

Management plan for the inscribed property Gebel Barkal and sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)

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1. Introduction

Referring to the WH decision 37 COM 7B.56 and recalling the actions requested to be implemented in paragraph 4,5, and 6 of Decision 35 COM 7B.57, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011). I would like to reveal that since inscription in 2003, the property was faced by a series of challenges regarding its protection and conservation, which had considerable impact on the authenticity and the desert environment of the property.

These challenges can be defined as follows:

1. Urban and agricultural extensions
2. Impact of environment (humidity, desertification).
3. Lack of coordination with the local authorities and stakeholders to define and the limits of the property, specify buffer zones and protect the property against the negative visual impact (modern buildings, high tension, highway, etc).

To fulfill WH requirements and obligations towards the property and to tackle these challenges the National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums launched the following steps:

1. Launching topographic mapping in 2010 for Gebel Barkal and sites of the Napatan Region in collaboration with the French Archaeological Research Unit (SFDAS). (maps attached) for : Gebel Barkal (with a defined buffer zone) El Kurru, Kurru, Zuma, Sanam and Nuri.
2. 2009 an agreement was signed by the State of Qatar and the Sudanese authorities to protect and develop the Antiquities in the Northern Sudan and the River Nile States. A total fund of 138 million dollars will be allocated for archaeological research, site protection, conservation and restoration the sandstones and mud brick monuments, site presentation and development of tourism facilities, publication of guide books and publications. The total refurbishment of the Sudan National Museum is one of the major elements of the project. To benefit from this fund the NCAM coordinated with the International Archaeological mission working in the area projects to submit five years projects to be funded by Qatar.
3. The fund is allocated for missions since October 2013.

2. The Management Plan

Gebel Barkal

(A) Mut Temple

The outer chambers of the Mut temple had been lost since antiquity due to the collapse of blocks from the mountain. The surviving rock-cut rooms are five, but only two have well-preserved reliefs with painted surfaces. The first chamber B303 is partially collapsed and has been closed with a roughly erected protection wall. The carved and finely painted walls are hidden by heavy layers of grime and soot, dust deposits, wasp nests, bat guano and crusts that have accumulated over centuries. The upper parts of the walls show diffuse flaking of plaster and pigment.

Action Plans :

1. Allocation of 87,900 USD for the year 2014 to be used for the conservation restoration and protection of the temple.
2. An agreement had been signed with ‘ *Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro di Roma*’ as expertise for the conservation and restoration of the mural paintings of the temple and training the NCAM staff.
3. Two capacity building workshops were organized in 2013 at the Sudan National Museum to train our staff on the conservation and restoration techniques of the Nubian Sandstone.
4. The mission started the conservation work for this year since January 2014 and will last by the end of March. In January 3D Laser scanning was launched.
5. Other activities will consist of excavating the bottom of the temple, photographic documentation, and conservation of the murals.
6. An assessment report will be submitted to NCAM and later to the WH for approval.

(B) Gebel Barkal (site protection)

- B.1. Protection work (fencing, demarcation poles, etc.): a cement concrete posts with 1.5 visible at the surface and 1.5m spacing was started since December 2013.
- B.2. Protective concrete posts will be built around the site (the work started on December 2013 and will continue and accomplished this by July 2014).
- B.3. Signs will be erected around the site to govern and regulate human access and behavior, and control vehicular traffic.
- B.4. Basic visitor facilities and site presentation (to collect and remove all trash from the site, To cut down the many large bushes now growing among the temples and to remove the major Reisner-era dumps). This is in addition to erection of signs in front of the major ancient buildings that will provide basic information for tourists.

B.5. Budget allocated this year for this work

	Item	Cost in dollars	Schedule
1	Site cleaning and removal of trash	2000	Done in 2013/14
2	Site protection (concrete posts and walls)	20,000	2014-2015
3	Printing of 5000 tourist guide book in color (English and Arabic).	17,500	2015
	Total	39,500	

(C) EI KURRU

C.1. Protection work (fencing, demarcation) with a mud brick wall to prevent the site from the urban and modern village encroachment.

C.2. Conservation/restoration :

- The main features of the site (chambers, walls, entrances, stairways, roofs etc) need to be stabilized, preserved and maintained.
- The whole burial field needs to be cleaned from the heaps left behind by previous excavations.
- The stairways are filled with blown sand and need to be cleared. Domes need to be built over the stairways and the doors at the entrances need to be fixed.

