

**State of Libya**  
**Old Town of Ghadames (C-362)**  
**World Heritage Site**  
**Annual report (2021)**

**Property Data:**

- Name of World Heritage Property; Old Town of Ghadamès
- State Party; Libya
- Identification Number; C 362
- Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage; 1986
- Type of Property; Cultural
- Geographic Information (Lat/Long); 30° 08' 00.44" N, 09° 29' 50.30" E
- Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in danger; 2016
- Property Area; 287.590 ha. -
- Government Institutions Responsible for the Property; Ghadames City Promotion and Development Authority (GCPDA)
- Criteria; (V)
- Previous Committee Decisions; Decisions 40 COM 7A.40, Decision 41 COM 8C.2 adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), Decision: 42 COM 7A.25 adopted at its 42st session (Manama, 2018). Decision 43 com 7A.26 adopted at its 43st session (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2019), and Decision 44 COM 7A.14, adopted at its 44th session (Fuzhou (China)/Online meeting, 2021)



**January 2022**

## **1. Introduction:**

The years 2020 and 2021 has gone through many challenges, as the Corona pandemic (Covid-19) cast a shadow, greatly confusing work, to impose approaches to maintaining the public safety of individuals while continuing to work in the property. The GCPDA, with the kind support of the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS, tried to achieve many successes, as follows:

1- A meeting was held between the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS in Paris, France, in the period 4-6 / 3/2020, in which many topics were discussed, such as the boundaries of the property, and buffer zone, the OUV, and the management plan, followed by e-mail communication and several virtual meetings in which discussions continued on the topics of the Paris meeting.

2- It was agreed on the final statement of the statement of the Retrospective Outstanding Universal Value (ROUV) of the property

3- *The boundaries of the property and the buffer zone have been agreed upon according to the maps shown in the minor modification report, submitted to WHC on Dec. 2021.*

4. *ICOMOS 'observations on the management plan were discussed, and the plan will be reviewed and updated according to the new statement of the outstanding universal value, the new boundaries of the property and the buffer zone, and the desired state of conservation for removing the property from the danger list.*

5. *The first virtual meeting with the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS was held on 11/28/2020 to discuss the threats to which the property is exposed, before / after the armed conflict in Libya*

6. *Holding the second virtual meeting with the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS on 12/25/2020 to demonstrate the method for preparing the desired state for removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).*

7. *Holding the third virtual meeting with the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS on 01/12/2021 to discuss the initial document of the DSOOCR, provided that the final document is delivered no later than 3/15/2021.*

## **2.Executive Summary:**

The State of Party, (Libya) would like to express its gratitude to the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and its advisory bodies for the efforts and endeavor's they have undertaken to monitor the status of the Old Town of Ghadamès (the Property) in order to remove it from the list of endangered sites.

This report has been prepared, in accordance with Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and compiled in response to WH Committee Decision 44 COM 7A.14, adopted at its 44th session (Fuzhou (China)/Online meeting, 2021).

In the last decision, the committee welcomes the progress made in the elaboration of the Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and requests the State Party to continue the process in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

The Minor Boundary Modification Report was submitted to the WHC on Dec 2021) as required. The GCPDA 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.

Since 2011 the people of Ghadamès have shown unfailing commitment to the protection of The Old Town of Ghadames; "the Pearl of the Desert" their cultural heritage, demonstrating that such irreplaceable heritage cannot be held hostage to the conflict in the area. Libya would like to assure the WHC that there have been no security violations in the area of Ghadamès since 2011 and that the site is not in any danger and therefore should be taken off the endangered list.

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