



**State of Conservation Report (2021)
for
Hebron AL-Khalil Old Town- Palestine
(C1565)**



**Hebron-Palestine
January 2022**

The State of Conservation Report (SoC) for the World Heritage Property (WHP): Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (C 1565) was prepared by the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA).

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1. Executive Summary

This report addresses the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 44 COM 7A.16. It also includes a submission of a revised version of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Values (SOUV), Desired State of Conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and the Corrective Measures within a provisional timeframe. This SOUV version has evolved from the consultations with UNESCO experts, and the advisory bodies experts, complying with the World Heritage Committee's decision 42 COM/7A.Add.2.

The report confirms that the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), Hebron Municipality (HM), and Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) remain committed to safeguarding the OUV of the property, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and the protection and management system. It also shows the progress achieved in the elaboration of Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), within the framework of the International Assistance (*No IA2018-3007*). Pre-final of the MCP had been finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre (WHC), in accordance with the contract signed with UNESCO- Ramallah office in May 2019.

The report also summarizes the work undertaken to improve the conditions of the WHP, as well as initiatives to promote the socio-economic situation of the local community and its awareness of the values of the land. However, the site is still vulnerable due to the illegal procedures and violations of the Israeli Occupying Power (IOP) including new plans, illegal excavations that are harmfully affecting the authenticity and integrity of the property, in addition to hundreds of other violations towards the local community and their freedom of access to places of worship. **Accordingly, the State of Palestine wishes to retain the property “Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town” on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision (Decision 44 COM 7A.16)

1. ***Having considered Document WHC/21/44.COM/7A.Add.2.,***
2. ***Recalling Decision 41 COM 8B.1, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), which did not include a SOUV, and noting that in compliance with Paragraph 154 of the Operational Guidelines, when deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, guided by the Advisory Bodies, the Committee adopts a SOUV for the property,***
3. ***Taking note of a preliminary proposed SOUV contained in the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party,***
4. ***Takes note of the consultations held between experts from UNESCO, the State Party and the Advisory Bodies, to discuss the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and the related corrective measures, as well as the proposed Management and Conservation Plan for the property, and invites the State Party to continue its efforts to finalize the above documents;***
5. ***Decides to consider the examination of a draft SOUV for the property at its 45th session in 2022;***

The State Party has sent another revised version of SOUV, DSOCR, and the related corrective measures during September 2019, which is also attached to this report for ease of reference (*Annex I*). This revised version has evolved from the consultations with UNESCO experts and the Advisory Bodies experts. Accordingly, the State Party would appreciate the formal adoption of it by the World Heritage Committee during the upcoming 45th session in 2022.

On the other hand, the State Party has been working diligently in the elaboration of MCP, within the framework of the International Assistance (*No IA2018-3007*), and direct technical support of UNESCO-Ramallah office. The main partners (MoTA, HRC, & HM), were very keen to involve the local community among other stakeholders to understand and document the OUV, and other associated values of the site through several meetings, surveys, and workshops alongside the whole work plan stages. A pre-final version of the MCP was submitted to the WHC by 6th of January 2021. On June 9, 2021, the State Party had received the technical review of the draft Management and Conservation Plan by ICOMOS. The MCP team finalized the document, taking into account ICOMOS comments on the MCP

6. ***Deplore the ongoing Israeli excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers and of a Wall inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron which are illegal under international law and harmfully affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship and asks Israel, the occupying Power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions; and also takes notes of reports regarding new planned projects including an electric elevator.***

The State Party welcomes this important decision, and denounces the continuous threats, the new construction plans within the WHP, and illegal procedures of the Israeli Occupying Power (IOP), which clearly violates the 1972, &1954 Conventions, among other International Conventions and Charters. As detailed in section 4 of this report.

Several NGOs & International Bodies have been reporting on different violations that constitute threats and/or damage to the site or to the local community. HRC, through its legal office, reports regularly about acts of vandalism, property damage, and other attacks or incidents in and around the old town of Hebron/Al-Khalil. During 2021, for instance, 704 violations were reported by HRC (292 violations on the local citizens, 265 violations on the public properties, and 152 violations on the private properties). The State Party welcomes the important decision on the new Israeli plan to construct an electric elevator in the areas in front of the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs. The State Party requests an emergency intervention to stop that action as it affects the authenticity and integrity of the OUV of the WHP.

