

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Megalithic Temples of Malta

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Malta

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

132bis

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980, 1992

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
Ġgantija Temples, Xagħra village , Island of Gozo , Malta	36.049 / 14.269	0.715	?	0.715	1980
Haġar Qim, Qrendi Village , Island of Malta , Malta	35.83 / 14.443	0.813	?	0.813	1992
Mnajdra, Qrendi Village , Island of Malta , Malta	35.828 / 14.437	0.563	?	0.563	1992
Ta" Hagra, Mgarr Village , Island of Malta , Malta	35.92 / 14.369	0.154	?	0.154	1992
Skorba, Zebbiegħ Village , Island of Malta , Malta	35.923 / 14.378	0.103	?	0.103	1992
Tarxien, Tarxien , Island of Malta , Malta	35.871 / 14.513	0.807	?	0.807	1992
Total (ha)		3.155	0	3.155	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Ggantija Temples	03/11/2005	
Hagar Qim	03/11/2005	
Ta"Hagra Temple and Skorba Temple	03/11/2005	
Tarxien	03/11/2005	

Comment

Second map includes boundaries and buffer zones of both Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, two of the sites in the inscription.

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Heritage Malta - Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. It was created by the Cultural Heritage Act, enacted in 2002.

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Katya Stroud
Heritage Malta

World Heritage Sites

Comment

Katya Stroud Prehistoric Sites Department, Heritage Malta, Tarxien Temples Triq it-Tempji Neolitiċi Tarxien TXN 1063 Malta Telephone: +35621808859 Email: katya.stroud@gov.mt

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [Ggantija Temples \(Heritage Malta\)](http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/ggantija-temples/)

Comment

Ġgantija Temples, Malta <http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/ggantija-temples/> Haġar Qim Temples, Malta <http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/hagar-qim-temples/> Mnajdra Temples, Malta <http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/hagar-qim-temples/> Ta" Haġrat Temples, Malta <http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/ta-hagrat/> Skorba Temples, Malta <http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/skorba/> Tarxien Temples, Malta <http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/tarxien-temples/>

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

All sites under this inscription are listed as Class A sites by the Malta Environment & Planning Authority. This controls development in the area and establishes a minimum buffer zone of at least 100m around the periphery of the site in which no development will be allowed. The Valletta Convention is also enforced by Heritage Malta, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples and other governmental authorities.

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Megalithic Temples of Malta was submitted to the World Heritage Centre as per Decision 31COM 11D.1 of the 2007 World Heritage Committee. This was accepted by ICOMOS International and was considered final and agreed upon on 19th December 2013. The OUV was presented and accepted at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(iv)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

The Megalithic Temples of Malta are prehistoric monumental buildings constructed during the 4th and 3rd millennia BC. Each monument is different in plan, articulation and constructional technique but there are several unifying architectural elements such as an elliptical forecourt, a concave façade, the megalithic proportion of the blocks used, the use of trilithon structures, the semi-circular interior spaces and remains of corbelled roofs. Each complex is a unique architectural masterpiece.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact	Origin			
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.1	Housing					
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities					
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.3	Land conversion					
3.5.5	Crop production					
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.1	Wind					
3.7.2	Relative humidity					
3.7.3	Temperature					
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)					
3.7.7	Pests					
3.7.8	Micro-organisms					
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses					
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage					
3.8.3	Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting					
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation					
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities					
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1	Storms					
3.10.2	Flooding					
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)					
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species					
3.13	Management and institutional factors					
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities					
3.13.2	High impact research / monitoring activities					
3.13.3	Management activities					
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend	
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.1	Housing	restricted	on-going	minor	medium capacity	static
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities	restricted	on-going	insignificant	medium capacity	decreasing
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.1	Wind	widespread	on-going	minor	medium capacity	static
3.7.2	Relative humidity	extensive	on-going	minor	medium capacity	static
3.7.3	Temperature	extensive	on-going	significant	high capacity	decreasing
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	localised	frequent	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.7.7	Pests	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	static

		Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.7.8	Micro-organisms	extensive	on-going	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.8.3	Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting	restricted	frequent	insignificant	low capacity	decreasing
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	restricted	on-going	insignificant	medium capacity	decreasing
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities	restricted	on-going	insignificant	high capacity	decreasing
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1	Storms	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.10.2	Flooding	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	extensive	one off or rare	minor	high capacity	static
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	restricted	on-going	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.13	Management and institutional factors					
3.13.2	High impact research / monitoring activities	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	high capacity	increasing

