



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 2020



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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 request during the 43rd session of the world heritage committee in Baku 2019
- Provides an update to the December 2018 State of Conservation report.
- Prepared in to be present on the previous World Heritage Committee meeting 44^e session 2020.

Information Sources

This report represents a collation of available information as of 31 December 2019, and is based on available information from the DGAM braches around Syria, taking inconsideration that with ground access to the Ancient Villages in North of Syria extremely limited for antiquities experts, extent of the damage cannot be assessment right now.

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

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 2011

CHALLENGES

According to information received from local community, violations affected the eight archaeological parks. Those violations resulted from either illegal digs or construction, taking inconsideration that the parks are not able to access because of presence the armed group.

MEASURES TAKEN

- Damage monitoring to the parks by photos, maps, reports and sometimes when available and field visit (when possible).



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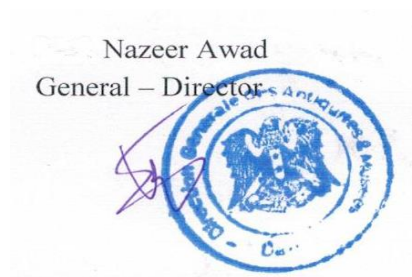
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INTRODUCTION

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

- Responds to the World Heritage Center on the 43 Session of the UNESCO Committee organized in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan from 30 June to 10 July 2019.
- Provides update to the December 2019 State of Conservation report.
- Prepared in to be present on the previous World Heritage Committee meeting 44e session 2021.

Information Sources

This report represents a collation of available information as of 31 December 2020, 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).

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 8th-10th 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.

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.