



State of Libya

Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF LEPTIS
MAGNS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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February 2019



World Heritage 43 COM





1. Executive Summary

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The State of Party, (Libya) would like to express its gratitude to the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and its advisory bodies for the efforts and endeavours they have undertaken to monitor the status of the archaeological site of Leptis Magna (the property) in order to remove it from the list of endangered sites.

This report has been prepared, in accordance with Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and compiled in response to WHC decision 42 COM 7A.23 at the forty-second session held in Manama, Bahrain (24 June - 04 July- 2018). In the report, the WHC commended the efforts made to develop a strategy for the protection and preservation of the Libyan properties listed in the World Heritage sites. The Department of Antiquities and local authorities have taken measures to preserve heritage property and involve civil society in maintaining the outstanding global value of property. The DoA will continue to make the WHC aware of the evolving status of the property, of any new measures taken to ensure its protection and preservation and provide detailed information on the work accomplished.

Despite the political, security and economic problems that the country has faced since 2011, which could be considered a threat to the archaeological site, there have been no cases of damage or serious violations to the site. This is due to the measures taken by the Department of Antiquities in collaboration with the tourist police and the local people.

Libya would like to assure the WHC that there have been no security violations in the area of Leptis Magna at all and that the site is not in any danger and therefore should be taken off the endangered list. The DoA also reiterates their invitation to a joint WHC / ICOMOS mission to assess the status of the property on site and to provide advice to the DoA.

The Department of Antiquities Survey Unit makes regular visits to monitor the site and its historic environment. The unit reported irregular periodic maintenance, due to the lack of funding, has been the main cause of the deterioration at the site. The site itself is fully accessible to the public. However, all the museums have been closed and most of the museum contents have been safely stored away from the museums.

This report finds that the current state of conservation on the site is satisfactory but could be improved with the help of more funding and political stability. Regarding the impact of human and other environmental threats, the situation at the site has improved in the last two years, due to an increase in the number of trained staff.

We can confirm that the overgrowth of vegetation, animal grazing and vandalism has been reduced. As for sand drift and the unauthorized discharge of domestic waste water, we have been working with the local authority to solve these problems.