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

As a serial property, it is important to note that some of the factors included in the evaluation may not affect all the sites in the same way or to the same extent. One example is factor 3.10.2 Flooding, which affects only two of the six sites inscribed, and even then there is a significant difference in the extent and impact of the flooding between the two. 3.13.2 A negative impact is being considered due to archaeological excavations which are, by their very nature, considered destructive.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, but there is a need for one

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

A proposal for a minor boundary modification for the establishment of buffer zones was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2013. Heritage Malta is holding discussions with the MEPA with regards to the revision of Local Plans, a policy document which regulates land use, development and protection of national heritage. The property is scheduled as Grade A, the highest level of protection.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The six megalithic complexes that together constitute the serial inscription of the Megalithic Temples of Malta on the UNESCO World Heritage List are all state property. They are managed by Heritage Malta, the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. It is the agency's mission to 'safeguard and render accessible the cultural heritage entrusted to it thus contributing towards a better appreciation of Malta's cultural identity'. Heritage Malta is however just one link in the governance framework administering cultural heritage in the Maltese islands. Other key structures include the Ministry responsible for culture, the Committee of Guarantee, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

Public property considered of historical and/or World Heritage value is protected under the Antiquities (Protection) Act 1925, Ch. 90 of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Malta. Those laws are reinforced by the Planning Development Act and the Cultural Heritage Act.

The principal legal instrument for the protection of cultural heritage resources in Malta is the Cultural Heritage Act (2002 and subsequent amendments), which provides for and regulates national bodies for the protection and management of cultural heritage resources. Building development and land-use is regulated by the Development Planning Act (1992), which provides for and regulates the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. There is no Maltese legislation enacted specifically to protect UNESCO World Heritage.

The site is therefore subject to a special scrutiny by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority as regards new development, and the protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

Source: [Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 \(2001-2006\)](#)

Submitted on Monday, October 31, 2005

• Question 6.02

n/a

Comment

Delete par 2 & 4 Par 3 line 3: regulated by the Environment & Development Planning Act (2010 & subsequent amendments) which provides for & regulates the MEPA. The Act provides for the scheduling of areas, buildings, structures or remains of high natural, aesthetic or cultural value for protection & conservation. The site, classified Grade A Scheduled Property, is therefore subject to special scrutiny by the MEPA as regards new development, & the protection arrangements are considered sufficient

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An adequate legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are **some deficiencies in implementation**

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining

the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There are **major deficiencies** in capacity/resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

The site is protected by buffer zones as prescribed in the Environment and Development Planning Act (2010 & subsequent amendments). Enforcement of the restrictions mainly lies with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. Boundaries of these buffer zones were submitted to the WH Centre but were referred back to the State Party (following the 38th Session of the Committee) to provide additional descriptive information.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The responsible authority is the Museums Department, in representation of the Ministry of Culture. A formal steering group will include members of the public and of various public and private organisations. The State also employs a Site manager on full-time basis, and the current management system is considered sufficiently effective. At its 32nd Session (Quebec City, 2008), via Decision 32COM 7B.100, the World Heritage Centre also requested that the State Party provide three printed and electronic copies of the final management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a report on its implementation, as well as a report on work at the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park and on the proposed works at the Tarxien and Ġgantija Temples. A Management Plan was finalized in November 2011, subsequently sent to the World Heritage Centre, and has undergone a first round of review by ICOMOS International. The World Heritage Centre currently awaits further information from the State Party, to be forwarded to ICOMOS in view of the conclusion of the reviewing process.

Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

Source: [Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 \(2001-2006\)](#)

Submitted on Monday, October 31, 2005

• Question 5.02

Steering group or similar management committee has been set up to guide the management of the site

• Question 5.03

Function: Direction and monitoring

Mandate: Management of conservation and preservation

Constituted: formal

- **Question 5.04** Plans in place to set up a "steering group: Project Management teams which include members from various public and private organisations, with members specialised in conservation, site management, site interpretation, tourism, planning, etc. are in place. These have been set up for the sites where major projects related to conservation and management are currently being implemented, effectively Tarxien, Hagar Qim and Mnajdra
- **Question 5.05** Overall management system of the site
 - Management by the State Party

Comment

National agency Heritage Malta (HM) manages the site according to a Management Plan and Conservation Plan. HM collaborates with Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (archaeology & investigations), Malta Environment and Planning Authority (development), a Scientific Committee and the UNESCO ambassador's Technical Committee which includes focal point, site managers, ICOMOS Malta & stakeholder agencies

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

The Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and approved in October 2012. MEPA's Local Plans are policy documents which regulate development at regional level and local level. These are currently being revised. MEPA is also currently drafting a Strategic Plan for Environment and Development, a national policy for sustainable management of land and sea resources and protection of the environment.

