



Petra World Heritage Site

State of Conservation Report

Progress and Achievements 2021/2022

Prepared by PDTRA: Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Petra World Heritage Site – Property Data

State Party: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Identification Number: 326

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage: 1985

Type of Property: Cultural

Geographic Information (Lat/Long): 30° 19'50"N, 35° 26'36"E

Area: 264 square kilometers

Government Institutions Responsible for the Property:

- Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA – management jurisdiction).
Located in the Governorate of Ma'an, Jordan.
- Department of Antiquities (DOA)/Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA)

Criteria (i), (iii), (iv)

Previous Committee Decisions: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2021

Previous monitoring missions:

2000: ICOMOS Mission

2004: UNESCO Mission

2009: UNESCO Technical Expert Missions

2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission

2017: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN

Executive Summary

This State of Conservation Report is presented to summarize and identify work related to the conservation and preservation of the Petra World Heritage site. The State of Conservation Report is prepared in partial fulfilment of the Decision arising from the 44th World Heritage Committee meeting in Fuzhou, China in 2021.

As described in this report, and in accordance with the State Party's obligations (Article 4, of the UNESCO '*World Heritage Convention*'), the Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA) has been diligent in their implementation of each item of the Decision, and continues to take due care to ensure the preservation of the *Outstanding Universal Value* of Petra Archaeological Park.

In accordance with the '*Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*', (specifically paragraph 172), the collaborative Petra Archaeological Park management of Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority, (PDTRA), the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP / 'the Park') and the Department of Antiquities (DOA) have continued to inform the World Heritage Committee of initiatives. The Park management have communicated beyond this basic requisite, engaging the World Heritage Centre Secretariat and the UNESCO Office in Amman, as well as a diverse and large community of stakeholders, nationally and internationally, to seek input on planning and preliminary development concepts.

With the understanding that several diverse issues arose in the World Heritage Committee Decision 44 COM 7B.16, the State of Conservation Report presents management responses to each of these, as well as reporting on a range of complementary initiatives. All of these projects and programs demonstrate commitment to Petra Archaeological Park's management through direct responses and proactive measures.

The following is a summary of recent projects and programs in 2021 and 2022, including achievements on the ground, and the unprecedented success in advancing the collaborative Petra Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The list of initiatives is not exhaustive, but indicative of the breadth of completed and on-going work for Petra and its communities.

PDTRA continues its commitment in regional development and the need to work through full collaboration with stakeholders whilst protecting Petra's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). PDTRA and the DOA are also committed to continuing the process for open consultation with the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Amman Office and ICOMOS during planning and prior to the implementation of major projects, and subsequently undertaking any necessary measures concerning the development of projects in the vicinity of the property in order to avoid negative impacts on its OUV.

Attention is drawn to our extensive consortium of collaborators, national and international, who are making a difference with each valued contribution to the safeguarding and conservation work that are essential to Petra's secure and sustainable future. PDTRA continues the discussion with the different local groups and their involvement in the site.

It is well recognized that there exist unique and significant challenges in the relationship between tourism development and PAP site protection, the relationship between the property and the surrounding communities for this World Heritage listed site.

The COVID-19 pandemic had negative effects on the world in general, and notably in Petra, where tourism constitutes a main nerve for the archaeological site and the region. However, the situation has been positively exploited by PDTRA and in this manner, reflected on the site in the projects that were completed as a part of the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP).

The pandemic period also confirmed just how dependent the communities around Petra are on tourism. Site management is continuing to address the urgent need to regulate this relationship particularly concerning site use for tourism represented by the increasing informal services provided, the associated encroachments, and the emergence of new experiential tourism which has different implications for, and between, the diverse stakeholders. PDTRA has started a '*Petra Tourism Development Master Plan*' with its key partnering agency, JICA. The project's Joint Consultative Committee includes the UNESCO Amman Office and other stakeholders.

PDTRA has given special attention to water harvesting and management in and around the property. Several GIS related projects and agreements with different agencies to develop and upgrade the existing system are progressing. The PDTRA has a process of engagement with the local communities living around the site with continuing efforts to regulate their relationship with the property. Similarly, in this regard, the Buffer Zone continues to need detailed assessments in order to strike a balance between site protection, tourism development, and local communities' involvement. In its 2019 meeting with the WHC in Paris, PDTRA requested a WH advisory, specialized visit that would focus on the Buffer Zone and consider resolutions to key issues. It is hoped this will occur early in 2023.

Additional initiatives that promote a sustainable future, and ultimately site protection, are the introduction of green transportation, an enhancement of animal welfare, and the creation of new employment opportunities for local residents.

As always, we remain available for any clarification needed of discussion about this matter and soon we will share with you our new project proposals for the development and the management of the buffer zones of the Archaeological Park.