



**State of Conservation Report (2022)**  
for

**HEBRON/AL-KHALIL OLD TOWN (Palestine)**



Hebron-Palestine  
January 2023

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## 1.Executive Summary

This report addresses the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property in Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. As the 45 session of the World Heritage Committee was postponed, in confirmation with the last resolution of the World Heritage Committee, we allocated this report to address the updates on the World Heritage Property (WHP) in terms of achievements in conservation and sustainable development and in terms of the threats that the sites faced during the year 2022. It also includes a submission of a revised version of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Values (SOUV) (*Annex1*), Desired State of Conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the Corrective Measures within a provisional timeframe (*Annex2*). It also shows the progress achieved in the elaboration of Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), within the framework of the International Assistance (*No IA2018-3007*).

The report confirms that the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), Hebron Municipality (HM), and Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) remain committed to safeguarding the OUV of the property, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and the protection and management regime.

The report summarizes the work that has been undertaken, which is improving the conditions of the WHP, in addition to initiatives designed to promote the socio-economy of the local community, and their awareness toward the values of the property. However, the property is still vulnerable due to the illegal procedures and violations of the Israeli Occupying Powers (IOP) including new plans, new constructions, illegal excavations that are harmfully affecting the authenticity and integrity of the site, in addition to hundreds of other violations towards the local community and their freedom of access to places of worship. Accordingly, the State of Palestine wishes to retain the property “Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town” on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.

The State Party has sent another revised version of SOUV during August 2022, which is also attached to this report for ease of reference (*Annex1*). This revised version has evolved from long consultations with UNESCO experts, and the Advisory Bodies experts. Accordingly, the State Party would appreciate the formal adoption of it by the World Heritage Committee during the upcoming 45<sup>th</sup> session in 2023.

## 2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee (WHCom) Decision 44 COM 7A. 16.

As the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee (WHCom) did not hold last year in 2022, this section was addressed previously in the 2021 SoC report uploaded via (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565/documents/>), in addition to that and to ensure an appropriate state of conservation for the WHP, several conservation and enhancement interventions were implemented in 2022, as following:-

### 2.a Management and Conservation Plan (MCP)

The State Party has been working diligently in the elaboration of MCP, within the framework of the International Assistance (*No IA2018-3007*), and direct technical support of UNESCO-Ramallah office. The main partners (MoTA, HRC, & HM), were very keen to involve the local

community among other stakeholders to understand and document the OUV, and other associated values of the site through several meetings, surveys, and workshops alongside the whole work plan stages. In accordance with the contract signed with UNESCO- Ramallah office in May 2019, final version of the MCP was submitted to the World Heritage Centre (WHC) by 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2022, taking into consideration ICOMOS comments on the MCP.

## **2.b. Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee**

Corrective measures have not been formally adopted by the Committee; therefore, the State Party has sent another revised version of DSOCR, and the related corrective measures during September 2019, which is also attached to this report for ease of reference. (*See Annex2*)

A timeframe for the implementation of the proposed corrective measures has been set out (*see Annex3*), However, it could be amended depending on the DSOCR, and in line with the MCP objectives, strategies, and action plan, to ensure that all indicators and their timeframes are specific and applicable.

According to the indicators and timeframe outlined in (*Annex3*), the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), are planned to be achieved within a period of 10 years. However, the first DSOCR, “Dismissing all of the Occupying Power’s plans and/or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property (WHP) and its authenticity and integrity”, is not defined within this timeframe. Dismissal of the plans is largely dependent on actions and decisions taken by the IOP authorities, which are beyond the control of the State of Palestine.

## **c. Progress achieved towards the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)**

DSOCR have not been formally adopted by the Committee as mentioned before. However, the progress being achieved in the elaboration of MCP is an important key to ensuring adequate and effective safeguarding of the property and its inherent OUV, which is also considered an important corrective measure achieving the DSOCR, particularly section c. (*See Annex 2*)

## **3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value**

Following the previous SOC reports, there have been a number of significant achievements in protecting, conserving, and presenting the OUV of Hebron/Al-Khalil WHP. In addition, there has been significant progress in relation to the maintenance and adaptive reuse of abandoned buildings and commercial stores. This approach is based on the minimum intervention. It has resulted in the revitalization of these buildings, and spaces, in addition to maintaining its OUV, integrity and authenticity. The following are the main Conservation and Maintenance projects among other activities implemented by HRC recently:

### **Conservation & Maintenance of the Ibrahimi Mosque /The Tomb of the patriarchs**

The work was started in 1998 and continues to this day based on the comprehensive master plan 2015-2040, (*further details on this plan could be accessed <http://www.hebronrc.ps/images/stories/MP%20English.pdf>*).