C.3. Conservation assessment of the mural paintings.

C.4. Budget

		Cost in USD	Schedule
1	Site cleaning and removal of previous 1913 archaeological debris	12,000	January-March 2014
2	Protection of the site and fencing	22,000	2014-2015
3	Preventive conservation first phase	03000	April 2014
4	Publication of a guide book pamphlet	01000	
5	Topographic map		Done and 200
	Total	38,000	

(D) El Zuma

- D.1. Protective Measures to save the cemetery field at El-Zuma from traffic and human movements and destructive activities. The proposed enclosure should not veil the general panorama of the site.
- D.2. To construct two posts for safeguarding the site.
- D.3. Conservation/restoration
To create an archaeological park (an open museum on the site). The plan is to reconstruct some of the excavated burials so as to regain their original shape of the tumulus whether conical or flat top. The substructure and the burial chambers are to be rearranged in the same manner as they were looked originally enable to give an idea about the burial traditions of the Post-Meroitic Period.
- D.4. Visitors facilities and site presentation :
- To build an exhibition hall, ca. 12 X6m is planned to exhibit the original objects, enriched by photographs and drawings to present the history of the site and the progress of the excavations.
 - A second hall is planned to be devoted to audiovisual activities, such as lectures, presentations, etc. A complex including verandas, or shelters in addition to toilet system and cars parking. This will include, a place for presentation of local handicrafts is to be prepared within the site, such as small shelters or workshops. Cultural activities and local performances are also under consideration, since the present community is of a multi-ethnic composition.
- D.5. Budget

	Topographic map and site demarcation		Done
	Site protection (fencing and signs)	15,000	2014/15
	Site presentation (information, audiovisual, exhibition etc)	10,000	20014/16
	Guide book	10,000	2015
	Total	35,000	

(E) NURI PYRAMIDS

1. A contract was signed with Archinos Experts to access the need for the site protection and presentation.
2. Topographic map and site demarcation was done in 2010.

	Topographic map and site demarcation		Done
	Site protection (fencing and signs)	30,000	2015/16
	Site presentation (information, audiovisual exhibition etc)	100,000	205/16
	Total	130,000	

(F) SANAM

	Topographic map and site demarcation		Done in 2010
	Site protection (fencing and signs)	200,000	2015/16
	Site presentation (information, audiovisual, exhibition etc)	60,000	2015
	An environmental impact Assessment		2015
	Total	260,000	

(G) Hotel

1. The hotel of Gebel Barkal was built by a decision from the local authorities aiming at developing the tourism capacities at the Northern Sudan and to provide service to the general public.
2. The NCAM stopped the construction activities.
3. The owner of the hotel raised the case to the court and finally he gained the case.
4. NCAM raised the issue to the Council of Ministers and the president stopped the activities with a legal decree which stated that : “No construction activities can be planned in the vicinity of the antiquities without coordination with the NCAM.
5. A committee was formed by the former Minister of culture to evaluate the situation and to displace the hotel to the south-western corner of Gebel Barkal.
6. Based on the decision of the committee the Minister of culture issued the owner of the hotel an authorization to built the hotel in the new location. Later her notified the WH which still have concern on the new location.
7. Since then, the construction activities of the hotel are going on and now more that 70 percent was achieved.
8. I organized a series of discussions and negotiations with the owner and finally we agreed on the following point :
 1. The hotel should be at a distance of 1.2 km from the core zone
 2. The hotel building will remain at ground level.
 3. The boundary between the site and the hotel will be demarcated with a bared wire and concrete posts so as not to destroy the historical view.
 4. The facades of the walls facing Gebal Barkal will be covered with the local Nubian sandstone to be in harmony with the desert environment.
 5. The owner of the hotel will cooperate with the NCAM in raising the awareness of the local community towards the historic importance and values of the sites of the Napatan region and respecting the authenticity and the desert environment of the property.

(H) Future activities Planned

	Activity	Schedule
1	Conservation and restoration workshop	February 2015.
2	Monitoring and Stakeholders (local community, local government, tourism investors) meeting	June 2014
3	Tourism management Plan Workshop	October 2015
	An Environmental Impact Assessment workshop	March 2015



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