



State of Libya

# Libyan Cultural Heritage Sites

State of Conservation Report

## ROCK-ART SITES OF TADRART ACACUS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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# 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 Rock Art sites of Tadrart Acacus 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.27 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 (Rock Art sites of Tadrart Acacus). The Department of Antiquities (DoA) continues 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.

No acts of sabotage in rock art have been reported, and this decrease coincides with the conduct of tourist inspection patrols with regular inspection patrols; these patrols will not be successful without the coordination and cooperation of the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture in the region, and the tourism police and local community support. The Department of Foreign Affairs has also increased its awareness-raising activity in the towns and cities surrounding the property, including Jerma, Ghat, and Alawenat.

The Department of Antiquities is in process of contact with the Director of the archaeological mission in Acacus to get a data base concerning the site.

Consultations are still ongoing with the relevant authorities to classify the site as a national park. Surveys were also prepared in preparation for the rehabilitation of the old Alawenat castle as a cultural center and headquarters for the management of the World Heritage site in Alawenat, which will play a vital role in property management and awareness-raising within the local community.

The state of Libya would like to reiterate its request to the WHC for the removal of this cultural property (Rock Art sites of Tadrart Acacus) from the World Heritage in Danger List, which will be highly appreciated and will give encouragement for the state to put more effort in the protection and conservation of the site, with the commitment to continue our cooperation with the WHC and follow its guidance.

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

Finally the DoA would also 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.