7. ***Commends the State Party for the actions which are being taken to conserve significant attributes of the Property;***
8. ***Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on current conservation and development projects, particularly projects which have potential adverse impact on heritage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;***

It's worth mentioning that Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town has become almost entirely abandoned until 1996, due to the political situation mainly, therefore, neither developers, nor residents used to invest, construct, or even to live there until the establishment of HRC, which has worked on conserving and rehabilitating traditional buildings to bring residents back by using minimum interventions. The HRC undertakes other activities to enhance the living conditions and socio-economy status of the local community in addition to other incentives resulted in the regeneration of hundreds of families. *More details on current conservation projects and activities in 2021 can also be found in Section 2.c.*

Nowadays, the Property is becoming more attractive since being on the World Heritage list in 2017, which needs more conscious of potential threats due to urbanism in the future.

At the meantime, we are engrossed in the setting of an effective Management mechanism controlling any future large scale development or major restoration in line with the recently endorsed Tangible Cultural Heritage law (No.11, 2018), which clearly prevents any new construction inside the borders of the Property, whereas any major restoration project must be pinned on the results of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Accordingly, the State Party assures its commitment to submit to the World Heritage Center, for review by the advisory bodies, detailed information on any major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

On the other hand, the State of Palestine continues reporting on the development projects planned by the IOP that adversely impact the OUV, integrity, and authenticity as detailed in section 4 of this report, and previous SoC reports.

2. a. Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee has not been yet formally approved the Corrective measures; therefore, the State Party has sent another revised version of DSOCR, and the related corrective measures during September 2019, which is also attached to this report for ease of reference. (*see Annex2*)

b. Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.

A timeframe for the implementation of the proposed corrective measures has been set out (*see Annex3*); however, it could be amended depending on the DSOCR, and the MCP which is being elaborated, to ensure that all indicators and their timeframes are specific and applicable.

According to the indicators and timeframe outlined in (*Annex3*), the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), are planned to be achieved within a period of 10 years. However, the first DSOCR, “Dismissing all of the Occupying Power’s plans and/or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property (WHP) and its authenticity and integrity”, is not defined within this timeframe. Dismissal of the plans is largely dependent on actions and decisions taken by the IOP authorities, which are beyond the control of the State of Palestine.

c. Progress achieved towards the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the Property from the list of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

As mentioned before, the World Heritage Committee has not formally approved the DSOCR. However, progress is being achieved in the elaboration of MCP, which is an important key to ensuring adequate and effective safeguarding of the property and achieving the corrective measures of DSOCR. (*see Annex 2*)

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value

Following the previous SoC reports, there have been a number of significant achievements in protecting, conserving, and presenting the OUV of Hebron/Al-Khalil WHP. In addition, there has been significant progress in relation to the maintenance and adaptive reuse of abandoned buildings and open spaces. This approach is based on the minimum intervention. It has resulted in the revitalization of these building, and spaces, in addition to maintaining its OUV, integrity and authenticity. The following are the main conservation and maintenance projects among other activities implemented by HRC recently:

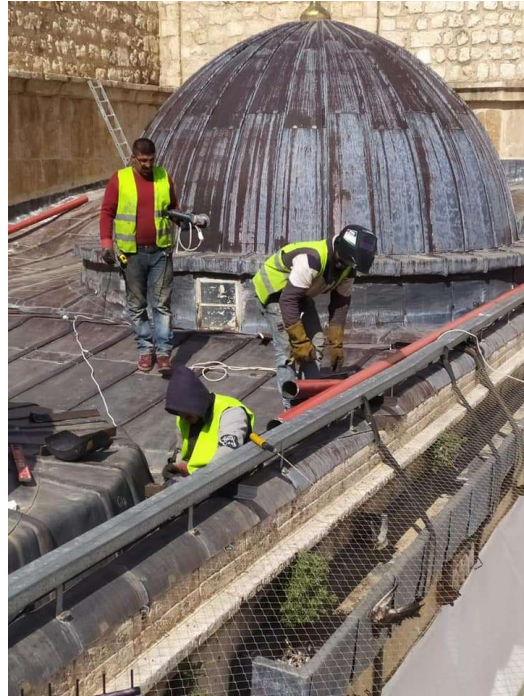
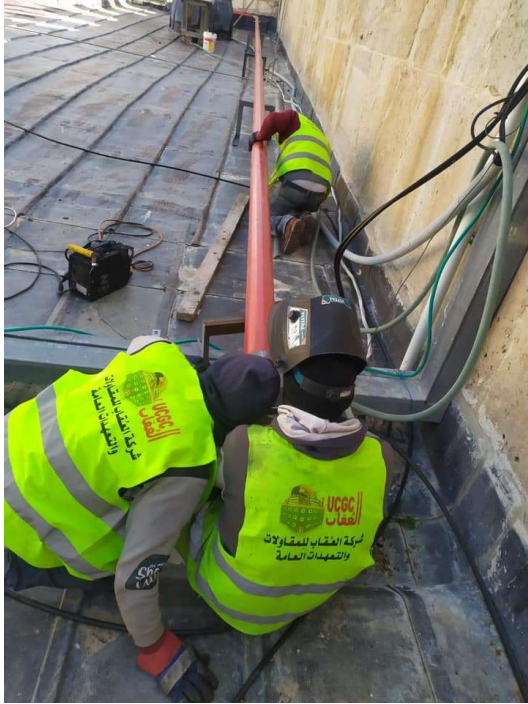
Conservation & Maintenance of the Al- Haram Al-Ibrahimi/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs

