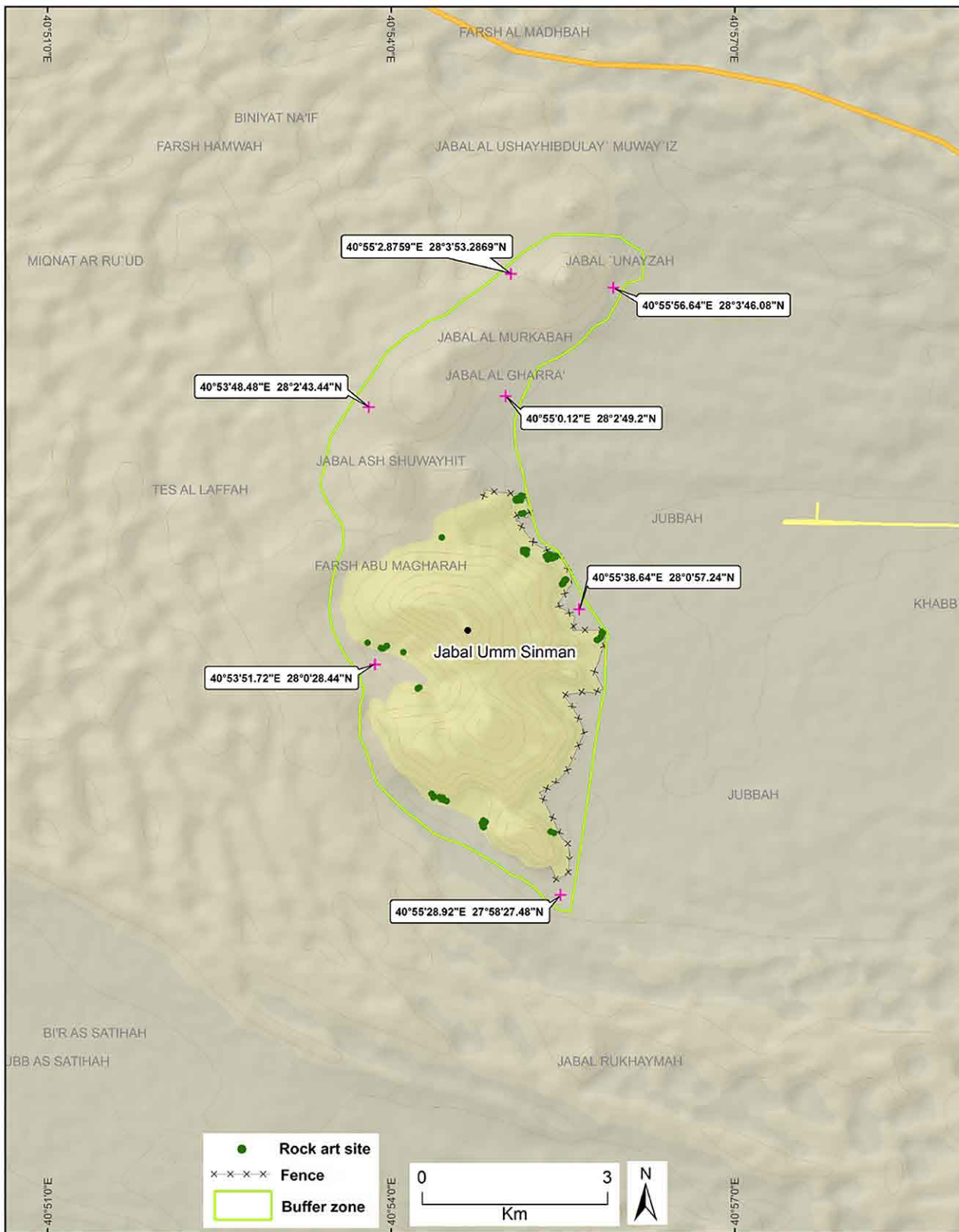


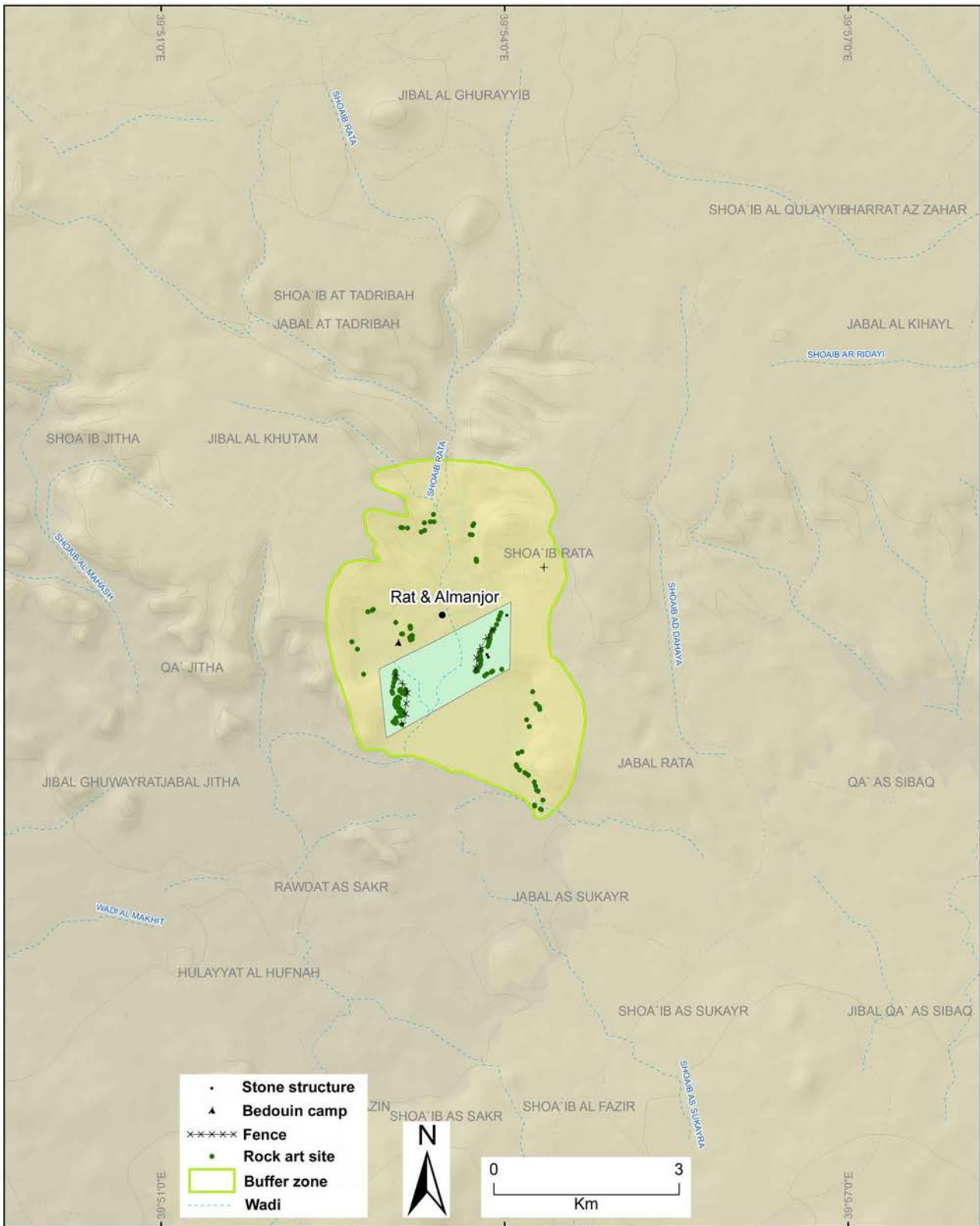
Executive Summary

State Party	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
State, Province or Region	Northern Province, Hail Region
Name of Property	Rock art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia
Serial properties	Serial nomination of two properties: 1. Rock art at Jabal Umm Sinman, Jubbah and 2. Rock art at Jabal al-Manjor and Jabal Raat, Wadi al-Mukhayet, Shuwaymis
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	1. Jabal Umm Sinman, Jubbah: 28° 00' 33" N, 40° 55' 44" E 2. Jabal al-Manjor and Jabal Raat at Shuwaymis: 26° 09' 13" N, 39° 53' 48" E
Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated properties	<p>1. Jabal Umm Sinman, Jubbah, 90 km northwest of Hail, is bounded in the west, north and south by desert sands and in the east by a security fence that borders the town of Jubbah. The buffer zone is bounded on the east by the westernmost north-south road of Jubbah, from its northern end to east of Jabal 'Unayzah, then skirting this hill to its west and trending southwesterly to include Jabals al-Murkabah, al-Gharra and Ash Shuwayhit, then south to the westernmost limit of Umm Sinman, skirting the mountain to its southernmost extent, from there returning to the westernmost road of Jubbah.</p> <p>2. Jabal al-Manjor and Jabal Raat are located on the Wadi al-Mukhayet, about 40 km west of Shuwaymis, situated about 250 km south of Hail. Both sites are bounded by security fences along the foot of the escarpments enclosing the rock art sites, and by the margins of the plateau above, but including ruins of ancient stone structures. The nominated core zone includes both sites within a parallelogram-shaped area. The surrounding buffer zone boundary proceeds from the end of the access road and the interpretation centre west across the width of Wadi al-Mukhayet, and from there follows the line of the demarcation poles (green line), measuring about 4 km north-south and over 3 km east-west.</p>

