



Ministry of Culture  
Directorate General of Antiquities & Museums

# **STATE PARTY REPORT**

On The State of Conservation  
of The  
**Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites**  
(Syrian Arab Republic)

For Submission By  
1 February 2019

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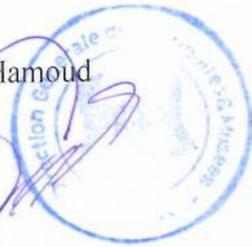
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## INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report on the State of Conservation of the Syrian World Heritage properties is:

- Responds to the World Heritage on the 42 Session of the UNESCO Committee organized in Manama, Bahrain from 24 June to 4 July 2018.
- Provides update to the December 2018 State of Conservation report.
- Prepared in to be present on the previous World Heritage Committee meeting 43e session 2019.

### **Information Sources**

This report represents a collation of available information as of 31 December 2018, and is based on available information from the DGAM braches around Syria, taking inconsideration that with ground access in some cities in Syria extremely limited for antiquities experts, extent of the damage cannot be assessment right now such as (Ancient Villages in North of Syria).

## **1. WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

Name of World Heritage property.: **ANCIENT CITY OF ALEPPO**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 1986

### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS**

Located at the crossroads of several trade routes since the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C., Aleppo was ruled successively by the Hittites, Assyrians, Akkadians, Greeks, Romans, Umayyads, Ayyubids, Mameluks and Ottomans who left their stamp on the city. The Citadel, the 12th-century Great Mosque and various 16th and 17th-centuries madrasas, residences, khans and public baths, all form part of the city's cohesive, unique urban fabric.

The monumental Citadel of Aleppo, rising above the suqs, mosques and madrasas of the old walled city, is testament to Arab military might from the 12th to the 14th centuries. With evidence of past occupation by civilizations dating back to the 10th century B.C., the citadel contains the remains of mosques, palace and bath buildings. The walled city that grew up around the citadel bears evidence of the early Graeco-Roman street layout and contains remnants of 6th century Christian buildings, medieval walls and gates, mosques and madrasas relating to the Ayyubid and Mameluke development of the city, and later mosques and palaces of the Ottoman period. Outside the walls, the Bab al-Faraj quarter to the North-West, the Jdeide area to the north and other areas to the south and west, contemporary with these periods of occupation of the walled city contain important religious buildings and residences. Fundamental changes to parts of the city took place in the 30 years before inscription, including the destruction of buildings, and the development of tall new buildings and widened roads. Nonetheless the surviving ensemble of major buildings as well as the coherence of the urban character of the suqs and residential streets and lanes all contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value.

### **THREATS:**

Since liberation in the 7th of November , 2016, the recovering stage in the city commenced in a relatively slow steps for the following reasons:

- The large amount of sabotage in the infrastructure (roads, electricity networks and sewage system), the maintenance and rehabilitation work have been conducted since liberation.
- The large size of the debris, which caused the closure of main and subsidiary road axes, and the need to implement appropriate technical debris management (documenting, sorting, archiving, rubble transport).
- The large cost of repair and rehabilitation of destroyed houses, as the repair work requires the use of traditional materials (stone, wooden roofs and mortar), which have become rare in the market, and

expensive if ever found, this led to some building infringements during restoration work under the pressure of the high prices and the lack of materials, and the urgent need of the residents to go back to their city and houses.

- The absence of a comprehensive integrated management plan or a master plan, which led to different priorities between the authorized authorities (governorate, antiquities, awqaf, local community), despite periodic meetings and communications between them.
- Slow implementing of the recovery plan, due to poor coordination among stakeholders, lack of awareness in the community, large financial expenses associated with the large volume of destruction and sabotage, laws and procedures that are not commensurate with the current state of the property.
- Several parts of estates had collapsed during this winter due to bad weather condition and also lack of funding to implement the urgent interventions.



*Damage at Antakia Front Tower*



*Damage at Al'a Tower*

#### **MEASURES TAKEN:**

**1- Debris management:** Due to the recent damage in the ancient city , the Aleppo Governorate is coordinating the collection and removal of disaster debris with the UNDP, local community organizations (the Syrian Trust for Development). The governorate carried out documentation and sorting of archaeological debris and rubble removal to open the road axes and roads of the ancient city in many areas including: *the area surrounding the Umayyad Mosque, Khan al-Wazir, Bab al-Hadid, Bab Antakya, Bab al-Nairab, Bab al-Maqam , Suq al-Qutton, Suq al-Zahrawi, Suq al-Zourb, Suq al-Attaren, Suq al-Haddadin, the vicinity of al-Sayaf mosque, al-Jadida area, the perimeter of al-Abraj mosque, Khan al-Albayeh, Suq al-Gokh, Suq al Zahr, al Nahaseen Suq, al Jubailian area, al-Bandara area.*



*Removing rubbles from the Suq Area*



*Removing rubbles in cooperation with UNDP in different areas*



*Removing rubbles in cooperation with UNDP in different areas*

## **2- Rehabilitation and Restoration projects.**

- The Great Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo

Rehabilitation work began this year with the help of financing from the Republic of Chechnya with 1 million and four hundred thousand US \$, the detailed restoration study was prepared by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture at the Aleppo University, and in follow-up and coordination with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums.