Work began in 1998 and continues to this day based on the 2015-2040 Comprehensive Master Plan; more details on this plan can be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.hebronrc.ps/images/stories/MP%20English.pdf>.

The conservation of this significant monument has been given special interest according to its distinctive OUV. During 2021, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) together with all

partners including; Hebron Municipality (HM), Ministry of Religious Endowment (MoRE), Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) & Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD) started the implementation of the firefighting network project inside the Al-Ibrahimi mosque in order to protect it from any potential disaster. This project has faced several difficulties in implementation due to the IOP repeated closures of the Al-Ibrahimi mosque and the suspension of conservation works in the mosque since August 2021.



Installation of fire resistance system in the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque

Rehabilitation of Al-Zaytouna playground

The project aimed at converting a neglected and disused piece of land into a playground for children. The playground is close to the Tayseer Maraqa elementary school that is located in the core of the architectural fabric of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. The playground will be a safe place for children to play and a useful added space for the school. This project was funded by the Polish Government and opened to the public by the mid of 2021.

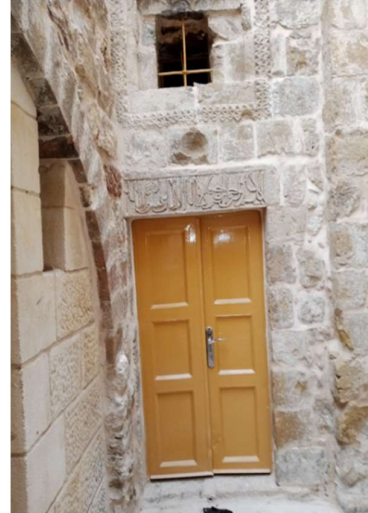


Al- Zaytouna playground

Regular Maintenance of historic buildings

This project aims to improve the living conditions of residents, guarantees the sustainability of conservation, and raising the local community's awareness towards the best practices for cultural heritage preservation. During 2021, more than 900 apartments in different areas within the WHP boundaries were maintained. It's worth mentioning that part of this work is being carried out by the residents themselves, using traditional materials provided by HRC, and under its direct supervision. This new approach emphasizes the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility for preserving cultural heritage and raising awareness of local people through practice.

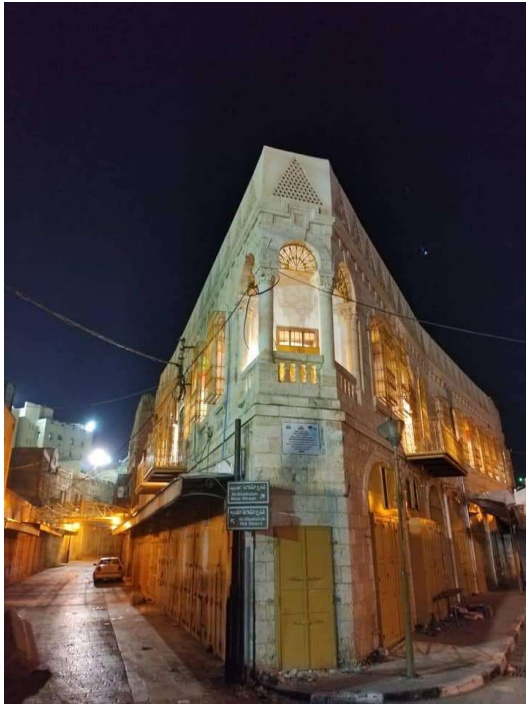




Regular Maintenance of historic buildings (before and after)

