




SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
 MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF ANTIQUITIES AND MUSEUMS  
 DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

- ARCHAEOLOGICAL LIMITS OF THE SALAH EL-DIN CASTEL AND ITS BUFFER ZONES SPECIFIED IN THE ARTICLE /1/ DECISION NO /111/ DATED 22/03/2005
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 BUFFER ZONE SPECIFIED IN THE SUB-ARTICLE /a/ IN THE ARTICLE /3/ IN THE SAME DECISION
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 BUFFER ZONE SPECIFIED IN THE SUB-ARTICLE /b/ IN THE ARTICLE /3/ IN THE SAME DECISION

République Arabe Syrienne  
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Direction Générale des  
Antiquités et des Musées



الجمهورية العربية السورية

وزارة الثقافة

المديرية العامة للآثار والمتاحف

الرقم: 75/03.06  
التاريخ:

Our Ref: 75/03.06

Damascus, 27 March 2006

UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
Bureau M8.12  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 PARIS Cedex 15

Dr WHC  
rec d 29.03.06

**Subject: World Heritage List: "Les Châteaux de Syrie"**

Dear Sirs,

The Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (hereafter DGAM) has examined the observations and requests regarding the definition of the nominated areas and the management of the surroundings set by the ICOMOS expert Dr. Philippe BRAGARD, and sent to the DGAM through the Permanent Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2006 (Ref. GB/MA1229), we are pleased to inform you the following:

1. Concerning the triangular area in front of Crac des Chevaliers; This area is already included within the first protection zone, where construction is forbidden (maximum protection zone) Therefore; we understand this observation as a request to consider this area, an integrated part of the castle body, however; the level of protection in this area is absolutely the same applied to the castle itself, and this is demonstrated on page number /90/ article 4c in the nomination file. Concerning the lower court of the Castle of Salah El-Din; this area is included within the archaeological area, because it is part of the castle, and this is also demonstrated in the copy of the inscription decree, that was sent to the UNESCO as an annex to the nomination file.
2. Concerning the integrity of the surrounding landscape areas, and the unauthorized or otherwise incompatible structures in the immediate surroundings of the Crac des Chevaliers, The DGAM has decided to expropriate and remove the buildings that are located to the south and south east of the castle, behind the triangular area mentioned in paragraph (1) in this paper. This project is to be executed in 2007 because the cost should be calculated and noted in the annual budget of the DGAM Concerning the Castle of Salah El-din; the decision was also made to stop the development plan "regional master plan", in all areas identified by the DGAM as "non building" buffer zone of the castle, in order to preserve the physical and visual integrity of the landscape.

3. Concerning establishing a coordinated management system with relevant plans for both castles; The desired management system is explained in the nomination file, and the DGAM has already started the legal and administrative steps towards creating this management system, and its to be in place by the end of June of this year.
4. Concerning the proposed construction of cable cars to provide easy access to the castles, we would like to point out that these projects were never officially proposed to the DGAM, and in case they are officially proposed, we confirm that their location in both castle surrounding areas will be chosen outside the borders of the buffer zone in each castle.
5. Concerning the better specification of the property, The DGAM agrees to change the nomination file name to be (Crac des Chevaliers and Qalaat Salah El-Din).

Yours faithfully

Dr. Bassam JAMOUS  
General Director of Antiquities and Museums  
Ministry of Culture  
Syrian Arab Republic

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29/3/06



-Attachments: copy of (ICOMOS) letter