*Documentation of the archaeological debris*



*Documentation of the archaeological debris of the minaret, sorting, transporting and preserving it.*



*Excavation works were carried out at the courtyard.*

- *Reconstruction of damaged column No. 205 /indicated on the plan/*



*Documenting the column 205 before the dissemble*



*Execute the necessary temporary reinforcement*



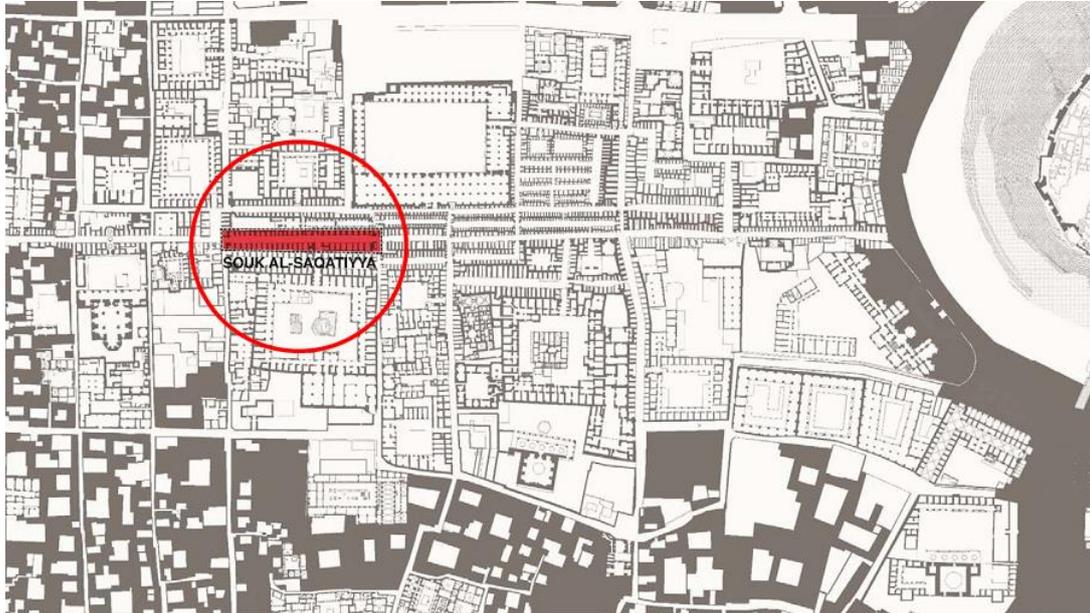
*Dismantling the stones and determine the reusable ones for reuse by using the original stones, 95% of the original stones were used, and replacing the remaining quantity with similar modern stones.*



*Maintenance of ablution fountain and water fountain in the courtyard*

- Suq al-Saqatiyya:

The Suq is located on the spinal column of the city, it is dated to the Ottoman period, with an axis of 98 m in length and a width of 4.7-4.9 m for the alley.



*Location of the Suq al-Saqatiyya according to the citadel of Aleppo.*

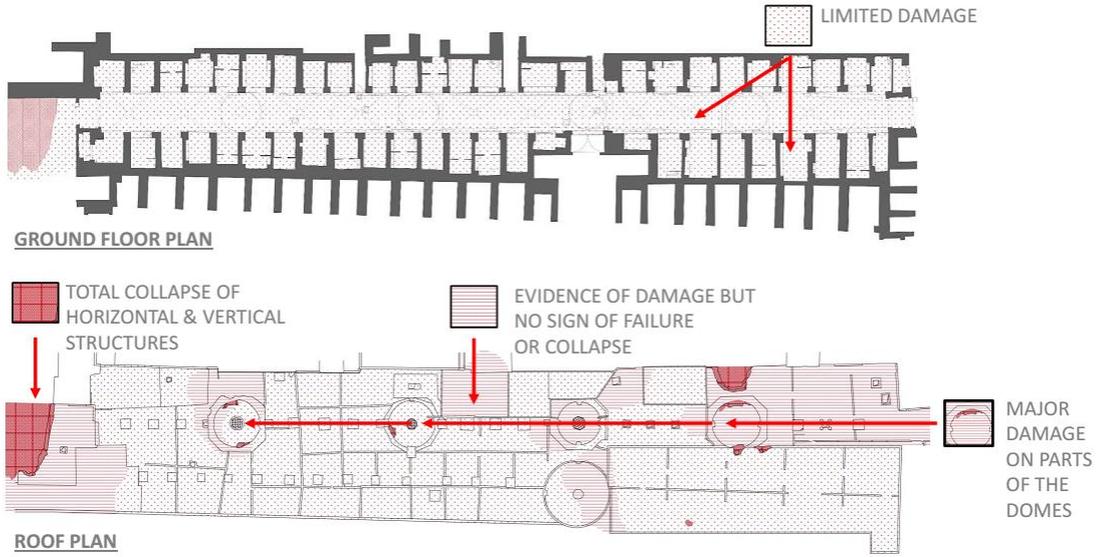
The project is the result of a memorandum of understanding signed between the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, Aleppo Governorate and the Syrian Trust for Development on the one hand and the Aga Khan Foundation for Cultural Services in Syria, where the Foundation presented a model study to restore the historical market in Aleppo as part of its commitment to help protect and Restoration of the World Cultural Heritage in Syria.

On November 1, restoration work was started in the suq with the participation of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and the Directorate of the Old City of Aleppo, where experts from the Foundation carefully supervise the executed works, which include the restoration of facades, ceilings, infrastructure services for water, electricity and communications, taking into account the archaeological privacy and social and commercial function of the suq.