Adaptive reuse of heritage building into an interpretation museum

The project targeted a significant cultural heritage building located in the buffer zone near the entrance of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. This building has been unoccupied for more than two decades and fallen into disrepair, which urged HRC to rehabilitate it, bring it back into use, and conserve its assets and embodied values. Several meetings, field visits, and public consultations took place in 2019 and 2020, prior to the decision of adaptive reuse of this building into an interpretation center, which also corresponds to the Tourism Development Strategy prepared by the main partners in close cooperation with local community representatives among other related stakeholders. HRC implemented this project in 2019, with a fund from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through the UNESCO-Ramallah. It was completed and opened to public in 2021.



Interpretation museum in the old town of Hebron

Adaptive Reuse of heritage building into a nursery

The project has been targeting part of a historical building located in the core zone of the WHP. It was rehabilitated and adapted in order to be occupied as a nursery. The project aims at providing a safe place for children of employed women during work time. The old town of Hebron lacks such services, where usually mothers suffered from the long distance reaching nurseries outside the Property. This project was funded by the Polish Government and opened to the public in the mid of 2021.



A view from the inside of the nursery

Conservation and rehabilitation of commercial stores

The project established to reviving the economic and tourism situations in the Property, preserving the traditional cultural heritage of old markets, creating jobs, and decreasing unemployment in the Property. It targets 200 traditional stores to be implemented in four phases as the following:

- The first and second phases were finished. They included conservation work for (80) stores.
- The third phase is under conservation and will include (50) commercial stores.
- The fourth phase will include conservation work for (70) commercial stores.

The German Government through the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) funds this project.



During conservation of commercial stores



Rehabilitation of commercial stores (before &after)

Rehabilitation of health clinic

This project aimed at providing proper health services in the property through the rehabilitation of one of the old clinics that serves the community of the Old Town of Hebron and its surroundings. Moreover, the project succeeded to preserve one of the outstanding traditional buildings and enhance health services in the WHP. The project was funded by the German Government through its investment bank.



Rehabilitation of a health clinic in the WHP

Cultural Activities

Two main activities were implemented during 2021, which aimed at encouraging tourism in Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, and raising awareness of both tangible and intangible heritage among the local community. All Partners believe in the importance of such activities to promoting the perception of heritage, traditions, and customs. Although they were designed to target diverse groups of people with different scopes, these activities ultimately encouraged their pertinence to heritage. The two activities are as the following:

- The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, inaugurated the Capital's Cultural Market. It included cultural performances and exhibitions of handicrafts and traditional foods.



The Capital's Cultural Market

- On November 10, 2021, HRC in cooperation with the Palestinian Olive Council and the Ministry of Agriculture organized the Second National Palestinian Olive Festival in the Old Town of Hebron.



The Second National Palestinian Olive Festival

Capacity Buildings

Capacity building for cultural heritage preservation is a top priority to improve the quality of conservation interventions. Therefore, in 2021 HRC organized a training workshop on conservation of stone façades, according to the international standards, to empower technical teams to meet the international standard requirements of conservation.



During the training course of conservation of stone façade

4. In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, buffer zone and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

The State Party under paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and with reference to the previous SoC reports notifies the World Heritage Committee of a new plans and violations by IOP, which constitute threats and/or damage to the WHP. The following Israeli occupation plans, among other actions, are affecting Hebron/Al-Khalil's OUV as well as its physical attributes and their authenticity and integrity.

The erection of an electric elevator in Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi/ The Tomb of Patriarchs

On August 8, 2021, the IOP started excavations in front of the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in order to construct an electric elevator and paths to facilitate settlers access to the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque. The construction of this elevator will result in obliterating an important part of the town's history. It is considered a severe action that will threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the site and will negatively affect its authenticity and integrity as these archaeological remains embody high evidential values that illustrate essential parts of the history of the Property. On the other hand, the modern steel construction will negatively affect the integrity of the architectural fabric of the Property and will distort its traditional landscape.



