

## Executive Summary

<i>State Party</i>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<i>State, Province or Region</i>	Najrān Region, Ḥimā Province
<i>Name of Property</i>	Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān, Saudi Arabia
<i>Serial properties</i>	<p>Serial nomination of six properties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ḥimā Wells</li> <li>2. Saidah</li> <li>3. ‘Ān Jamal</li> <li>4. Dhibāh</li> <li>5. Minshaf</li> <li>6. Najd Khayrān</li> </ol>
<i>Geographical coordinates to the nearest second</i>	<p>Ḥimā Wells:  18° 14’ 57.26” N  44° 27’ 06.62” E</p> <p>Northernmost site (Najd Khayrān):  18° 21’ 02.65” N,  44° 30’ 57.23” E</p>
<i>Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated properties</i>	<p>The nominated sites are located at:  Ḥimā Wells: 18° 14’ 57.26” N, 44° 27’ 06.62” E  Saidah: 18° 14’ 39.06” N, 44° 27’ 46.16” E  ‘Ān Jamal: 18° 17’ 49.00” N, 44° 30’ 52.56” E  Dhibāh: 18° 18’ 10.95” N, 44° 30’ 54.21” E  Minshaf: 18° 19’ 00.16” N, 44° 32’ 43.21” E  Najd Khayrān: 18° 21’ 02.65” N, 44° 30’ 57.23” E</p> <p>The buffer zone consists of a polygon comprising thirteen points. They are located, commencing from the northwestern most and proceeding clockwise:</p> <p>18° 30’ 10.00” N - 44° 27’ 00.00” E  18° 31’ 00.00” N - 44° 31’ 00.00” E  18° 28’ 10.00” N - 44° 31’ 47.00” E  18° 22’ 26.00” N - 44° 35’ 00.00” E  18° 20’ 00.00” N - 44° 35’ 00.00” E  18° 17’ 30.00” N - 44° 33’ 30.00” E  18° 17’ 00.00” N - 44° 31’ 00.00” E  18° 14’ 30.00” N - 44° 29’ 00.00” E  18° 11’ 40.00” N - 44° 29’ 00.00” E  18° 11’ 40.00” N - 44° 28’ 00.00” E  18° 15’ 00.00” N - 44° 27’ 00.00” E</p> <p>Essentially, this area includes most of the more than 550 rock art and rock inscription sites known in the region, with very few outlying sites outside this buffer zone (Map 1 refers).</p>
<p><i>Map 1, next page: the Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān, southern Saudi Arabia. The boundary of the proposed buffer zone and the six nominated sites are shown.</i></p>	



- Nominated sites:**
- 1 - Hama Wehs
  - 2 - Sadaib
  - 3 - Ain Jamal
  - 4 - Dhibah
  - 5 - Mirshaf
  - 6 - Najd Khayran
- Major rock art site**
- **Boundary of buffer zone**



Map 2. The locations of the six nominated serial properties within the southern part of the proposed buffer zone.

### The six serial properties nominated

1. **Himā Wells (آبار حمى)**.. Himā is famous for its wells and it is known as a routing point on the frankincense road between Najrān and the northern parts of Arabia during antiquity. It is also famous for the presence of some important inscriptions. Himā is the area with the most important concentration of protohistoric tombs in the region.
2. **Saidah (سيدااح)**.. This small isolated hill 1.3 km southeast of the wells is protected by a fence. On its top are three stone tombs and a recent necropolis occurs next to the hill. Saidah's main feature is a large inscription on the cliff face and another 43 smaller inscriptions, both Thamudic and South-Arabian. There are also numerous petroglyphs, mostly on boulders around the base of the hill.
3. **'Ān Jamal (عان جمال)**.. A rocky outcrop rising in the plain between Himā and jabal Dhibāh, where cliffs are covered with petroglyphs and South Arabian and Himaitic (Thamūdīc) inscriptions. Other panels in this site show a large camel with dark patina, big bovids and apparent hunters. 'Ān Jamal was the first site discovered and protected in this sector during the early survey project.
4. **Jabal Dhibāh (جبل ذباح)**.. Located 9.5 km north-east of Himā, consisting of a complex of scattered sandstone outcrops overlooking the northern path towards wādī al-Sammā' and jabal al-Kawkab. The various sites are a few hundred metres to roughly one kilometre apart. The most notable images are three petroglyphs representing an elephant with its mahout. Other sites are rich in South Arabian and pre-Islamic Arabic inscriptions.
5. **Minshaf (منشف)**.. The area has two rock stacks with a large smooth vertical panels adorned with huge bulls, other animals and palm trees, and many small inscriptions.
6. **Najd Khayrān (نجد خيران)**.. The northernmost property nominated, a major site complex among the 58 sites so far recorded north of and along wādī Saad. Thousands of petroglyphs have been created along the escarpment, on the cliffs and on large blocks of sandstone at their base.