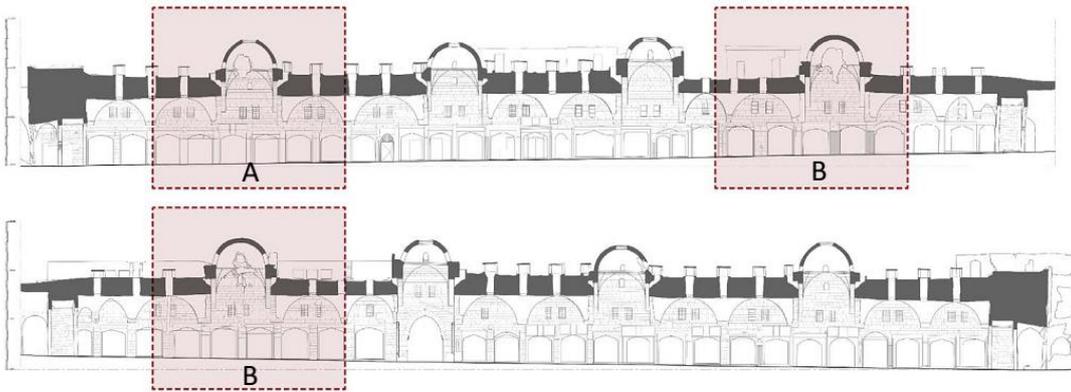
<b>SOUK AL-SAQATIYYA</b>	
No. of shops	53
Total area	1,528 sq. m.
Total length	118 m.
Average shop width	5 m.

The suq presented evidence of major damage but no sign of major collapse.

## DAMAGE ASSESSMENT



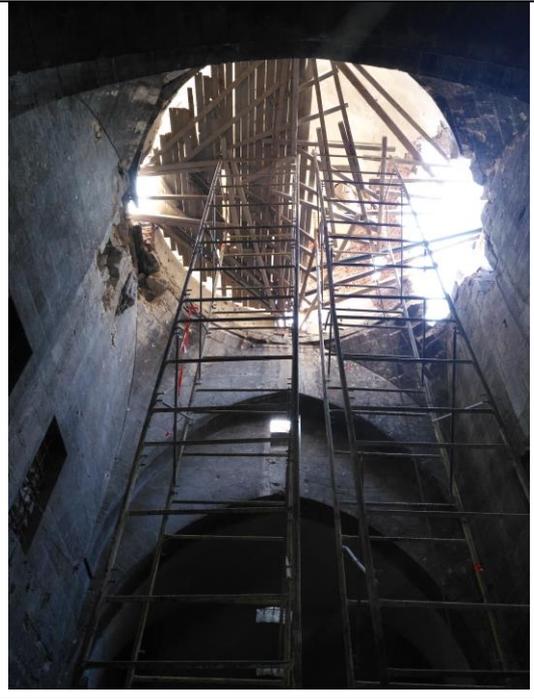
## SEVERELY DAMAGED DOMES





*Remove shops entrance threshold at Suq al-Saqatiyya*





*Restoration works at Suq al-Saqatiyya*

- Rehabilitation and Restoration in some of the religious buildings: such as Ismailia School, Haddaden Mosque, al-Tawashi Mosque, Dar al-Iftaa, documentation and sorting the debris, preparing the required plane for reconstruction, by using the original elements and complete the missing pieces.



*Documentation & sorting the debris in Dar al-Iftaa*



*Reconstruction in al-Tawashi mosque*

- Preparing the rehabilitation project of the National Museum in Aleppo: The estimated cost (20358 US\$) including maintenance of roofs, floors, windows and doors, painting the walls, maintenance of showcases in the exhibition halls, electricity and sewage network. The work will be done during 2019.



*The current state of the Aleppo museum*

- Rehabilitation of the theater and bathrooms of the in Aleppo Citadel



*The debris in Aleppo citadel*

- In response to the Technical Meeting Technical Coordination Meeting which hold in Beirut on 1-3 March 2017, the DGAM with cooperation of the Engineers Syndicate started the first phase of the Syrian Restoration code to establishing controls and guidance for restoration and rehabilitation of the damaged historical built heritage in a way that preserve its authenticity for the next generation. The code is a set of regulating acts of the technical rulebook for restoration including all the specifics about building materials, natural local conditions, protection and support requirements, investment and employment conditions. The first phase will be submitted to the concerned authorities with the beginning of the next year.
- There are some encouraging examples of action, but there is also a general lack of funds, lack of equipment, lack of trained personnel and there is also a problem of access to sources of information. Taking into consideration present state and systems in the Ancient City, efforts should be oriented towards further improvement of coordination mechanisms. This will be implemented by supporting the DGAM committee, the lack of financial and human resources in Aleppo is the main problem in implementing the plan, there is a need to be supported by Damascus staff (The DGAM main branch in Damascus) this requires them to travel regularly to Aleppo to be sure that the relevant duty of the commission is fully operational.
- The DGAM had submit to UNESCO office in Beirut on August 29, 2018 a request for finance the recovery plan of the Ancient City that meet the

recommendation of the 22<sup>th</sup> session in Bahrain with a budget of 385620 US\$.

- Property Boundary

The General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums proposed a minor modification of the buffer zone boundary, and prepared the required plans. The process of obtaining the Syrian government approval is ongoing to adopted the new buffer zone officially.

Name of World Heritage property: **CRAC DES CHEVALIERS & QAL'AT SALAH EL-DIN**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 2006

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS.