Photo showing the proposed elevator



Digging in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque to construct the elevator

Demolishing of Hosh Al- Shareef and Qafisheh

On March 19, 2021, the IOP demolished parts of the architectural fabric in the property; this part is located next to the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of Patriarchs. The Israeli authorities have prevented HRC conserving and rehabilitating this historic part for decades. The destruction of any part of the Old Town's fabric is a severe intervention, as this fabric is viewed as one unit. Therefore, this act negatively affects the integrity and authenticity of one of the main attributes of the WHP.



Demolition of Hosh Al- Shareef and Qafisheh

Constructions of new concrete-stone stories in front of the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs

In September 2021, the IOP began work on a new project in front of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs by placing a new concrete and stone structure, harming the visual contact with the most important monument of the WHP. It hides its elevations, and creates a very odd mass that damages its historical fabric, skyline, traditional building materials, and the overall landscape.



Building new concrete-stone stories in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque

Stopping conservation works in the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque

Since August 11, 2021 until today, the IOP has been preventing the conservation team of Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) from continuing conservation works in the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs, despite the fact that the HRC is the main body responsible for managing and conserving the site. The long-term suspension of repair will negatively affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs and its authenticity and integrity.



Preventing HRC's conservation team from entering the mosque

5. Public access to the State of Conservation Report

The State Party agrees that the full State of Conservation Report can be made publicly available via the World Heritage center's Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority

The State of Conservation Report (SoC) for the World Heritage Property (WHP): Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (C 1565) was prepared by the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Dr. Ahmed Rjoob
Director General of the World Heritage
Focal Point of the World Heritage Convention

Annex 1: Revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

Brief Synthesis

Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town is one of the oldest living cities and spiritual centres in the world. Its numerous ancient, well preserved, monuments and buildings bear witness to a rich and prosperous past, through a series of successive and imbricated civilizations from very early antiquity until modern times. The World Heritage Property constitutes an important part of the continuous fabric of the present city that dates back to at least the Mamaluk and Ottoman periods (13th – 20th century AD). The property is surrounded by a protective buffer zone comprised of the foothills around the Hebron/Al-Khalil valley and of archaeological remains that include Tell Rumeida.

The old town expanded on three hills and into the valley around Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex, which is an outstanding and multi-layered example of architecture illustrates significant stages in human history and is one of the main elements that shaped the Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. Traditions, religious and spiritual beliefs have been the foundation of the town's cultural character for many centuries as the site is revered by three great monotheistic religions. Thanks to its location along one of the main commercial routes in the region, the town became a meeting place for different faiths and cultures, with socio-economic and cultural exchange occurring throughout the centuries. The "Outstanding Universal Value of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town is demonstrated by its existence as an exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of exceptional urban and vernacular architectural elements which reflect characteristics inspired by the human values of the Hebron/Al-Khalil community. The main attributes of Outstanding Universal Value can be observed within the limits of the old town, including the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex, Suqs, Khans, Zawiyas, Maqams, Takiyya, and Hammams, the traditional quarters and the Ahwash, as well as the town's historical setting, and its design.

Criterion (ii)

Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town represents an outstanding example of a community built around the interchange of human values. Since its creation, the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex has been a source of great inspiration to surrounding communities and to their social, religious, and spiritual values. The site has been in continuous religious use since the early Roman Period to this day. Herod the Great, a Roman client king of the region, probably built a monumental enclosure (temenos) around the sacred Cave and a church was probably built inside the enclosure during the Byzantine Period. In the Umayyad Period, a mosque was also built inside the enclosure; and the cenotaphs were placed in their present position. In the Crusades period, the mosque was converted into a church, known as the Castle of Saint Abraham. After Saladin reconquered the area, the church was converted back into a mosque, which became known as the Haram Al-Ibrahimi.

The main roads of the town connect the different quarters in Hebron/Al-Khalil to Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex. The relation with the prophet Ibrahim and the presence of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex has attracted pilgrims from around the world, making Hebron/Al-Khalil a meeting place for a great variety of faiths, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds. This intermixing has led to a high degree of socio-economic and cultural exchange throughout the centuries reflected in the many public buildings of the property, including Suqs, Khans, Zawiyas, Maqams, Hammams, and the Takiyya.

In the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods, Hebron/Al-Khalil became a significant centre of Sufism. Sufis, who came from different cultural backgrounds, found a promising environment in the

vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi, and subsequently Sufi zawaya (sing. zawiya) were built throughout the city's quarters and become one of their distinguishing features.

