



State of Libya

Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CYRENE
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

C 190

February 2020



World Heritage 44 COM





1. Executive Summary

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The State of Property, (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 Cyrene in order to remove it from the World Heritage in Danger List.

This report has been prepared, in accordance with Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and compiled in response to WHC decision 43 COM 7A.23 at the forty-third session held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan (30 June - 10 July- 2019). In this session, the WHC commended the efforts made by the Antiquities Authorities and local authorities to develop a strategy for the protection and preservation of the Libyan properties listed in the World Heritage List, including this site (Cyrene). The Department of Antiquities (DoA) has continued to work alongside the civil society of the area to maintain the outstanding universal value of the 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.

A workshop was held on 12 / 02 / 2019 by the end of works of the committee formed by Government of National Accord decision no. (390 / 2017) to prepare the reports to reply to the decision of the World Heritage Committee to include the five Libyan sites in the list of danger.

Maybe the one of the most important results from this workshop is the formation of a new special committee (Government of National Accord decision No. (155 / 2019)), to manage the Conservation Strategy, (state of conservation Report, 2018) to ensure protection and preservation of the property.

The committee was authorized to implement the strategy presented for the preservation and maintenance of the five Libyan world heritage sites and communicating with the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in particular.

The follow up World Heritage Sites department was established in DOA to follow up on everything related to these sites, manage them, prepare periodic reports and proposed plans, and supervise the implementation of projects.

During 2019, there were clear violations by the citizens of the building and scribbling, in the non-attendance of the local site management authority.

Ministry of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has confiscated a former funerary statue for sale on the direct auction website at the request of the Libyan embassy in USA.

The restoration work in (Temple Cemetery) ended in its first season 2019 on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. After the five-month continued for a continuous period.

Receiving a modern device for geophysical survey, which will be implemented in Cyrene, with Libyan staff previously trained for that (Training in Action), and this device will be used to evaluate the targeted sites.

Start of training excavations in the spring of 2019 for the third year of the Department of Archeology; Omar Al-Mukhtar University, in Archaeological site, during which the student will receive methods of archaeological excavation and the detection of archaeological contents in a scientific method organized with the technique of recording the individual content of archeology and architectural structures.

Several awareness-raising activities and publications were held on the importance of preserving antiquities

The DoA would like to reiterate their invitation to a joint WHC / ICOMOS mission to assess the status of the property on site and to provide advice to the DoA.

Libya intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support, including from the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO.



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Property Data

Name of World Heritage property:

Archaeological Site of Cyrene

State Party:

Libya

Identification Number:

C 190

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage:

1982

Type of Property:

Cultural

Geographic Information (lat/long):

32° 49' 13.03" N, 21° 51' 27.57" E

Area:

131.67 ha.

Government Institutions Responsible for the Property:

Department of Antiquities, (DoA)

Criteria:

ii, iii, vi

Previous Committee Decisions:

Decisions 41 COM 7A.37 and 41 COM 8C.2 adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017)

& Decision: 42 COM 7A.22 adopted at its 42st session (Manama, 2018)

& Decision: 43 COM 7A.23 adopted at its 43st session (Baku, 2019)

Previous, WHC Monitoring Missions:

None



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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.

Committee formed by decision no. (155) / 2019 issued by the Government of National Accord, Libya for the Management and Implementation of the Strategy for Preservation and Conservation of the Five Libyan World Heritage Sites and World Heritage Sites Administration Unit in DOA are working together to follow up everything related to these sites, manage them, prepare periodic reports and proposed plans, and supervise the implementation of projects.

During 2019, there were clear violations by the citizens of the building and scribbling, in the non-attendance of the local site management authority.

Ministry of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has confiscated a former funerary statue for sale on the direct auction website at the request of the Libyan embassy in USA.

The restoration work in (Temple Cemetery) ended in its first season 2019 on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. After the five-month continued for a continuous period.

On September 30, 2020, security personnel in the Derna Security Chamber handed over artifacts to the DoA after completing the investigation and referring the perpetrators to justice. Also, the Criminal Investigation Office, Shahat, in early November 2020, arrested a gang of gangs that engage in illegal excavation of artifacts and referred them to the judiciary, and then handed over the artifacts to the DoA after completing the investigation.

Receiving a modern device for geophysical survey, which will be implemented in Cyrene, with Libyan staff previously trained for that (Training in Action), and this device will be used to evaluate the targeted sites.

Start of training excavations in the spring of 2019 for the third year of the Department of Archeology; Omar Al-Mukhtar University, in Archaeological site, during which the student will receive methods of archaeological excavation and the detection of archaeological contents in a scientific method organized with the technique of recording the individual content of archeology and architectural structures.

Several awareness-raising activities and publications were held on the importance of preserving antiquities.

Paris meeting which hold on March (05 – 06) 2020 was successful, the meeting included the discussion of the minor modifications of the properties boundary and proposing the buffer zones of the Five Libyan World Heritage Sites, in this meeting Libyan team benefited from direct discussion and close consultation with WHC, ICOMOS about the issues that concern all the Libyan World Heritage sites.

The DoA would like to reiterate their invitation to a joint WHC / ICOMOS mission to assess the status of the property on site and to provide advice to the DoA.

Libya intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support, including from the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO.