1. Executive Summary
1. Executive Summary

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 Leptis Magna (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 43 COM 7A.24 at the forty-third session held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan (30 June - 10 July- 2019). 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.

The Department of Antiquities and local authorities have taken measures to preserve heritage property and involve civil society in maintaining the outstanding global value of 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.

We affirm that despite the political, security and economic problems that the country has faced since 2011, which can be considered a threat to the archaeological site, there have been no cases of damage or serious violations of the site. This is due to the measures taken by the Antiquities Department in cooperation with the Tourism Police and the local population.

Libya would like to assure the WHC that there have been no security violations in the area of Leptis Magna at all 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.

A workshop was held on 12 / 02 / 2019 by the end of works of the committee formed by Government of National Accord decision no. (390 / 2017) to prepare the reports to reply to the decision of the World Heritage Committee to include the five Libyan sites in the list of danger.
May be the one of the most important results from this workshop is the formation of a new special committee (Government of National Accord decision No. (155 / 2019)), to management the Conservation Strategy, (state of conservation Report, 2018) to ensure protection and preservation of the property.

The committee was authorized to implement the strategy presented for the preservation and maintenance of the five Libyan world heritage sites and communicating with the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in particular.

The follow up World Heritage Sites department was established in DOA to follow up on everything related to these sites, manage them, prepare periodic reports and proposed plans, and supervise the implementation of projects.

Antiquities surveying section in DOA doing regular visits to monitor the site and its historic environment. Antiquities surveying section reported that periodic maintenance is not scheduled in corrected way due to the lack of funding, which considered as the main reasons of the deterioration at the site. The site itself is fully accessible to the public. However, all the museums have been closed and most of the museum contents have been safely stored away far from the museums.

As a benefit and good results from the Training in Action program, for year 2019, (The use of modern technologies in methods of documenting and managing cultural heritage). The Department of Antiquities has launched a project to assess the detailed status of the property according to the degree of damage and the priorities for intervention, and prepare a detailed report to request support from the UNESCO Fund, as well as training a team of researchers on modern methods of documentation and assessment of the situation to take over the tasks of managing the archaeological site of Leptis Magna, (property).

This report finds that the current state of conservation on the site is satisfactory but could be improved with the help of more funding and political stability. Regarding the impact of human and other environmental threats, the situation at the site has improved in the last three years, due to an increase in the number of trained staff and Local authorities and departments.
To control the overgrowth and the impact of vegetation, a team of specialists visited the property to determine the extent of damage and control mechanisms. A group of plants, including weeds, trees, and shrubs, have been identified, and it is noted that one type of shrub is spread inside buildings and roads, while the other types are found in open areas outside buildings and roads, and through tests on the following has been reached to plant classification. The plan is being prepared for direct control operations.

Since the winter season is approaching, with the increased threat of the Wadi Lebda and to protect the property from Wadi flooding, the DOA has taken steps to clear and clean the path of the Wadi in order to allow the water to flow freely to the sea.

To reduce the effects of weather factors and sand drift, the discussion was opened using Nano Technology with a company specialized in insulation operations to study the possibility of using its product to protect.

We can confirm that the animal grazing and vandalism has been reduced. As for discharge of domestic waste water, by working with the local authority the problem was solved.

The state party, Libya would like to assure the WHC that there have been no security violations in the area of archaeological site of Leptis Magna and that the site is not in any danger and therefore should be taken off the endangered list.