For more than a millennium, the Takiyya's tradition (Hospice- free kitchen) of the Hebron/ al – Khalil influenced the whole region as evidenced in early historic accounts from the 9th century AD presented in the Takiyya of this day. Similar charitable institutions were later established in Jerusalem, Istanbul, Damascus, and Cairo.

Criterion (iv)

Hebron/al Khalil Old Town is an outstanding example of an urban district which has remarkably preserved historical fabric. It has also preserved the morphology and residential typologies dating back to the Mamluk period, all of which contribute to the visual and structural integrity of the cityscape. The residential neighbourhoods of the old town were built in a hosh system. The hosh system is a congregation of separate room units or groups of rooms clustered around several small courtyards. They are found in different locations and levels, which have organically evolved into distinctive a tree-shaped residential structures.

The continuity of buildings on the outer edges of the town made it difficult to access the town and created an effective defence system of "rampart houses". These included hidden nooks and circuitous alleyways that played a protective role against intrusions. This system can still be observed clearly within the old town in the road system and urban structures, which are perfectly preserved to this day.

Criterion (vi)

The Hebron/Al-Khalil's Old Town is one of the holiest cities in the world for three great monotheistic religions. For centuries, Hebron/Al-Khalil was a town in which prophets visited, lived, and were buried. Traditions and religious beliefs for the three monotheistic religions, have been its cultural foundation and the source of enduring values carried from one generation to the next. Furthermore, the prophet Ibrahim/Abraham's spirit of generosity and hospitality has been and continues to be deeply ingrained into the traditions of Hebron/Al-Khalil. A key attribute of these traditions is the prophet Ibrahim/Abraham's Takiyya (Hospice), established before the 9th century AD, which has continued until today to offer meals to the poor and visitors.

In the Mamluk period, 13th century AD, Hebron/Al-Khalil became a significant centre of Sufism. Sufis found a promising environment in the vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi and, subsequently, sufi zawaya (sing. zawiya) were built throughout the city and have become one of its distinguishing features.

Statement of Integrity

After the Roman and Byzantine periods, the original city moved from Tell Rumeida to the valley adjacent to Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex, and became the focal point of the town and strongly influenced its development. The boundaries of the property correspond to the boundaries of the continuous fabric of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, during the Mamluk period.

Hebron/al Khalil Old Town has remarkably preserved its Mamluk historical urban fabric as well as the morphology and residential typologies of Hara and ahwash (plural of hosh). These create an intricate network of alleys, which is influenced by the location of Al-Ibrahimi mosque/Tomb of Patriarchs that connects the various neighbourhoods in the old town and contributes to the visual and structural integrity of the cityscape. Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex has been a source of great inspiration to the three monotheistic religions and to the surrounding communities and their social, religious, and spiritual values. It has been in continuous religious use since early Roman period to this day. The importance of this sacred place

is evident in the town's structure. Whilst Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town has never been protected by town walls, its limits are well marked by the topography and the "rampart houses" built on the town's external perimeter, some of which have survived to this day.

The property is very vulnerable due to the political situation and illegal Israeli settlement activities inside the property and in its buffer zone, which include ongoing excavations, works, construction of settlements and private roads for settlers, mobility restrictions, roadblocks, military physical restrictions inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, which harmfully affect the integrity of the site.

Nevertheless, efforts are made to mitigate any adverse effects of development and/or neglect to the integrity of the property.

Statement of Authenticity

The morphological configuration of the old town and the spatial organization of the urban fabric, dating back to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods have remained mostly unchanged, and the main distinctive attributes have been retained. The authenticity of the urban structure and of the buildings, quarters and hoshs have also remained intact. The property has retained its use and function which are attested in a number of public buildings, such as Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs complex, zawiya's and hammams dating back to the Mamluk period. Function is strongly demonstrated through the continued maintenance, conservation and veneration of the property's attributes that are observed within its limits, most notably, the monumental site of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs. The spirit of generosity and hospitality of the prophet Ibrahim/Abraham has been and continues to be deeply instilled into the traditions of Hebron/Al-Khalil through its Takiyya (Hospice) which continues to offer meals to the city's poor and visitors. Conservation efforts made in the old town since the mid-1990s have, to a great extent, preserved the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and contributed to continuity of uses. These efforts led to a return of the inhabitants and an effective urban regeneration of the old town. The use of traditional materials and techniques in these restoration operations has contributed to the protection of the authenticity of the old town and in the reactivation of craftsman trades.

