

## State of Conservation Report



**World Heritage Site:** 

ABU MENA EGYPT 2024



## I. Executive Summary of the Report

With reference to the decision of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) at its extended  $45^{th}$  session held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 10-25 September 2023, to keep the property on the "List of Heritage in Danger", the State Party (the Arab Republic of Egypt) has undertaken consistent efforts to save and safeguard the property and remove it from the World Heritage List in Danger, In accordance and in line with The WHC's recommendations and operational guidelines

First, the State Party thanks the World Heritage Committee for approving the request for international assistance for the training program concerning the preparation of the site conservation plan" for an amount of US\$ 56,504 under the Conservation and Management-Culture budget; We would like to clarify here that coordination has been done with the UNESCO office in Cairo to begin implementing the training program in accordance with the plan established in this regard, and it is expected that the training will begin in the first half of February 2024.

This report overviews completing mitigation measures adopted by the State Party to achieve the goal of removing the property from the "List of World Heritage in Danger", to positively respond to the successive recommendations of the World Heritage Committee (from its 30th session in Vilnius, Lithuania (2006) to the 45<sup>th</sup> session in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2023) and implement the necessary corrective measures to preserve the site and its Outstanding Universal Value. It includes the following:

- 1. The project to reduce the groundwater level was operated effectively and a monitoring system was established and a contract has been concluded with a specialized company to carry out periodic maintenance work for the project, the contract is renewed annually starting from 14/3/2022. The groundwater level has reached (+34 meters above sea level), at the start of the operation of the project, and at the end of the phase there was gradual decline of the groundwater level until Level 7 meter, a technical report summarizing the efforts and results of the project to mitigate the groundwater levels at the Abu Mena WH Site is attached "Annex 1"
- 2. Parts of the proposed management plan for the site (services, information signs, and facilitating the visiting process) has been implemented.
- 3. Amendments added to the management plan in accordance with ICOMOS requests. "Annex 2"
- 4. The archaeological remains have been consolidating and restoration and conservation work is underway (report on current status of Archaeological remains "Annex 3"



A separate response will be sent to the Committee regarding the minor boundaries modification request according to Decision 45 COM 8B.57.

In conclusion, the State Party looks forward to announcing that it welcomes a visit by a Reactive Monitoring Mission to Abu Mena site, after the end of the training program aimed at preparing a conservation plan for the site, funded by the World Heritage Protection Fund (WHF), to review the current status of preserving the property and evaluate the implementation of the recommendations that leading to removal the property from the site. "List of World Heritage in Danger".