



The Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

State of Conservation Report



World Heritage Site:

HISTORIC CAIRO
EGYPT 2022

Executive Summary of the Report

This State of Conservation (SoC) report presents the response of the State Party (the Arab Republic of Egypt) to the recommendations of Decision 44 COM7B.13 of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), regarding the World Heritage Site, Historic Cairo, issued at their 44th meeting, "Fuzhou", China, 2021.

The State Party, conscious of its historical and national responsibility towards this unique World Heritage Site, highlights in this report the efforts it has undertaken on all levels of government, in association with non-government stakeholders, and international partners, to preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), prevent the deterioration of its urban fabric and implement an integrated conservation strategy for the Site, according to the WHC's guidelines and Egypt's specific development goals and needs, as expressed in the national Sustainable Development Strategy (Egypt 2030).

In response to Decision 44 COM7B.13, the State Party thus clarifies the following:

1. No registered monuments and/or valuable building(s) or registered graves within the boundaries of the Historic Cairo World Heritage Property were demolished. Nonetheless, all demolition permits and works within the scope of Historic Cairo have been paused by Decree number 1097 by the competent authority (the Cairo Governorate) dated 14th of March 2021, whereas the Unified Building Law No. 119 FY 2008 continues to fully regulate all demolitions of unregistered residential constructions according to strict rules and procedures.
2. No roads were constructed within the boundaries of the Historic Cairo World Heritage Property; the State Party shall notify the World Heritage Center (WHC) of any such endeavors.
3. The Historic Cairo (2021) map, indicating the boundaries of the property in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines is attached in [Annex 2](#) of this report, approved by the relevant authority, the Supreme Council of Planning and Urban Development, session No. 23, dated 28/12/2020 and subsequently ratified by the Council of Ministers.
4. A Request for a "Minor Boundary Modification" is included in [Annex 2](#), for review by the WHC's Advisory Bodies, extending the size of the property from 771.2311 hectares (7.3 sq.km) in 2008 to 935.2785 hectares (9.4 sq.km) in 2021, including an expansion of the property's buffer zone from 247.5711 hectares (2.5 sq. km) in 2008 to 440.2147 hectares (4.4 sq.km) in 2021 and sizing the core area of the

property at 495.0638 hectares (4.9 sq.km) in 2021, as compared to 523.6 hectares (5.3 sq.km) in 2008.

5. A Retrospective Statement of the Property's Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) is attached in [Annex 6](#) of this report, highlighting that the property has retained its uniqueness as a World Heritage Site.
6. The State Party has undertaken urgent legal, procedural and operational measures to preserve, rehabilitate and prevent the deterioration of the urban fabric of the Site, establishing a management structure and developing a strategy for the preservation and urban regeneration of Historic Cairo. The Prime Minister of Egypt issued Decree No. 388 FY 2021 instating a Steering Committee for the Historic Cairo WH property, comprising high level representation from the relevant stakeholders, including the Cairo Governor, the Executive Director of the Urban Regeneration Fund (URF), the ministers of Tourism and Antiquities, Religious Endowments, Environment, Interior and other relevant stakeholders. ([Annex 3](#)) A board of expert consultants and specialists was also tasked with developing the Historic Cairo WH Site Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), to be submitted to the World Heritage Center in December 2022. ([Annexes 8, 9 and 10](#))
7. The State Party has also decided to allocate substantive financial resources and technical support to preserve Historic Cairo, conserve and restore its registered monuments and valuable buildings, its unique urban fabric and heritage through reviving local arts and training its residents on traditional handcrafts.
8. The Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Urban Development Fund of the Ministry of Culture have enacted during December 2021, a cooperation agreement to produce and fund studies for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIAs) for all regeneration and development projects within the boundaries of the Historic Cairo World Heritage Site.

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