Protection and management requirements

Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town possesses a high level of legal protection, both at the national and local levels. At the national level, it is protected by the law on Tangible Cultural Heritage (No. 11, 2018) for the protection, conservation and management of tangible cultural heritage in Palestine, as well as by the Jordanian law (No. 79, 1966) on building and zoning of towns, villages, and buildings. At the local level, protection of the property is based on the municipal physical master plan for the city of Hebron and the "Hebron's Old City: Preservation and Revitalization Master Plan 2015-2040", a strategy to manage and conserve the old town's urban planning, infrastructure, education, tourism, public health, economy, social development, and other important sectors. As per the law on Tangible Cultural Heritage (No. 11, 2018), the property is managed by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in close cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf, Hebron Municipality, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, and the local community. The local community involvement is made through workshops, seminars, in order to enhance the current management and state of conservation of the property, the above mentioned partners are closely cooperating in preparing the Management and Conservation Plan, in order to establish an effective management system and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property.

Annex 2: Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

The State of Palestine is committed to the removal of Hebron/Al-Khalil from the World Heritage list in danger. Therefore, the stakeholders have diagnosed and assessed the factors affecting the WHP in order to develop the most appropriate and plausible plans and actions to achieve the Desired State of Conservation, as well as key Corrective Measures to be adopted by the World Heritage Committee for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as follows:

- A. Dismissing all of the Occupying Power's plans and/ or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property (WHP) and its authenticity and integrity.
- B. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that any development plans in the property, the buffer zone and the setting do not negatively affect the OUV of the property.
- C. Adoption of an integrated effective Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP.
- D. Achieving appropriate conservation and safeguarding of the WHP's OUV, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.

2. B. Proposed Corrective Measures to achieve the DSOCR

A.1 Take all possible measures to obtain the dismissal of all of Occupying Power plans and actions that affect the OUV of the property including building settlements, destruction of parts of the architectural and urban fabric, illegal excavations, separation barriers, access blocks and street closures.

A.2 Dismiss all of the Israeli Occupying Power illegal regulations imposed on the local Palestinian authorities which hinder the maintenance and conservation of the property.

B1. Develop and promulgate bylaws and urban regulations to protect the historic environment of the WHP, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.

B2. Develop a process for strategic and heritage impact assessments for all significant planning and development projects in the property, its buffer zone, and its setting.

C1. Preparation and implementation of a Comprehensive and integrated Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP that involves all concerned stakeholders with emphasis on the local community.

C2. Develop and implement an efficient practical management and monitoring system based on the best practices for the WHP.

D1. Implement conservation projects to enhance the quality of the historic environment of the WHP and improve the socio-economic status and the living conditions of the local community.

D2. Enhance the capacity building of practitioners, institutions, networks and communities to work together towards effective conservation and management of the WHP.

D3. Conduct a comprehensive inventory and documentation of the physical attributes of the WHP's OUV used to assess their State of Conservation and generate an integrated database system for the WHP.

Annex 3: The Indicators and Timeframe for Implementation of the DSCOR and Corrective Measures

DSOCR & Corrective Measures (CM)	Indicators	Rationale	Method of Verification	Timeframe of CM	Timeframe of DSCOR
<p>Dismissing all of the Occupying Power's plans and/ or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property (WHP) and its authenticity and integrity.</p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>A1. Take all possible measures to obtain the dismissal of all of the Occupying Power plans and actions that affect the OUV of the property including building settlements, destruction of parts of the architectural and urban fabric, illegal excavations, separation barriers, access blocks and street closures.</p> <p>A.2 Dismiss all of the Israeli Occupying Power illegal regulations imposed on the local Palestinian authorities which hinder the maintenance and conservation of the property.</p>	<p>A1. A final and binding decision by Israel dismissing the plans and/or actions affecting the attributes of the WHP's OUV.</p> <p>A2. A final and binding decision by Israel dismissing illegal regulation imposed on the Palestinian authorities which hinders the maintenance and conservation of the property.</p>	<p>The WHP is currently threatened by several of Israel's/the Occupying Power's plans and actions that may irreversibly affect the property's OUV.</p> <p>The Occupying Power must dismiss all plans and actions including building settlements, destruction of parts of the architectural fabric, illegal excavations, separation barriers, access blocks, or any other actions that may negatively affect the OUV of the property.</p>	<p>A1.1 binding Israeli decision is adopted and no subsequent plans and/or actions might affect the OUV.</p> <p>A1.2 Barriers, blocks, and closures are removed.</p> <p>A1.3 Free circulation and movement throughout the WHP.</p> <p>A2 Binding Israeli decision is adopted and no subsequent plans and/or actions might affect the OUV.</p>	<p><i>No specific date</i></p>	<p><i>No specific date</i></p>

