



# **Saint Catherine Area**

## **State of Conservation Report 2023**

Cairo, March 2023



The Arab Republic of Egypt  
The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

### **Property Information**

- **Name of The Property:** Saint Catherine Area
- **State Party:** Egypt
- **Region:** South Sinai Governorate
- **Coordinates:** N28 33 22.428 E33 58 31.548
- **Date of Inscription:** 2002
- **Criteria:** (i)(iii)(iv)(vi)
- **Property:** 60,100 ha
- **Governmental Stakeholders:** Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities - St. Catherine Monastery Administration -  
Ministry of Environment - South Sinai Governorate - Ministry of Housing –  
Ministry of Defense – Ministry of Interior.
- **International Assistance:** Revision of the nomination file of St. Catherine Area, South Sinai as Mixed  
Cultural/Cultural Landscape and Natural World Heritage List.  
Total Amount Approved: 19,500 USD.  
Approved Date: 17 December 1999.



## Executive Summary

This State of Conservation (SoC) report presents the response of Egypt to the request of World Heritage Centre, regarding the World Heritage Site of Saint Catherine area conservation issues in 2022.

The State Party, conscious of its historical and national responsibility towards this unique World Heritage Site, highlights in this report the efforts it has undertaken on all levels of government, in association with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and international partners, to preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), prevent the deterioration of its physical fabric and implement an integrated conservation strategy for the Site, according to the WHC's guidelines and Egypt's specific development goals and needs, as expressed in the national Sustainable Development Strategy (Egypt2030).

In response to World Heritage Centre's letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 requesting the State Party to provide a State of Conservation Report for the property to be examined at the 45<sup>th</sup> extended session of the world heritage committee that will be held in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) from 10 to 25 September 2023, the State Party thus illuminates the following in this report:

1. A Retrospective Statement of the Property's Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) is attached in **(Annex 1)** of this report, highlighting that the property has retained its uniqueness as a World Heritage Site.
2. The State Party prepares international assistance request from the World Heritage Fund (WHF) to prepare the site Management/Conservation plan of Saint Catherine, it is planned to be submitted to the World Heritage Center on 31 October 2023 for review, attached in **(Annex 2)** of this report.
3. The conservation and restoration projects carried out on the property is attached in **(Annex 3)** of this report as a technical report that includes the latest excavation, restoration and preservation work at archaeological sites in St. Catherine area during the period from 2020 to 2022.
4. The State Party has launched **The Great Revelation Initiative – the Land of Peace** to preserve, rehabilitate and prevent the deterioration of the urban fabric of the Site, establishing a management structure and developing a strategy for the preservation and urban regeneration of Saint Catherine Area, kindly find attached the technical report about this initiative **(Annex 4)**.
5. In accordance with Para 172 of Operational Guidelines, State Party did required studies to assess the impact of the initiative on WHS Saint Catherine Area and some complementary studies are being prepared by specialized consulting offices in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Ministry of Housing, the South Sinai Governorate, the Ministry of Environment and relevant governmental Authorities.
6. The State Party informs that There are no future development projects undertaken within the boundaries of the World Heritage Property Saint Catherine area, that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.



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The Arab Republic of Egypt, the State Party, presents the following State of Conservation (SoC) report detailing its efforts to manage and conserve the Saint Catherine area World Heritage Property positively and actively. Each issue will be listed in italics, followed by the State Party's response, comprising attachments, to provide background information and references to the successive sections of this report.

### **1. *Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value***

- 1.1 In 2011, the State Party submitted a draft retrospective statement of the Outstanding Universal Value, including a brief Synthesis, statements of authenticity, integrity, and protection and management requirements, for review, and approval by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Committee.
- 1.2 In February 2021, ICOMOS sent to the State Party its comments and additions to the draft retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value after its review, for the final approval by the State party.
- 1.3 The State Party has responded to ICOMOS' comments. Kindly find attached the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for St. Catherine Area as a more developed version submitted in order to be approved by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee (**Annex 1**).