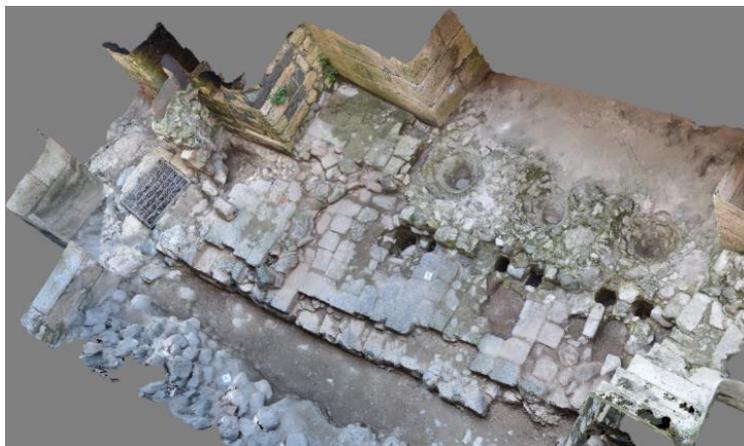
The two castles represent the most significant examples illustrating the exchange of influences and documenting the evolution of fortified architecture in the Near East during the Byzantine, Crusader and Islamic periods. The Crac des Chevaliers was built by the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem from 1142 to 1271. With further construction by the Mamluks in the late 13th century, it ranks among the best-preserved examples of the Crusader castles. The Qal'at Salah El-Din, even though partly in ruins, retains features from its Byzantine beginnings in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Frankish transformations in the late 12th century and fortifications added by the Ayyubid dynasty (late 12th to mid-13th century). Both castles are located on high ridges that were key defensive positions. Dominating their surrounding landscapes, the two castles of Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din are outstanding examples of fortified architecture relating to the Crusader period. Their quality of construction and the survival of historical stratigraphy demonstrate the interchange of defensive technology through features of each phase of military occupation.

#### MEASURES TAKEN

The joint Syrian-Hungarian expedition continued its work this year, the purpose of this is to fill in a few missing links in the general knowledge of the castle, and it includes details of the most recent (2017) excavation finds:

##### **Excavation:**

1. The implemented excavation provide more information about the water drain system in the castle in the southern side of Esplanade hall and the western wall of the internal castle.



*The excavations in the southern side of Esplanade*

2. The excavations at the south-eastern part of the soldiers hall revealed that the room was used as a laundry room because of the many water channels that were found there.



*Cleaning the well and removing the debris*



*The archaeological excavation in the south-eastern of the soldiers hall*

3. Significant finds included an important of pottery artifacts and human bones were cleaned and documented.



*Cleaning works to the pottery artifacts and the human bones that were found during the excavation seasons and documenting it.*

- The DGAM requested an international assistance on 22/11/2018 to finance the first phase of the master plan of the CRAC DES CHEVALIERS in response to the registration file and the recommendations of the Technical Assistance workshop held in Beirut on 13, 14, 15 December 2016.
- Only prevention works were done at Qal'at Salah El-Din. Regarding the cable car project, no decision had been adopted by the Syrian Authority yet. The DGAM is waiting for the perspective of the UNESCO expert during the proposed visiting to the site, according to the our request letters sent to WHC on 09 Aug 2018 and 29 Nov 2018. In addition the DGAM requested from the project studying team to submit an environmental Impact study and more detail plans for the project activities.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF DAMASCUS**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 26/10/1979

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS**

Founded in the 3rd millennium B.C., Damascus was an important cultural and commercial center, by virtue of its geographical position at the crossroads of the orient and the occident, between Africa and Asia. The old city of Damascus is considered to be among the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Excavations at Tell Ramad on the outskirts of the city have demonstrated that Damascus was inhabited as early as 8,000 to 10,000 BC. However, it is not documented as an important city until the arrival of the Aramaeans. In the Medieval period, it was the center of a flourishing craft industry, with different areas of the city specializing in particular trades or crafts. The city exhibits outstanding evidence of the civilizations which created it - Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic. In particular, the Umayyad caliphate created Damascus as its capital, setting the scene for the city's ongoing development as a living Muslim, Arab city, upon which each succeeding dynasty has left and continues to leave its mark. In spite of Islam's prevailing influence, traces of earlier cultures particularly the Roman and Byzantine continue to be seen in the city. Thus the city today is based on a Roman plan and maintains the aspect and the orientation of the Greek city, in that all its streets are oriented north-south or east-west and is a key example of urban planning. The earliest visible physical evidence dates to the Roman period - the extensive remains of the Temple of Jupiter, the remains of various gates and an impressive section of the Roman city walls. The city was the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate. However, apart from the incomparable Great Mosque, built on the site of a Roman temple and over-laying a Christian basilica, there is little visible dating from this important era of the city's history. The present city walls, the Citadel, some mosques and tombs survive from the Middle Ages, but the greatest part of the built heritage of the city dates from after the Ottoman conquest of the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## **THREATS**

The ancient city of Damascus has suffered from indirect effects of the crisis, the most important is the population pressure which led to:

- Increasing the pressure on the infrastructure, especially the sewage network, the residents tread this problem by raising the floor level in their houses or other ways which are not compatible with the instructions of protection.
- Increasing of restoration works in the suq and residential houses, which led to use modern material in some areas because traditional materials become rare in the market, and expensive if ever found.

- The Absence of the master plan is still the major difficulty to the implementation of conservation plan.

#### MEASURES TAKEN:

With regard to paragraph (6) of the *Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.32* (World Heritage Committee): Studies on the management plan began in 2010. But Due to the crisis in Syria in 2011, the priorities have shifted to protection, prevention and documentation of damage.

