STATE PARTY REPORT

On The State of Conservation of The

Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites
(Syrian Arab Republic)

For Submission By
1 February 2020
INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report on the State of Conservation of the Syrian World Heritage properties is:

- Responds to the World Heritage request during the 43rd session of the world heritage committee in Baku 2019
- Provides an update to the December 2018 State of Conservation report.
- Prepared in to be present on the previous World Heritage Committee meeting 44e session 2020.

Information Sources

This report represents a collation of available information as of 31 December 2019, and is based on available information from the DGAM branches around Syria, taking inconsideration that with ground access to the Ancient Villages in North of Syria extremely limited for antiquities experts, extent of the damage cannot be assessment right now.
**Name of World Heritage property:** ANCIENT CITY OF BOSRA  
**Date of inscription on World Heritage List:** 1980

**CHALLENGES:**

- The ancient city has severely been damaged by constant illegal excavations, locals concluded many unauthorized excavations which risk irrevocably damaging the archaeological remains of the ancient city.
- Lack of funding used for emergency interventions.

**MEASURES TAKEN:**

Following a liberation of the ancient city of Bosra on June 2018, the DGAM have perform the necessary damage assessment works in the area on July 27,2018. An initial rapid assessment was conducted immediately in order to locally assess the damaged-affected areas and the needs to repair the damage and design a prioritized plan of action based on those needs. The project was financed by UNESCO/WHC. The total area of Bosra is 140 hectares. It has been detected that 6 hectares have been destroyed, 27 hectares in good condition, 170 hectares have been ranged from lightly damage to almost destroyed.

The number of unauthorized excavators were 343 looter’s pits in addition to (217) small pitched holes in the walls. Diggings locations inside residential buildings, palaces, churches showed that the percentage of diggings amounted to (74%) of the total of the unauthorized excavation.
In addition to that 3D documentation was taken to the Kalybe Monument (the cradle of king’s daughter).

Within this project, the DGAM proposed an update to the Bosra Ancient City's building code to better align the construction requirements after the crisis. The new code represented the first comprehensive revisions to the city's building code in 16 years. The building code aimed to cost-effective construction by expanding options to build. In particular and to promote best practices for sustainable building design and construction.
Priority was given by DGAM to the emergency intervention at the Amphitheatre for the damaged parts. The first phase of the restoration project that launched on Oct, 2019, includes documentation the current state of the damaged part at the southwestern façade using high-resolution cameras, monitoring the deflection by Total Station, documentation the archaeological debris by numbering the collapsed stones, sorting and measuring their dimensions, accomplishing the necessary plans. The project will also include the structural study and assessment of the damaged part of the Amphitheater, and the necessary temporary support.