B	<p>Mechanisms are in place to ensure that any development plans in the property, the buffer zone and the setting do not negatively affect the OUV of the property.</p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>B1. Develop and promulgate bylaws and urban regulations to protect the historic environment of the WHP, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.</p> <p>B2. Develop a process for strategic and heritage impact assessments for all significant planning and development projects in the property, its buffer zone, and its setting.</p>		<p>Effective bylaws are needed to ensure the protection of the property at the national and local levels.</p> <p>Ensure that all significant planning and development projects do not negatively affect the OUV of the property.</p> <p>Preparation of an MCP for the WHP is urgently needed to ensure the sustainability of the OUV ,and to preserve its authenticity and integrity, which had been facing various threats and challenges.</p>			
		<p>B1. Endorse and implement bylaws and regulations in accordance with the tangible cultural heritage law (No 11. 2018), as well as the local government regulation and bylaws in line with the above law.</p> <p>B2. Process of the Impact Assessment is established and adopted by related authorities.</p>		<p>B1.1 monitoring that the bylaws are endorsed</p> <p>B1.2 monitoring of the effective implementation of the endorsed bylaws</p> <p>B2.1 Monitoring of the establishment and adoption of the process of Impact Assessment by the related authorities.</p> <p>B2.2 Monitoring of significant planning and development projects using the above assessment tools.</p>	<p>2021- 2028</p> <p>2021- 2024</p> <p>2022- 2028</p>	<p>2029</p> <p>2029</p>

<p>Adoption of an integrated effective Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP.</p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>C1. Preparation of a Comprehensive and integrated Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP that involves all concerned stakeholders with emphasis on the local community.</p> <p>C2. Effective implementation of the management and conservation plan.</p>	<p>C1. Preparation and endorsement of the MCP.</p> <p>C2. Monitoring the effective implementation of the MCP.</p>		<p>C1. Adoption of the MCP by all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>C2.1 Effective Implementation of the management and conservation plan.</p> <p>C2.2 Implementation of assessment and monitoring strategies and activities as per the MCP action plan.</p>	<p>2020-2023</p> <p>2021-2024</p> <p>2022-2028</p>	
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<p>I Achieving appropriate conservation and safeguarding of the WHP's OUV, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.</p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>D1. Implement conservation projects to enhance the quality of the historic environment of the WHP and improve the socio-economic status and the living conditions of the local community.</p> <p>D2. Raise awareness about the WHP and its OUV and Enhance the capacity building of practitioners, institutions, networks and communities to work together towards effective conservation and management of the WHP.</p> <p>D3. Conduct a comprehensive inventory and documentation of the physical attributes of the WHP's OUV used to assess their State of Conservation and generate an integrated database system for the WHP.</p>	<p>D1. Implementing conservation projects and related social programs to safeguard the WHP including maintenance projects for vulnerable parts of the WHP, such as Qaytoun Quarter.</p> <p>D2.1 Developing programs to raise awareness about the WHP and its OUV. D2.2. Improving conservation and management capacity-building by conducting a number of technical training programs. D2.3 Establishing economic incentives for the local community.</p> <p>D3.1 Developing and implementing documentation and inventory projects for generating a database for the management of attributes of the WHP. D3.2 Establishing and executing conservation guidelines.</p>	<p>Although conservation program of the Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town has been in effect since 1996, further efforts are needed to improve the quality of the historic environment, the socio-economic status and living conditions of the local community, raise awareness about the WHP and its OUV, and enhance capacity building of professionals working for the property.</p>	<p>(1) Monitor conserved attributes of the WHP. (2) Regular evaluation of conservation program. (3) Evaluation of training program. (4) Regular Evaluation of economic program and incentives. (5) Evaluation of the documentation and database system.</p>	<p>2022 -2028</p>	<p>2029</p>
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