Now, the city and its surroundings have been free of threats, terrorist acts or military actions, taking into consideration the priorities of protection and risk management, lack of adequate funding, poor communication and cooperation with the local community, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums has begun implementing steps that fall partially within the management plan:

- Cooperation with the Directorate of Awqaf and the Directorate of Education (which owns a large number of archaeological buildings) to document and preserve their buildings in the property.
- Working with the Responsible authorities in the Syrian government to develop a plan to return the property in al-Hamraoui district, located south of the Umayyad Mosque, which has been expropriated by the government since 1956, causing its neglect and the decline of its general status, or investing these properties according to procedures to be agreed between the stakeholders.
- Establish the center for the production of traditional building materials and storage warehouses (in cooperation with Damascus Governorate).
- Supporting and encouraging traditional craft education centers by developing the regulations concerning licensing procedures in the city including the professions of education centers, community support centers and others.
- Qualifying a team through several courses and programs to develop skills and work on techniques, and support academic study in the field of restoration and management.

Other projects require technical and financial assistance:

- Digital tour guide with scientific and promotional content, which will benefit the local community.

- The digital footprint project for the elements of the archaeological buildings, which will be useful in documentation in the purpose of re-positioning the elements of the archaeological building to its original location in the case of the collapse.

With regard to paragraph ( 5 )of the Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.32 (*World Heritage Committee*): the restoration work in the old city was limited to the emergency and necessary service work. Modern materials were sometimes used in private property , has been documented to be processed when appropriate conditions.

With regard to paragraph ( 4 )of the Draft Decision: 42 COM 7A.32 (*World Heritage Committee*): The major risk to the property during the last years was the fire, and cooperation is ongoing with Municipal to clarify the measures taken to combat fire (prevention, protection ), analysis its causes

**The conservation plan:**

The General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums seeks to develop a conservation plan to protect the urban fabric and preserve the important buildings and public markets in order to ensure the continuity and the authenticity of the property and the survival of the local community.

Through the conservation plan, it will be focus in this following point :

1. Establishing Data Bank includes all the necessary documents that serve the management plan.
2. Promoting the cooperation and communication between all stakeholders, and identification of the responsibilities.
3. Training and qualifying a crew of all stakeholders.
4. Documentation the important buildings, that will be selected according to specific criteria.
5. Preparation to print brochures targeting three categories of stakeholders:
  - Guide of the population (the local community).
  - Preparing the restoration code as mentioned above.
  - Fire Extinguishing Guide.

The conservation plan is still in its initial stages and needs meetings between stakeholders to determine priorities and methods of protection, but lack of funding impedes the process of progress.

**1- Restoration of the Ottoman Bank.**

The building was exposed to a huge fire in 2015, which led to the destruction of the structural system on the first floor (the span roof, walls and columns). A structural study was carried out by an engineering office financed by tenants and occupants.

The study was modified according to the UNESCO expert notices in the technical meeting (Beirut 2016).

The works started in 2018, by the removal of rubble and, install the metal columns.

It is worth to mention, the DGAM faces some difficulties to control the restoration work due to lack of funding, and the conflict of interests between the stakeholders.

2- **Documentation:**

- Document the damage caused due to the crisis and document the restoration work.
- The documentation archive for Damascus and its buildings was digitally preserved and on several copies.
- Forms of documentation has been Developed and tested in the field.
- Documentation, monitoring and follow-up work in the property and its buffer zone are going on regularly.
- 3D documentation team to work in the property
- Scanning a large number of information contained in books and references.

3- **Periodic Monitoring reports** of the cracks at the floor and walls in al-Azem Palace showed that they are increasing.

Preparation a project includes the study of foundations settlement (causes, impacts, reinforcement and consolidation) is one of the priorities of the DGAM in 2019.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF BOSRA**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 1980

### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:**

The name of Bosra occurs in the precious Tell el-Amarna tablets in Egypt, which date from the 14th century B.C. and represent royal correspondence between the Pharaohs and the Phoenician and Amorite kings. It became the northern capital of the Nabataean kingdom. In the year of 106 A.D, a new era began for Bosra when it was incorporated into the Roman Empire. Alexander Severus gave it the title Colonia Bosra and Philip the Arab minted currency especially for it. During Byzantine times, Bosra was a major frontier market where Arab caravans came to stock up and its bishops took part in the Council of Antioch. Bosra was the first Byzantine city, which the Arabs entered in 634 in the phase of Islamic expansion. Today, Bosra is a major archaeological site, containing ruins from Roman, Byzantine, and Muslim times. Further, Nabataean and Roman monuments, Christian churches, mosques and Madrasas are present within the city. Its main feature is the second century Roman Theatre, constructed probably under Trajan, which has been integrally preserved. It was fortified between 481 and 1251 AD. Al-Omari Mosque is one of the oldest surviving mosques in Islamic history, and the Madrasah Mabrak al-Naqua is one of the oldest and most celebrated of Islam. The Cathedral of Bosra is also a building of considerable importance in the annals of early Christian architecture. Bosra survived about 2500 years inhabited and almost intact. The Nabataeans, Romans, Byzantines and Umayyad, all left traces in the city, which is an open museum associated with significant episodes in the history of ideas and beliefs.

### **THREATS**

On June 2018 the Syrian government were able to retake control of the ancient city of Bosra after a reconciliation agreement with the Armed Groups.

The potential for damage to historical monuments has already been realized. The effects were minor, such as bomb fragments or bullet shots at the façades. Other impacts have permanent consequences such as the complete destruction of the Kalybe.

