

**BYBLOS
LEBANON
C 295**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Since the year 2020, Byblos World Heritage site has not undergone many changes, mostly due to the pandemic and to the current economic situation in the country. In fact, the conservation issues as mentioned in the previous report, are mostly related to the preservation of the archaeological features and structures at risk. As to the restoration works, the latter are limited to reinforcement works on the 19th century house, towards the eastern outer part of the building.

IN RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

As stated previously, the Ministry of Culture - Directorate General of Antiquities declares that all the construction works, as well as the archaeological investigations in the Diplomatic Club project, abutting the archaeological site of Byblos, have been completely halted since April 2017.

CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES

The current conservation issues are related to the protection of some of the walls and features on site. In fact, the vulnerability of these structures is mostly due to their construction techniques, the old excavation technique as well as the harmful vegetation. The consolidation of these features is still ongoing and relies mainly on the documentation that was initiated in 2018. Another method of preserving the structures at risk is the treatment of the harmful vegetation through the plan developed in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Center of the American University of Beirut since 2018.

MAJOR RESTORATIONS WORKS

There are currently no major restoration works within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas. The only works of the sort, on site, are limited to reinforcement works on the 19th century house, towards the eastern outer part of the building.