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property **but it could be improved**

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is **only partially** being implemented

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair

Industry	Fair
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4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	65%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	30%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	0%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	0%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	5%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	0%

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Title	Year	Amount	Link to source
Emergency Assistance for Hagar Qim, Megalithic Temples, Malta	1998	72448.00	
Total		72448	

Comment

An application to the World Heritage Fund was submitted in 2013 for the conservation of the facade of the Ġgantija Temples in Gozo, Malta. Further information was submitted in

the first quarter of 2014 following a request by the World Heritage Centre. The application is currently being evaluated.

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **acceptable** but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

Four of the sites which make up the serial property have benefitted from European Regional Development Funds between 2004 and 2014 for the upgrading of visitor facilities and the construction of protective shelters. The project at Ғaġar Qim and Mnajdra was completed in 2009, whilst the one at Tarxien and Ġgantija is ongoing.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	100%
Part-time	0%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	100%
Seasonal	0%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Good
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Poor

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Not available
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Low
Visitor management	High
Conservation	High
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Not available

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

The Site Manager and her team are responsible for two World Heritage Sites - the Megalithic Temples of Malta and the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum.

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Malone, C. and Barrowclough, D. (eds.), 2007, Cult in Context: Reconsidering Ritual in Archaeology Zammit, M. and Mallia, J. (eds.), 2008, Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba: Ancient Monuments in a Modern World, Malta: Heritage Malta Cassar, J., et al, 2011, "Shelters over the Megalithic Temples of Malta: debate, design and implementation", in Environmental Earth Sciences Vol 63, Issue 7-8: 1849-1860

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

The space provided is too restricted to allow for a full list of publications. This can be supplied on request. In addition to published papers, HM has assisted students and researchers wishing to carry out studies. It has also carried out several scientific studies itself in some of the sites making up the serial property on various aspects as part of European Regional Development Fund projects.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Poor

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Adequate
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Not needed
Guided tours	Poor
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

Large-scale projects aimed at addressing conservation and interpretation issues have been/are being implemented on four of the six sites which make up this serial property: visitor centres at Ғaғar Qim/Mnajdra & Ґgantija; walkways with integrated interpretation at Tarxien & Ґgantija. New information material has also been installed in the smaller Ta" Ғaғrat and Skorba Temples.

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	N/A
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Static

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

A Limits of Acceptable Change study was carried out at Ta" Ғaғrat and Skorba in 2007/8 to assess the site"s current condition and possible visitor impact if longer opening hours were to be implemented. This was a pilot project meant to evaluate the effectiveness of this framework in the management of the Megalithic Temples sites. The study was considered successful and it will now be applied to the remaining four sites. Work has already started on the Tarxien Temples.

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is contact between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry but this is largely **confined to administrative or regulatory matters**

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

The 6 sites are very different in terms of visitor capacity and facilities. Visitor trends also vary greatly. Ta" Ғaғrat and Skorba have seen a substantial increase in visitors between 2010 & 2013, following the increase in opening hours resulting from the LAC Study. Visitors to both sites still amounts to less than 2000/year. The larger Tarxien Temples, Ғaғar Qim, Mnajdra and Ґgantija, attract 60,000-170,000 visitors/year. Visitor trends reflect projects implemented in 2008-2013.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Poor
Local communities	Poor
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Poor
Industry	Non-existent
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **underway**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

The State Party has kept the WH Centre updated on the progress of the proposed works carried/being carried out on this inscription. As reported, the work on the Ғaғar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park was completed in 2009 whilst

