State of Conservation Report

World Heritage Site:

I. Memphis and its Necropolis

(The Pyramids Fields from Giza to Dahshur)

Egypt

2019



Summary:

Regarding the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session, held in Manama 2018, and after looking at the committee's accredited decision concerning the site of Memphis and its Necropolis, this report about the state of conservation of the site in 2019 was prepared, including the responses to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. This report deals mainly with:

- Key features and interventions carried out on site.
- The research project at the pyramid of Khufu.
- The recent archaeological discoveries in Memphis and its Necropolis.
- The Step Pyramid and the Southern Tomb risk mitigation and restoration project at Saqqara.
- The decision of the Egyptian State to postpone the implementation of the project of the completion of the ring road, until the completion of the necessary studies, for many reasons including the risk on the lives of the users of such long closed tunnel (6 km).
- The process of cleaning the waste which resulted from the incompleteness of the ring road in 1995.
- The State welcomes ICOMOS experts' visit, to provide technical assistance, and to train Egyptian specialists on how to prepare HIA studies.
- Details of the project of development of the Giza plateau, and how this project – which was started in 2009 – aims to organize the visit and provide services in the area surrounding the plateau, without any negative effects on the archaeological area.
- The Giza pyramids security project.
- Memphis site and community development project.

It is worth to be mentioned that HE the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi established, for the first time in Egypt, the *Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites in Egypt*, under the chairmanship of the Assistant to the President for national and strategic projects, and the membership of the ministers concerned with Egyptian World Heritage Sites and of all governmental stakeholders, to facilitate the coordination between all the concerned Egyptian authorities, in order to preserve and valorize the Egyptian World Heritage Sites.

Moreover, the Egyptian law for the protection of antiquities was amended in 2018 to enhance the protection of the archaeological sites.



Decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session held in Manama on the World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Commends the State Party for the significant archaeological discoveries and related research at the Pyramid of Khufu and for the advancement of the Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration Project at Saqqara, and requests it to submit detailed information thereon to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Welcomes the ongoing engagement of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the development of proposals for a Cairo Ring Road tunnel across the Giza Plateau;
5. Takes note of the submission by the State Party of an initial ‘archaeological assessment’ for the Cairo Ring Road Tunnel project and reiterates its request to the State Party to complete a comprehensive archaeological assessment, in the manner previously requested, incorporating results from remote sensing using ground penetrating radar, magnetic survey and other techniques, and to ensure that, following review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, the final comprehensive ‘archaeological assessment report’ and the previous technical reports on traffic management and design details, inform the preparation of the engineering designs for the Ring Road Tunnel project, which should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), following the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties; and also reiterate its request to the State Party to submit the detailed engineering designs and HIA to World Heritage Centre for review;
6. Also takes note of the previous Committee Decision that work for the construction of the tunnel should only be progressed once all requested technical reports and subsequent HIAs have been positively reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and appropriate mitigation measures and procedures for monitoring have been agreed;
7. Noting that the legacy from the abandoned planned Ring Road of 1995 impacts adversely on the landscape and that the abandoned road has facilitated dumping, waste



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- incineration, and large-scale sand extraction, also requests the State Party to provide additional information about actions being taken to address this impact;
8. Expresses concern over the information provided by the State Party on the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project, the Lighting and Security Project of the Giza Pyramids and the Memphis Site and Community Development Project and urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a detailed document providing comprehensive information about the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project;
 9. Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to strengthen the protection and management of the property by:
 1. Reinforcing the overall co-ordination and management of the World Heritage property, and reinforcing the conservation of the property by the Ministry of Antiquities,
 2. Investigating national legislation specific to World Heritage properties,
 3. Defining a buffer zone and submitting a Minor Boundary Modification request;
 10. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the property's state of conservation, the ongoing and planned projects and how they may affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
 11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.