Traditional Folk Museum and the site museum have been ransacked, looted and smashed up by armed groups. It not yet clear what is missing – a list is being compiled.

### **MEASURES TAKEN**

The DGAM delegation entered the ancient site on July 27,2018. An initial rapid assessment was conducted immediately in order to locally assess the

damaged-affected areas and the needs to repair the damage and design a prioritized plan of action based on those needs. An updated report of the current condition was sent to the WHC on September 2018. On December 2018 a new site manager was appointed by DGAM to manage the ancient site. The team wasn't able to start the recovery phase within the site till now due to security concerns.

A request fund for implementing the Recovery action plan was sent to UNESCO Beirut office on August 29, 2018 with a budget of 305000 US\$.

IAR also sent to the WHC for funding the first phase of the Recovery plan for (Damage assessment and review the boundary of the site) with total 30000 US \$.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF PALMYRA**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 1980

#### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:**

An oasis in the Syrian Desert, northeast of Damascus, Palmyra contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centers of the ancient world. From the 1st to the 2nd century, the art and architecture of Palmyra, standing at the crossroads of several civilizations, married Graeco-Roman techniques with local traditions and Persian influences. First mentioned in the archives of Mari in the 2nd millennium BC, Palmyra was an established caravan oasis when it came under Roman control in the mid-first century AD as part of the Roman province of Syria. It grew steadily in importance as a city on the trade route linking Persia, India and China with the Roman Empire, marking the crossroads of several civilizations in the ancient world. A grand, colonnaded street of 1100 meters' length forms the monumental axis of the city, which together with secondary colonnaded cross streets links the major public monuments including the Temple of Ba'al, Diocletian's Camp, the Agora, Theatre, other temples and urban quarters. Architectural ornament including unique examples of funerary sculpture unites the forms of Greco-Roman art with indigenous elements and Persian influences in a strongly original style. Outside the city's walls are remains of a Roman aqueduct and immense necropolises. Discovery of the ruined city by travelers in the 17th and 18th centuries resulted in its subsequent influence on architectural styles.

#### **THREATS:**

Several monuments were damaged such as: the Citadel, the gate of Temple of Bel and the Triumph Arch which need urgent intervention including consolidation works. Lack of funding is the major difficulty for not implementing the consolidation works.

#### **MEASURES TAKEN:**

A request fund for implementing the Recovery action plan was sent to UNESCO Beirut office on August 29, 2018 with a budget of 915520 US\$.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT VILLAGES IN NORTHERN SYRIA**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 2011

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:**

Located in a vast Limestone Massif, in the northwest of Syria, some forty ancient villages provide a coherent and exceptionally broad insight into rural and village lifestyles in late Antiquity and the Byzantine Period. Abandoned in the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries, they still retain a large part of their original monuments and buildings, in a remarkable state of preservation: dwellings, pagan temples, churches and Christian sanctuaries, funerary monuments, bathhouses, public buildings, buildings with economic or artisanal purposes, etc. It is also an exceptional illustration of the development of Christianity in the East, in village communities. Grouped in eight archaeological parks, the ensemble forms a series of unique and exceptional relict cultural landscapes.

**THREATS**

On 21/3/2018, the Turkish military airliner bombed the archaeological site of Brad, 15 km south of Afrin city. The bombing destroyed many important archaeological buildings, including the tomb of Saint Maron, The Julianos Church, which contains the mausoleum, and considered one of the oldest Christian churches in the world (built at the end of the fourth century).

**MEASURES TAKEN:**

The area is still under the control of the armed groups, damage assessment is difficult and access to the area is still forbidden.

## 2. TENTATIVE LIST:

### 1. Ebla (Tell Mardikh)

→ No new information, access to the site is still forbidden. DGAM had informed by local community that the Archive of Ebla at Idlib museum was looted and most of the museum's collection were looted and disappeared.

### 2. Mari (Tell Hariri) & Europos Dura

→ No new information, access to the site is still limited due to the security reasons.

### 3. Apamea (Afamia)

→ Access to the site is still limited due to the security reasons, however the staff of DGAM, was able to document the site by using a drone on June 2018, the photos shown that the site was exposed to a lot of destruction and sabotage by the terrorist groups.



*The photos show the existence of thousands of excavations from illegal excavations along the colonnade street in Apamea, in search of treasures to finance their terrorist acts against the Syrian people.*



*The number of pits highlighting the massive scale of the illicit digging.*

#### **4. A desert Castle: Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi**

→ No new information.

#### **5. Raqqa-Ràfiqa: the Abassid City**

→ No new information.

#### **6. Norias of Hama**

→ The waterwheels are concerned regularly by the Directorate of wheels and DGAM, this care includes the restoration and consolidation of the supporting stone structure and the maintenance of the wooden part (the water wheels) to ensures their effective operation, despite the difficulties which are represented by the lack of skilled Labour and the scarcity of wood suitable for the Norias and the need to use huge levers since the weight of the wheel is about (10- 30) tons.



*The current state of Jaabari waterwheel*



*aL-Dahsha waterwheel*



*al-Mamourya waterwheel*



*al-Bishriyat waterwheel*

## **7. Maaloula**

→ The municipality in cooperation with UNDP had executed a numerous projects, which were the rehabilitation of infrastructure, removal the debris, the rehabilitation of monastery of Mar Takla. It is worth to mention the returning of the displaced is accompanied with the restoration of residential houses, which is slow where the rate of the returning residents has been 35% since 2014.



