State of Libya

Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report
OLD TOWN OF GHADAMÈS WORLD HERITAGE SITE
C 362
February 2020
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 43 COM 7A.26 at the forty-third session held in Baku, Azerbaijan (29 June - 07 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, including the site by the of the Antiquities Authorities and local authorities of Libya.

Ghdaames City Promotion and Development Authority, (GCPDA) has for many years worked alongside the civil society of the area to maintain the outstanding global value of the property.

The important event that occurred during 2019 is a fire in the farms area surrounding the property within the buffer zone, fire incident report was submitted to World Heritage Centre.

The conservation and restoration works at houses affected by the heavy rains of 2017, were started immediately after allocating an amount of (800,000.00 L. D.) by the Government of National Accord, by taken in consideration a priority in preserving the architectural structure of the building, the percentage of works achievement reached (63%).

During the month of March 2019, due to heavy rain and general lack of maintenance, six houses were collapsed; all survey and inventory of works necessary for the maintenance and restoration of affected houses are done and also preparing an estimated construction budget with amounted value of, (805,384.00). The management plan of the property already prepared and attached white this report.
In implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Tourism Police and Antiquities Protection Authority and the Federation of the Five Libyan World Heritage Municipalities on November 26, 2019, which stipulated in its clauses the establishment of training courses for the employees of the tourist police in the five Libyan world heritage sites in coordination with the Libyan Center for Studies and Training, under the slogan (the role of the tourist police and antiquities protection, in protecting the five Libyan world heritage sites).

Ghdaames City Promotion and Development Authority, (GCPDA) & the Department of Antiquities (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.

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. With evidence United Nations Mission in Libya selectee city of Ghadamès for holding the Libyan National Forum, this was scheduled on April 14, 2019.

The GCPDA & 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 may able to obtain funding of 2,287,409.20 LD from National Accord Government 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.