



**The Arab Republic of Egypt**  
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

# **World Heritage Site**

# **Memphis and its Necropolis**

The Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur

## **State of Conservation Report 2022**

Cairo, December 2022





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## 1. Executive Summary

The Arab Republic of Egypt, a State Party to the UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, has adopted the following measures in compliance with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committees on **World Heritage Site Memphis and its Necropolis**, namely **Decision No. 44 COM 7B.127**, issued by its 44<sup>th</sup> Session (Fuzhou, China, 2021), (document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.ADD) and **Decision No. 43 COM 7B.45**, adopted by its 43<sup>rd</sup> Session (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2019), also the recommendations by the UNESCO Advisory Mission to the WHS Memphis and its Necropolis (2021), and the Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission of the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS, (2022), and the Operational Guidelines concerned with preserving the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property:

1. **The Proposed Cumulative /Layered Map:** A Proposed cumulative map of the site is enclosed, consisting of successive layers, reflecting various elements at the site and the surrounding area as advised by the Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission's Report, received in September 2022 ([Annex 1](#)). This is an **initial effort** which will be followed by additional work in the context of developing the Site's Integrated Management Plan.
2. **The Integrated Management Plan:** A reputed consultant is contracted to prepare an Integrated Management Plan for the WHS Memphis and its Necropolis, comprising Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for implemented and future developments at the site, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, as per the scope of Egypt's Sustainable Development Vision 2030. ([Annex 2](#)) of this SOC Report 2022 includes an index of the components of the proposed Management Plan scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. ([Annex 3](#)) offers a brief resume and lists of achievements of the Consultant and his foundation.
3. **The Advisory Mission (2021) and The Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission (JRMM 2022):** The State Party received the Advisory Mission during February 2021, and a Reactive Monitoring Mission of WHC & ICOMOS a year later, in between February 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in accordance with article 11 of Decision **44 COM 7B.127**. The JRMM assessed the State of Conservation of the property, reviewed ongoing and planned development projects, and their impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Its report is included for reference in ([Annex 4](#)). **The State Party has positively responded to the recommendations of the advisory Mission (January-February 2021) and the recommendations of the JRMM (February 2022), ([Annex 5](#)) including the reaffirmation of its full adherence to respecting the construction ban established on the WHS Memphis and Its Necropolis as per Law #90 FY 1978 ([Annex 6](#)), and the pursuant Antiquities Law #117 FY1983 and its amendments ([Annex 7](#)) which combine to prohibit any form of construction on the property considered in its totality as "Territory of Antiquities."**





4. **Accessibility & Connectivity:** In the interest of increasing accessibility and connectivity to and within the Site, a network of tracks/pathways/rail tracks guarantee accesses to the landmark sites on the property, including the component of “Memphis/Mit-Rahina,” considered **essential to the OUV of the property**. This later issue was particularly highlighted by the JRMM’s report in **Recommendation 7** requesting “**improved accessibility,” to the site as part of an Integrated Management Plan to ensure its protection, conservation, and enhanced interpretation as one of the most important capital cities of the ancient world**. The State Party also committed through the decisions of the Higher Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites on **October 9<sup>th</sup> 2022**, to positively respond to the JRMM’s request for Heritage Impact Assessment of the Touristic Path and the Middle Ring Road reviewed by the JRMM during their February 2022 visit. ([Annex 8](#)) includes a translation of the Committee’s decision in this regard.
5. **Early Notification of the HSR Green Line on Memphis & its Necropolis:** In response to **Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines**, the State Party has notified the World Heritage Convention and its advisory bodies during October 2022 of Egypt’s intention to develop a High-Speed Green Line (HSR Green Line) to substitute the existing diesel train on the WHS Memphis and its Necropolis. The Notification included, along with 22 technical reports, a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey that proves the track area void of antiquities, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that concluded that the project has long term positive impact on the Site and the nation and should be implemented. Negative impacts limited to the construction phase were to be mitigated through strict measures provided in the HIA report. Moreover, the Higher Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites associated with the Office of the President of Egypt endorsed the HIA report decreeing the strict implementation of all mitigation measures as well as the relocation of the HSR Maintenance Workshop outside the boundaries of the WHS along with other conservation measures. ([Annex 9](#)) represents the executive summary of the HSR Green Line Notification while ([Annex 10 & Annex 11](#)) offer the executive summary of the GPR & HIA reports.
6. **Excavations & Restorations:** Commended for its continued efforts to increase archeological excavations at the WHS of Memphis and its Necropolis, the State Party continues its sustainable efforts in this regard both through its own archaeological mission as well as through joint and foreign missions on Site. ([Annex 12](#)) offers a list of the recent discoveries and excavation works during 2021-2022, and ([Annex 13](#)) offers a list of the recent restoration projects during 2021-2022



7. **Visitors Services:** The JRMM's report (September 2022) further commended the State Party's interest in developing sustainable Visitors' Services through a state-of-the-art Visitors' Center, electric conveyances, signage, etc. ([Annex 14](#)) comprises a list of the services installed through a public-private partnership between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and a private contractor/operator.
8. **Capacity Building Outreaches:** In response to **paragraph 3** of **Decision No. 44 COM 7B.127**, the State Party has undertaken an extensive capacity building programme in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for the Arab States based in Cairo and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), a UNESCO Category 2 Centre based in Bahrain. The programme comprised successive training courses to elevate the awareness and efficiency of Egyptian officials in charge of the World Heritage Sites as well as those assigned to communicate with the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies in associated fields. ([Annex 15](#)) includes a list of the undertaken capacity building activities.
9. **Request for technical studies, an archaeological assessment study, heritage impact assessment studies for the proposed tunnel project:** In its attempt to alleviate the needs of the population for ease of commute between various urban areas surrounding the property, as well as the wish to increase and improve accessibility to the archaeological area and its surroundings for visitors from all over the world, it was recommended by the monitoring mission visited the site in 2015 to link the Ring-Road to Fayoum Road by a closed tunnel. This proposal was hindered by security and safety concerns and substituted in 2021 by a surface Middle Ring-Road and Touristic Pathway. Both accesses were visited by the JRMM in February 2022, and its report in September of the same year confirms that the State Party took into consideration various mitigation measures to synchronize both with their archaeological surroundings, that they do not obstruct the visual unity of the property and that they become listed as low speed accesses, closed to trucks and heavy vehicles.
10. **Request for Advisory Mission for Review of the Boundaries:** The State Party has formally requested on **October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, the support of the WHC and its advisory bodies in reviewing the boundaries of WHS Memphis and Its Necropolis, before responding to the JRMM's recommendation in Paragraph 6 in **September 2022 report** and articles 9 and 10 of the 44 COM 7B.127 ([Annex 4](#)) to establish a buffer zone for the property. WHC advised ([Annex 16](#)) on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, that the mission will be sanctioned upon the provision of the WHS' layered map by State Party – which is included herein as ([Annex 1](#)). Meanwhile, the State Party, in the interest of showing its commitment to the conservation and protection of the property has decreed through the Higher Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites on **October 9<sup>th</sup> 2022** the establishment of a buffer zone of 200m<sup>2</sup> around the property's peripheries including Memphis/Mit-Rahina.