Maps of the nominated properties, showing boundaries of core zones and and buffer zones:



Jubbah core area (yellow) and buffer zone (within green line).



Shuwaymis core area (green) and buffer zone (yellow).

Criteria under which property is nominated	(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)
<p>Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:</p> <p>Brief synthesis</p>	<p>a) Brief synthesis</p> <p>The outstanding universal values embodied in the rock art of Jabal Umm Sinman and Jabal al-Manjor/Raat are the high quality of the petroglyphs (engravings) that display distinctively different rock art traditions over the last 10,000 years and reflect major economic and cultural changes, and the adjustments that people made to climate change in a region that has always been a bridge between Africa and the continents beyond.</p> <p>Situated at the geographical nexus between Africa and Eurasia, Saudi Arabia has long served as a corridor through which people moved, exchanging technological innovations, trade goods, cultural values and beliefs. The exceptionally abundant and well-preserved petroglyphs on rocky outcrops in what is now a sandy desert record some of these major events in human history against a backdrop of climatic change.</p> <p>The oldest rock art tradition evident at both of the properties in the serial nomination is one of the world's largest and most magnificent surviving examples of early Neolithic petroglyphs. It includes animals such as the ibex, which was revered by early Neolithic people who depicted the horns in exaggerated form. This artistic device and the associated bold representations of people herald the monumental arts of later civilizations of the Middle East. Neolithic stone artefacts were left behind at encampments near the shores of palaeolakes more than 6000 years ago.</p> <p>As cattle and horses were domesticated, they were brought to the region and images of them were added to the art corpus. With increased desiccation and the drying up of lakes after 3000 years ago, camels became essential to the economy of the ancestors of the Bedouin and are illustrated in abundance alongside Thamudic and Arabic script. Depictions of weapons of war suggest that this was a contested landscape. Graves and stone structures within the buffer zones are further testimony to the rich history of the region and have great potential for further research in the region where some of the world's major religions and writing systems evolved.</p>
<p>Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:</p> <p>Justification</p>	<p>b) Justification for criteria under which the Properties are nominated</p> <p>Criterion (i): The exceptionally large number of petroglyphs created by using a range of techniques with simple stone hammers, against a background of gradual environmental deterioration, are visually stunning expressions of the human creative genius by world standards, comparable to the messages left by doomed civilizations in Mesoamerica or on Easter Island. In that sense alone they are of highest outstanding universal value.</p> <p>Criterion (ii): "To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in ... monumental arts", applies to Jubbah and Shuwaymis, where certainly more than 6000 years of continuous human occupation is archived in both rock art and inscriptions.</p> <p>Criterion (iii): At Jubbah we can follow the battle of past societies against the environmental catastrophe they experienced and adapted to, in a truly exceptional example of such a situation where the petroglyphs record the nature of the changes and the stone artefacts show where people lived in relation to the rock art and to the lake as it gradually dried up. At Shuwaymis, by contrast, the petroglyphs are all that remains of the testimony of a society that vanished, leaving behind a pristine record of its existence that is of a magnitude rarely encountered elsewhere in the world.</p> <p>Criterion (v): Description as a traditional human settlement or human interaction with a vulnerable environment "under the impact of irreversible change" seems to have been formulated specifically for the Saudi site complexes. It is hard to think of alternative, similarly comprehensive records of civilizations facing environmental oblivion, anywhere in the world, that have left such brilliant testimony of their genius. The two properties nominated literally exemplify this criterion.</p>