<p><i>Criteria under which property is nominated</i></p>	<p>[i] It represents a masterpiece of human creative genius.          [ii] It exhibits an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in monumental arts and writing.          [iii] it bears a unique or at least exceptional testimony to several cultural traditions and to a civilization which is living.          [v] it represents an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement and land-use which is representative of a series of cultures, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.</p>
<p><i>Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV):</i>  <i>a) Brief synthesis</i></p>	<p>The OUV of the nominated Property derives from several factors. The overarching cultural role implied by its name, Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān, reflects the site’s historical function as one of the most important desert wells in the Middle East, if not the world. The passage of vast armies and myriad caravans has resulted in an unequalled historical ‘library on rock’, comprising massive numbers of rock inscriptions and petroglyphs that reflect Arabia’s history over the duration of the Holocene period.</p> <p>Tens of thousands of pre-Arabian texts confirm sometimes incredible historical facts, and the enormous corpus of often spectacular petroglyphs records the irreversible changes wrought by climate variations and the human responses to them. But this record not only covers the past; it continues right up to the present: the desert Bedouins whose history it tells still occupy Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān, still relate to the rock art, and still modify it or produce new images today. Moreover, the rock art’s ethnographic potential is often found enhanced by accompanying rock inscriptions.</p> <p>This is not just an outstanding archaeological complex; it presents a living tradition that extends back many millennia. In that sense alone, it is almost unique in the world. Other factors contributing to the OUV are the Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān status as one of the largest concentrations on the planet of both rock art and rock inscriptions.</p> <p>The pristine preservation and spectacular desert setting also add to the OUV of the Property.</p>

<p><i>Draft Statement of OUV: b) Justification for Criteria</i></p>	<p><i>Criterion (i):</i> Many of the Ḥimā petroglyphs and their compositions represent masterpieces of human creative genius, from the Neolithic period to the very present. They were generally created with simple hand-held stone hammers, but the artistic skills demonstrated in the high depictive standards of this corpus of rock art are undeniably exceptional. This magnificent catalogue of historically anchored productions invested with the beliefs, concerns, desires and priorities of its creators represents the surviving cultural precipitate of 300 to 400 generations.</p> <p><i>Criterion (ii):</i> Located at a crucial node in the network of Arabian caravan routes, the Ḥimā rock art and rock inscriptions exhibit an important interchange of human values of many ethnic groups from all over the Middle East, representing a long span of time in the developments in monumental arts and writing. Indeed, the inscriptions record systems of writing which eventually bestowed alphabetic scripts on the world.</p> <p><i>Criterion (iii):</i> The cultural precipitate of many millennia found in the Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān bears a unique testimony to several ancient traditions, culminating in a civilization that is still living today. This Property chronicles the history of the Arab people more effectively than any other site or site complex, representing a massive outdoor library of that history.</p> <p><i>Criterion (v):</i> The cultures that created the massive corpora of petroglyphs and rock inscriptions at Ḥimā present an outstanding record of human interaction with the environment where successive societies became highly vulnerable to irreversible changes in climate and aquifer level. This human interaction with a volatile environment thus provides a salutary lesson to modern society globally.</p>
<p><i>Draft Statement of OUV: c) Statement of Integrity</i></p>	<p>Access to the six fenced-in core areas will be fully controlled and sites supervised. Unauthorized access to the unprotected sites of the Property is not realistically possible. There is no recent development in the core zones, except protective measures; and none in the buffer zone except for Ḥimā township.</p> <p>Due to the highly arid environment of the Cultural Rock Arts in Ḥimā Najrān and the Bedouin custodianship since time immemorial, its Outstanding Universal Values have been exceptionally well preserved. Both the core zones and the proposed buffer zone are of adequate sizes to ensure the continuing integrity of the monument.</p>
<p><i>Draft Statement of OUV: d) Statement of Authenticity</i></p>	<p>All petroglyphs and rock inscriptions in the Property have retained their original location, setting, materials, ambience, form and design. To some extent even their traditional function within a cultural tradition has been preserved, through the continuation of traditional use. The clearly different phases of weathering and patination of both petroglyphs and inscriptions underline their authenticity, demonstrating that they are from different eras.</p> <p>Authentic form and design can be seen in the depiction in the rock art of ancient modes of apparel, tools, weapons and ornaments. The age of successive traditions of petroglyphs and thus their authenticity is also established by similarities with direct-dated rock art elsewhere in Saudi Arabia. Direct dating has been conducted at Ḥimā, and the precise ages of some inscriptions are known from their content.</p>