*Photos showed the town roads and the destroyed houses after the debris removal*



*Restoration and reconstruction works at Maaloula*

### **8. Ugarit (Tell Shamra)**

- The national archaeological mission in Ugarit implement an on-going maintenance plan for the site cleared of all the overgrown by trees, shrubs and grass. On the other hand maintenance of the site infrastructure were done.

### **9. Tartus: the Crusaders Citadel-City**

- The Antiquities of Tartus is undertaken an on-going maintenance plan for the old city.

### **10. Arwad Island:**

- The Island is Subjected to development tourism project pressure on an area of seven acres belonging to the Ministry of Tourism. The project includes a /4/ stars hotel with capacity of /72/ room +/18/ suites, /12/ Chalet, /3/ restaurants with capacity /620/ chairs, two stars cafeterias with a capacity of /65/ chairs and park areas. The project contained also a boat marinas, commercial and recreational complex, a health club and an athlete.

# ANNEX

On The State of Conservation  
of The  
**Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites**  
(Syrian Arab Republic)

Prepared by the Concerned Public Authorities  
in Aleppo Ancient City

For Submission By

1 February 2019

## **THE INTERVENTIONS DONE BY DIRECTORATE OF THE ENDOWMENT OF ALEPPO FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY PHASE (2018):**

### **1- Emergency work:**

Since the first days of the liberation of Aleppo, the Directorate of Awqaf has conducted a preliminary survey of the damage in the Old City. It also documented the damaged in the historic buildings (mosques, religious schools, Tikaya, Zawaya and shrines) in order to limit the damage and study the possibility of rehabilitation. In cooperation with the City Council of Aleppo, it removed rubble in the streets and alleys surrounding places of worship in order to facilitate the passage of people there. In addition to carrying out simple relief work for some of the damaged historical mosques.

### **2. Reconstruction and Restoration:**

#### **Religious buildings:**

The number of archaeological mosques in the city of Aleppo about 235 / between mosque and religious school. The number of damaged buildings are / 110 / partially or totally damaged overall percentage (50%).

Restoration approvals were granted in coordination with the DGAM and the Directorate of the Old City for about (50) mosques with the aim of restoring them by a total of (45%). 80% of the mosques (partially damaged) were restored.

All restoration work is carried out jointly by the DGAM in Aleppo, within the recognized of the conditions and standards and by the use of local expertise and manpower.

### **3- Residential and Commercial Buildings:**

The number of damaged waqf estates were 600, most concentrated in the market area of the city and the Jdayda district. Restoration approvals were given to total of (220) houses, including (20) houses and (200) shops with a total rate of (36%).

### **4 - Attention to the humanitarian aspect of reconstruction.**

The Directorate has made many contributions to rehabilitate the affected areas and return its residents through:

- Revitalization of wells in the old mosques that water networks in those areas were affected and not eligible for use and wells were the only source of water.
- Provide electric generators in some mosques for lighting of the surrounding neighborhoods, in addition to being a source of pumping water from the wells.
- Praying were announced in the mosques even if they were rundown and not qualified for prayer, because the praying has a spiritual importance to the Muslims, which contributed to the spread of safety in the hearts of the people and hasten the return to their areas.
- The secondary school for girls has been reopened and serves a large segment of the population of these areas.

- The reconstruction of the secondary school for boys is currently under way in the area of Bazaar Square.
- Social and religious activities had been activated within the mosques during Ramadan, Eid and religious occasions.

Obstacles and difficulties:

1. Lack of resources and financing.
2. Dependence on personal donations to the people of the city is relatively limited and is unable to reconstruct big buildings.
3. the unjust economic blockade on Syria, which made it difficult to access some of the traditional materials needed for the restoration process, in addition to its high price.

## **REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF THE GREAT UMAYYAD MOSQUE IN ALEPPO**

According to Dr. Sakher al Alabi, director of the project the following works has been achieved at the Umayyad mosques.

The executive committee is the committee for the completion of the project of rehabilitation and restoration of the Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, a committee formed by presidential decision before the liberation of the city as a proactive step to restore the mosques as it was before. This step indicates the great interest in this unique landmark and leadership awareness of the importance of this historical, cultural and religious monument.

The removal of the rubble was followed by the consolidation works at the damages areas to avoid collapses. A competent authority was commissioned to conduct a survey in order to document the damage, as well as documenting the minaret. Machines have been obtained for lifting and transferring the stones to the courtyard of the mosque and the outer courtyard according to a systematic method. This was followed by the processing of two workshops in the mosque, one of them to manufacture the elements of missing woods items and the other to manufacture the missing stones items or maintenance of those in place.

The current status of many areas in the mosques has been documented such as the top surfaces, domes, wooden works, the stone terrace at the courtyard and the exterior facade. Accordingly to the documentation restoration work and maintenance were started.

Several works are going on such as: preparing the necessary studies for the reconstruction of the eastern side of the mosque, completing the restoration in the tribal and the courtyard, analyzing the minaret stones ( fragility, hardness and the possibility of benefiting as well as disassemble the rest of the minaret shaft to know the resistance of what remains of the origin of the minaret and to identify the method and technique of building). In parallel, adaptation, lighting, sound and other studies are being prepared.

In parallel, a virtual module has been developed. Studies of carpet design, selection of elements, the appropriate lighting, the development of perceptions of the walls wood finishes and pillars of the tribal mosque were been documented.