<p>Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:</p> <p>Integrity</p>	<p>c) Statement of Integrity</p> <p>The boundary of the core area of Jabal Umm Sinman is designed to conserve the visual integrity of the property as a landscape that encompasses 14 clusters of petroglyphs all around the lowest slopes of the mountain, and ends where the rocky edges of the mountain meet the surrounding desert sands. The buffer zone extends northwards to include several smaller hills with fewer petroglyphs to protect them and to emphasise the integrity of the higher density of rock art in the core area.</p> <p>The core area of Jabal al-Manjor and Jabal Raat serves the same purpose of visual integrity in the landscape with a total of 18 rock art clusters. It additionally includes the sandy valley between the two mountains to emphasise the visual connections between the palaeolake that once existed there and the mountain slopes where the petroglyphs were made. The buffer zone includes the neighbouring mountain to the north where additional habitation sites might be discovered in future.</p> <p>In both cases, about 8 km of steel fencing with locked access gates prevents uncontrolled human access to sections of the core area in order to conserve the integrity of the properties. Both the Jubba and Shuwaymis properties have thus been spared any adverse effects of development or neglect, and continue to retain their integrity within the landscape.</p> <p>All elements necessary to express the OUVs of the two properties, namely numerous well-preserved petroglyphs, identifiably different rock art traditions over the period from hunting and gathering to animal domestication and writing, independent evidence for climatic change at nearby palaeolake deposits, and evidence for human interaction in a vulnerable environment, are amply represented at the Hail properties, and both core zones are of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features that convey the OUVs.</p>
<p>Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:</p> <p>Authenticity</p>	<p>d) Statement of Authenticity</p> <p>The petroglyphs at both properties have retained their original location, setting, materials, form and design at the foot of the mountain slopes in the desert, but they no longer function within a cultural tradition. The petroglyphs as well as Thamudic and Arabic inscriptions that have been added within the last three thousand years hint at intangible heritage that contributes to the spirit and feeling of the petroglyphs and that is still evident in their unspoiled setting.</p> <p>As no vandalism or illegal entry has been possible in the last few decades, and there is no evidence of reconstruction or recent modification of any of the rock art, deterioration processes are entirely limited to the effects of natural erosion. The causes of deterioration have been mostly meteoric water, wind and geological weathering, which are inevitable and have so far had limited effect on the petroglyphs, considering their age. The clearly different phases of weathering in fact underline the authenticity of the rock art corpus as they would be impossible to replicate. Although there is evidence on the lower slopes of Jabal Raat that some rocks with petroglyphs on them have been displaced since the petroglyphs were first made, this was undoubtedly a natural occurrence and there is no need to doubt the authenticity of the rock art. Dating of a series of key motifs by colorimetric sequencing of patina and other direct dating methods supports the age of the rock art estimated from independent palaeoenvironmental, archaeological and historical research.</p>

<p>Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:</p> <p>Management</p>	<p>e) Requirements for protection and management</p> <p>Both Jabal Umm Sinman at Jubbah and Manjor and Raat at Shuwaymis are well managed within the legal protection system provided by the Department of Antiquities and Museums. It is proposed to extend the management and protection of the sites by preparing for risks caused by increased visitation; continuing the constructive collaboration with the key stakeholders, the local municipalities; improving visitor facilities and infrastructure; and the improvement of staff expertise. Of particular importance is the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system of key indicators measuring the state of conservation of the sites, especially in terms of the effects of increased visitation and natural deterioration.</p> <p>The Management Plan submitted with this nomination sets out the general parameters of managing the properties, but it will remain flexible to accommodate any new requirements deriving from the findings of the monitoring program.</p> <p>The managing authority, the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, possesses the required human and financial resources to continue managing these monuments most effectively. It has at its disposal adequate legislative means, the political will and support to discharge its duties to the best standards, and a long-term commitment to the protection and preservation of properties that are entirely under its executive control. The administrative structures in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are highly centralized and effective, and the commitment of the SCTA, representing the State Party, to the long-term protection, preservation and effective management of the nominated properties is beyond question.</p>
<p>Name and contact information of official local institution / agency</p>	<p>Organization: Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities Address: P.O. Box 3734, Riyadh 11481 Tel: 966 1 403 6637 Mobile: 966 50 3439301 Fax: 966 1 403 6952 E-mail: OmarJ@scta.gov.sa Web address: http://www.scta.gov.sa/en/Pages/default.aspx</p>