



**Arab Republic of Egypt**  
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

**World Heritage Site**

# **Ancient Thebes & its Necropolis**

**State of Conservation Report 2022**

Cairo, December 2022





The Arab Republic of Egypt  
The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

## 1. Executive Summary

The Arab Republic of Egypt, a State Party to the UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, has adopted the following measures in compliance with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committees on **World Heritage Site Memphis and its Necropolis, Decision No. 44 COM 7B.126**, issued by its 44<sup>th</sup> Session (Fuzhou, China, 2021), **(WHC/21/44.COM/7B.ADD)** and **Decision No. 43 COM 7B.45**, adopted by its 43<sup>rd</sup> Session (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2019), also the recommendations by and the Reactive Monitoring Mission of the World Heritage Center and its Advisory Body (ICOMOS) to the site in 2017, the UNESCO Advisory Mission to the WHS Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis (2021), and the Operational Guidelines concerned with preserving the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property:

- 1. The Integrated Management Plan:** A reputed consultant is contracted to prepare an Integrated Management Plan and a comprehensive Tourism Mitigation/Management Plan for the WHS Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the scope of Egypt's Sustainable Development Vision/Plan 2030. **(Annex 1)** includes an index of the components of the proposed Management Plan scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. **(Annex 2)** presents the State Party's request for capacity building and financial assistance in supporting the development of the proposed management plan.
- 2. Excavations & Restoration:** Commended for its continued efforts to increase archeological excavations at the WHS of Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis, the State Party continues its efforts in this regard both through its own mission and through foreign missions on site. **(Annex 3)** offers a list of the recent discoveries and excavation works during 2021-2022, **(Annex 4)** presents a list of the recent restoration projects during 2021-2022, and **(Annex 5)** lists the excavation missions operating in Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis in 2022.
- 3. Capacity Building Outreaches:** In response to **Paragraph 3 Decision No. 44 COM 7B.126**, the State Party has undertaken an extensive Capacity-Building programme in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for the Arab States based in Cairo and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), a UNESCO Category 2 Centre



The Arab Republic of Egypt  
The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

based in Bahrain. The programme comprises successive training courses to elevate the awareness and efficiency of Egyptian officials in charge of the World Heritage Sites as well as those assigned to communicate and with the World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies in associated fields. ([Annex 6](#)) includes a list of the undertaken capacity building activities.

4. **The Advisory Mission in 2021, and the Joint Reactive Monitoring Mission of the World Heritage Center and ICOMOS in 2017:** The State Party has positively responded to the recommendations of JRMM (2017), ([Annexes 7 - 9](#)), and the recommendations of the Advisory Mission (2021) ([Annexes 10 to 18](#)).
5. **Visitors Services:** The State Party interested in developing sustainable Visitors' Services as detailed in ([Annex 23](#)) which comprises a list of the services installed through a public-private partnership between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and a private contractor/operator.
6. **Reporting/Notification for Ongoing and New Restoration/Conservation/Rehabilitation Projects on WHS:** The State Party established by **Ministerial Decree #7260 dated 06/07/2022**, issued by the competent Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, a **Unit for (the Management of) Egyptian World Heritage Sites (UWHS)** to manage all related matters, including ongoing reporting on restoration/conservation and rehabilitation projects as well serving WHC and its advisory bodies with early notification prior to the implementation of any new undertakings in Egyptian World Heritage Sites. The Unit works in close coordination with the relevant Egyptian authorities, as well as experts and non-government experts, consultants and entities and is operating under the supervision of the Higher Committee for the Management of the Egyptian World Heritage Sites (HCM-EWHS) affiliated with the Office of the President of Egypt. ([Annex 7](#)) includes a translation of the Ministerial Decree establishing the UWHS and ([Annex 14](#)) carries a translation of the Presidential Decree establishing the HCM-EWHS.