## **THE INTERVENTIONS DONE BY DIRECTORATE OF ANCIENT CITY OF ALEPPO FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY PHASE (2018):**

In response to the points identified in the report presented at the forty-second session held in Manama Of 2018 please below the answers :

### **1 Lack of an agreed action plan that reflects vision and identifies priorities, tools and human resources:**

A. The emergency plan was implemented within the ancient city, which included:

- Clearing the rubble and opening the closed streets. the Military Housing Corporation and the military Construction Execution Corporation were contracted with contracts on three stages, in addition to the work of the deportation of rubble 'estimated at / 200,000 / m<sup>3</sup>, All main street axes in all areas of the old city were opened.
- UNODC has also been involved in debris removal and stone sorting, in addition to working with Local Initiatives and Indigenous Communities, such as the "Swa Mn Amra" Working Group, which included 3,000 students From the universities of Aleppo.

B. Currently, a medium- and long-term plan is being implemented that includes:

- Committees and working teams have been formed to develop an intervention strategy in the Old City and prioritize the projects to be accomplished based on the study of reality and the identification of the main objective which is to preserve the city of Aleppo as a living city .
- Many vital projects have been identified which will contribute in the reviving of the city which was supported by the government by Allocating \$ 1 billion for its implementation in order to accelerate the return of the population.

Studies were prepared in 2018 and it included :

- The rehabilitation of the main streets in the Old City: Al-Mutanabi Street, Bab Al-Hadid Street towards Al-Khandak Avenue, Sharq Al Qasr Al Adli Street.
- The executive study to fill the tunnels in the old city which was dug by the militants and were used for their subversive purposes.
- Tameem projects and the rehabilitation of public places included the re-maintenance of the castle walls, rehabilitation of public squares and squares and the development of studies necessary for it, such as AlHatab square and Almeji Square.
- Rehabilitation of traditional markets, some of which are completely destroyed.
- The 1650 shops in the traditional markets were partially and completely damaged.
- Which showed the following results:
  - / 400 / shops completely destroyed, almost includes / 3 / markets.
  - / 500 / shops need minor interventions.
  - / 700 / miscellaneous shops partially destroyed and in need of renovation.
  - / 50 / shops were opened.

Note that the main streets of the main axes have returned (70%) distributed in the areas of the old city.

- Bab El Nasr Street, Al-Khandak Avenue
- Agoul Street, Bab AlHaded
- Jebe Al Qubba Street, Bab AlHaded
- St. Antakya Steet. Gamal Mosque Square
- The role of the local community has been activated with the participation of neighborhood and Mukhtar committees to present the available data and follow up the population to work in accordance with laws and regulations and to make the necessary permits and approvals for the reconstruction of their damaged homes
- 210 / permits for simple works (commercial or residential).
- 125/ permits for restoration and reconstruction works includes the residential and commercial.

## **2. Absence of an emergency intervention plan to prevent further damage to archaeological buildings:**

- Public safety committees have been formed to include all areas of the ancient City which are formed by the mayor including a representatives of the concerned departments in the Old City (Directorate of the Old City, Directorate of Antiquities, Directorate of Tourism, Directorate of Awqaf, Syndicate of engineers). Its mission is to identify the damaged buildings and determine the risk factor and prepare a report on the situation.
- is / 200 / reports was completed in 2018 by the committees has been forwarded to the Military Housing Corporation Which was contracted to do the following:
  - Demolition and removal of suspended and cracked parts and removing it in hazardous buildings and providing metal support and necessary towers for supporting the places that need to be strengthened which pose a threat to public safety.
  - In the year 2018, a value of 100 million Syrian pounds was paid for the ancient City. Work is done successively whenever the financial support is provided.

## **3.Lack of a database of documents required to develop work plans:**

- A committee was formed from all concerned parties in the ancient city to collect documents and data related to the buildings and establishing a database of the ancient city archives and addressing the relevant government departments to provide what they have of Information (Department of survey, Syndicate of Engineers, the university, Al-Adiyat ASsassociation).

## **4.Lack of an effective coordination mechanism between the parties involved in the city recovery process:**

The main and subsidiary committees concerned with the study of the ancient city are the optimal form of coordination with Parties involved in the city recovery process.

The Protection Committee composed of the directors of the concerned institutions and representatives of the civil society, headed by the Governor is studying the main projects and permits files in the Old City. The Committee held eleven meetings in / 2018 / in which it discussed the most important projects and propose solutions to the problems that Objects to its license, taking into account adherence to the urban system of the old city and not to prejudice the specificity of this city, including:

1) Approval of the restoration of buildings: mosques, churches or public buildings such as the restoration and conversion of the Evangelical Church to a center for spiritual sports.

- Change the function of some residential properties to a tourist (a dormitory).

- Approval of the reconstruction of the farming room located around the castle.

2) Study proposals submitted by international organizations and local communities for the rehabilitation of public spaces, squares and markets, Such as the rehabilitation of Bab al-Faraj hour tower square, the association of Bab al-Nasr friends, Aga Khan Foundation and the project of AlSaqtia.

**5. Forming joint committees between the relevant directorates of the ancient city to carry out a number of tasks including:**

- Study the beautification of the surroundings of the castle and lay the foundations and controls for tourist uses and the general view of the surrounding.
- Examining the applications of suspended permits, proposing treatment and developing solutions to the problems that impede its achievement (such as conditions Property, full destruction, and expropriation).

In addition to the existence of the Technical Committee derived from the Protection Committee and consists of representatives of the directorates concerned with the Old City (Tourism, Awqaf, Antiquities, University, Directorate of the Old City) which meets weekly to study all permits and projects Which reached the number of meetings in the year 2018 to / 50 / meetings with site visits to study the files.