



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA WORLD HERITAGE SITES
State of Conservation Report 2020
Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (C 1472)
October 2020





A piece of traditional handicraft made by local women with the name "Jubbah city" in ancient Thamudic script found on the Umm Sinman inscriptions, this piece is displayed at the visitors' center showing pride in local history and culture.



Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (C 1472)

Executive Summary

Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia was inscribed on the World Heritage List in June 2015 based on the criteria (i) and (iii). It is the first serial nomination from Saudi Arabia. The World Heritage Centre has requested that the state party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property by 1 December 2020, for consideration at its 45th session in 2021. The Report is to contain the following:

Extending the Buffer Zone of Jabal Umm Sinman Component

After several coordination meetings, the area indicated by the WHC was deemed to be clear of any acquisitions and claims, thus, the area of the buffer zone was increased as prescribed.

Planned and Ongoing Projects Related to the Masking Work

After the unfortunate event that led to the destruction of the masking efforts, meetings with consultants were held to discuss ways to ensure the continuity of the planting efforts, this resulted in investing in two artesian wells established outside the buffer zone to supply water to the project. Due to the COVID-19 situation in 2020, the masking efforts were slowed down delaying the planting season to 2021.

Visitor Infrastructure

Since the inscription, The local community started to show their pride in the site they once did not understand its meaning and importance. Road signs directing visitors to the World Heritage Site were erected, a roundabout at the entrance of the township with a depiction one of its most famous carving (the carriage) and wrote the name of their township in Nabatean script at the entrance also many established visitor rest areas and accommodations. Furthermore, site interpretation and site guidebook is to be written by Dr. Majeed Khan.

Monitoring in the Context of the Management Plan

A Heritage Impact Assessment will be required for the following types of application affecting the enlisted heritage assets: planning permission for development inside or within the setting of a Conservation Area, development within the setting of a registered ancient monument or site, development inside or within the setting of an enlisted landscape and setting.

It should be noted that HIA is required to be submitted for applications for Planning Permission that directly affect the buffer zone of the heritage asset or its setting. Carrying out a pre-application meeting with the World Heritage Unit of the Heritage Commission will ensure that heritage assets are identified at the earliest stage.

Timeframe for Implementation

Since the last SoC report submitted to the World Heritage Center in 2019, The former Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage followed up on the process of managing Jabal Umm Sinman as per the plan submitted to the WHC. The process saw coordination between various stakeholders and the local community to ensure the facilitation of site requirements.

After several meetings, the management plan provided to the WHC was on track for implementation, a table is provided with more detail.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic situation, works were hindered also the provision of required information and data.