the projects at Tarxien and Ġgantija Temples are underway. The Management Plan was finalised and submitted for review to the WHC in November 2011.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.1	Buildings and Development						
3.1.1	Housing	The main risks in terms of housing are encroachment on the sites and changes to the skyline.	In collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, development in the area surrounding the sites, particularly in the 100m MEPA buffer zone, is closely monitored and action taken whenever undesired development is encountered.	Monitoring is carried out regularly by the agencies but the human resources available are insufficient to fully monitor every development application submitted to the local planning authority.	This action is ongoing	The lead agency is the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, in collaboration with Heritage Malta.	No comments
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.1	Wind	Wind accelerates the deterioration of the stone surfaces via the abrasives it carries as well as by contributing to a heating/cooling, wetting/drying cycle.	The protective shelters have helped to drastically reduce the other contributing factors to the wetting/drying, heating/cooling cycle. Studies have been carried out on the effect of the shelters on the wind and results so far seem positive.	Environmental data is collected constantly.	The protective shelter at Tarxien Temples is expected to be completed in 2015. There are currently no plans to build additional shelters over the other sites.	The lead agency is Heritage Malta, assisted in conservation issues by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples, an advisory body set up by the government in 2000.	No comments
3.7.2	Relative humidity	Fluctuations in relative humidity affects the rate of deterioration of stone surfaces of the sites, particularly those built predominantly of globigerina limestone.	Relative humidity in an open site cannot be avoided but the management of rain water (reducing ground water build-up) and the building of protective shelters (reducing heat and solar radiation) has helped to decrease fluctuations in relative humidity	Environmental data is collected constantly.	The protective shelter at Tarxien Temples is expected to be completed in 2015. There are currently no plans to build additional shelters over the other sites.	The lead agency is Heritage Malta, assisted in conservation issues by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples, an advisory body set up by the government in 2000.	No comments
3.7.3	Temperature	Fluctuations in temperature affect the rate of deterioration stone surfaces of the sites, particularly those built predominantly of globigerina limestone.	Thanks to EU structural funds, two protective shelters were built over Hagar Qim & Mnajdra in 2009 and a third shelter is being built over the Tarxien Temples. These help create a more stable environment by reducing fluctuations in temperature.	Environmental data is collected constantly.	The protective shelter over Tarxien Temples is expected to be completed in 2015. There are currently no plans to build additional shelters over the other sites.	The lead agency is Heritage Malta, assisted in conservation issues by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples, an advisory body set up by the government in 2000.	No comments
3.7.8	Micro-organisms	Micro-organisms such as lichens thrive in exposed sites. It is as yet unclear which, if any, of these micro-organisms may present a risk to the preservation of the stone surfaces in the sites.	Biological studies have been/are being carried out in the 6 sites which makes up the serial property to better understand the issue. These will be repeated in sites where a protective shelter was installed for comparative analysis.	Monitoring is carried out regularly.	This action is ongoing.	The lead agency is Heritage Malta	No comments
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species						
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	On this site, this refers mainly to the over-abundance of plants and trees which are inevitable on an open site. Concern is raised only when they grow within or in the immediate vicinity of the remains and pose a risk to their preservation	Regular gardening is carried out to keep the plant population under control.	Monitoring is carried out regularly	This action is ongoing.	The lead agency is Heritage Malta	No comments

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones					
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
4.1.1	There is a need for a buffer zone	The site did not have a buffer zone at the time of inscription. Maltese legislation provides for a 100m buffer zone for Scheduled Property. A request was submitted for recognition of these buffer zones and the WHC has requested further information.	Further information will be submitted by February 2015.	The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority are responsible for enforcement of buffer zone regulations.	No comments
4.1.2	Boundaries could be improved	The boundaries of the site at the time of inscription need to be updated to reflect the current boundaries. This however is not affecting the site, the WH criteria or its attributes so no action is currently envisaged for this issue	There is currently no timeframe for this action.	The lead agency is Heritage Malta	No comments
4.2 Protective Measures					
4.2.5	Major deficiencies in capacity / resources to enforce legislation	Legislation within the sites is enforced. There is a lack of resources in enforcing legislation within the buffer zones, which falls under the the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and MEPA, who are currently revising relevant policy documents.	The revision of policy documents should be completed in the short term.	The agency responsible is the Malta Environment and Planning Authority with feedback from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta.	No comments
4.7 Visitor Management					
4.7.5	Contact with the tourism industry is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters	The tourism industry is well aware of the site, its cultural and historical importance and its visitor management system. No action is envisaged for this issue.	No timeframe is available.	No action is envisaged.	No comments

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	No impact
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Very positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	No impact
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Negative
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

Whilst the World Heritage status has an undoubtedly positive impact, the acknowledgement of each inscription as a site/s of international importance may have repercussions on its/their security. It has come to pass in the past that World Heritage Sites have been the target of vandalism and violent behaviour in protest to government actions which may or may not be related to cultural heritage.

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property

Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

The questionnaire makes it difficult to provide a clear picture of the situation in a serial inscription. It would be helpful if sections which address the physical properties of the site, rather than its management, provided the option to indicate the extent to which the answer reflects the actual situation. It would also be helpful to have a summary table similar to that generated in no 3.16 for the Potential Negative Factors. There is not enough space for comments.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Fair

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Excellent
State Party	None
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

Reason for update: The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Megalithic Temples of Malta was submitted to the World Heritage Centre as per Decision 31COM 11D.1 of the 2007 World Heritage Committee. This was accepted by ICOMOS International and was considered final and agreed upon on 19th December 2013. The OUV was presented and accepted at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014.

• **Map(s)**

Reason for update: Second map includes boundaries and buffer zones of both Faġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, two of the sites in the inscription.

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise