



**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA WORLD HERITAGE SITES**  
**State of Conservation Report 2020**  
**Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah**  
**The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (C 1361)**  
**October 2020**







# Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia) (C 1361)

## Executive Summary

The World Heritage Committee has requested Saudi Arabia to submit a State of Conservation report on Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah to be discussed in the 2021 World Heritage Committee. This report includes an update on the situation in Jeddah upon which the SoC will be developed.

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, fully aware of the goals set in the Nomination File, is proud to renew in front of the international community its full commitment for the preservation and revitalization of the Historic Jeddah, the Gate of Makkah World Heritage Site.

## The Database

A new GIS system was specifically created for the Jeddah Historic District (notably comprising the whole WHS, with both Core and Buffer Zones) managed by the MoC, built on – and connected to – the larger Municipal system managed by the Urban Affairs Agency of the Jeddah Central Municipality (Amana). The new GIS database is equipped with several new information layers, more are under preparation in this regard.

## Historic Urban Landscape Approach & Property Management

*Historic Jeddah, the Gate of Makkah*, after nomination, JHD has been making considerable efforts to managing the long-term preservation and revitalization of the Historic area. To manage and balance, protection of the heritage values and socio-economic development of the historic city as seen in many examples world-wide, JHD program is continuing to resolve and learn by practice and improve daily capacity for the better preservation of city values.

## Integrated Conservation Strategy for the Property

Balancing conservation and development in a site like *Historic Jeddah, the Gate of Makkah* without harming its integrity or authenticity, requires the development of several actions providing a large set of indicators improving the urban realm and the outcomes of the heritage rehabilitation program.

## Fire Risk Prevention

Security of the property now falls under the JHD program, who follow-up closely on procedures; in addition, all access are now strictly controlled, and routinely checked to identify any violations. Such measures have drastically reduced the number of reported fires within the historic district, with no additional losses since the last incident in 2018.

## Plans, Projects and Strategies

JHD Program oversees, reviews and approves all renovation and restoration projects in the WHS. Jointly with Historic Jeddah Municipality, supporting residents and owners to guarantee that all new initiatives respect site authenticity.

## Consolidation and Restoration

Jeddah Historic District Company identified and completed several projects with urgent interventions to buildings at the risk of collapse. These projects include the “Reinforcement of 34 Buildings” project, and “Mohammad ibn Salman 56 Buildings Reinforcement” to save and preserve listed national urban heritage that are in danger of collapse.

## Risk Management and Prevention Plan

Since the last incident in 2018, the State Party undertook several mitigations measures to prevent fire hazards in the property, and it continued to do so, resulting in a much-improved situation without any major fire-related loss since 2018. The challenges presented by the historic city are diverse and significant, as verified recently with the partial or total collapse of abandoned buildings due to floods during periods of heavy rain, fires and other threats that have tested the vulnerability of the Historic core.

*Note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic situation, works were hindered also the provision of required information and data.*