The Conservation of this significant monument has been given special interest according to its distinctive OUV. During 2022, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) together Ministry of Religious Endowment (MoRE) maintained the lighting net in the Mosque.



*Figure 1: Maintenance of lighting system in the Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs*

### **Regular Maintenance of Historic Buildings**

This project aims to improve the living conditions of residents, and also guarantees the sustainability of Conservation; as well as raising the local community's awareness towards the best practices for cultural heritage preservation. During 2022, more than 200 apartments in different areas within the WHP boundaries were maintained. It's worth mentioning that part of this work is being carried out by the residents themselves, using traditional materials provided by HRC, and under its direct supervision. This new approach emphasizes the importance of cooperation and shared responsibility towards the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, in addition to raising the local awareness by practice.



Figure 2: Regular Maintenance of historic buildings (before and after)

### Restoration and Reuse of Hammam Al-Naiem (Turkish Bath)

The project has been targeting Hammam Al-Naiem which is a significant cultural heritage attribute in the core zone of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. This Hammam is one of three hammams that are still standing in the property, it embodies high historical, social and esthetic values which can be easily noticed in its function and its architectural details, materials and construction techniques.

This building has been unoccupied for more than two decades since its main entrance is located in closed military zone and thus it was in a severe structural condition that threatened its existence. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee managed to find an alternative entrance from the backside of the building, and conserved it to be used as a public bath. The methodology of conservation concentrated on keeping the original use of the building, and adapting it with the minimal level of intervention. The building will be managed by Al-Qasrawi family who is the owner of the building and who used to manage it before its closure. HRC encouraged and supported the participating of the local community and put all efforts to facilitate the opening and running of the project. HRC has been implementing this project since the end of 2021, with a fund from the German Government through the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), it was finished and opened for public at the end of 2022.



Figure 3: Hammam Al-Naiem (Before & After)

### **Completion of the Conservation and Rehabilitation of Commercial Stores**

The project aims to reviving the economic and tourism situations in the property, in addition to preserving the traditional cultural heritage of old markets, creating jobs and decreasing unemployment in the property. This project is targeting 200 traditional stores, and it is planned to be conserved within four phases:

- The first phase was finished, and it included conservation work for (30) stores,
- The second phase was finished and it included conservation work for (50) stores,
- The third phase is under conservation and will include (50) commercial stores,
- The fourth phase will include the maintenance and conservation work for (70) commercial stores,

This project is funded by the German Government through the United Nation Development Program (UNDP).



Figure 4: Rehabilitation of commercial stores (before & after)





Figure 5: Rehabilitation of commercial stores (before &after)



Figure 6: Commercial stores after rehabilitation

## Installing Shelters for Commercial Stores



Figure 7: Commercial stores before and after the installation of shelters

## Signs for World Heritage

In order to present the World Heritage Property, MoTA has designed two panels. The panels indicate Hebron a World Heritage Property in both Arabic and English. The panels were designed according to the UNESCO standards and is going to be installed in the property at the beginning of 2023.



Figure 8: Photo for the design of the panel

## Cultural Activities

Several activities were implemented during 2022, which aimed at encouraging tourism in Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, in addition to raising awareness of both tangible and intangible heritage among the local community. Partners believe in the importance of such activities in promoting the perception of heritage, traditions, and customs, whilst its design targets a diverse group of people with different scopes, but ultimately encourages their pertinence to heritage, some of these activities are:

- The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in partnership with Women Association in Hebron, held the handmade embroideries gallery.



Figure 10: The handmade embroideries gallery

- The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, with Ministry of Culture held a fine art exhibition in the Old Town.



Figure 11: Fine art exhibition

## Studies and Lectures

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee launched two studies:

- The impact of Israeli violations on the architectural heritage in Hebron Old Town
- The impact of Israeli violations on the Economic situation in Hebron Old Town

These studies were prepared and presented by local experts on two workshops in the presence of official institutions and representatives of international institutions.



Figure 12: Part of the workshops

#### 4. Future Issues Identified by the State Party

The State Party under paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and with reference to the previous SOC reports notifies the World Heritage Committee of a new plans and violations by IOP, which constitute threats and/or damage to the WHP. The following Israeli occupation plans, among other actions, are affecting Hebron/Al-Khalil's OUV as well as its physical attributes and their authenticity and integrity:

##### **The construction of an electric elevator in the Ibrahimi Mosque /The Tomb of the Patriarchs**

On 10 January 2022, Israeli occupation power started the construction of the electric elevator and paths to facilitate settler's access to the Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs. Constructing this elevator will result in obliterating an important part of the town's history, as it was built on an excavated area that revealed archaeological remains dating back to important historical eras of town's history. It is considered a severe action that will threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will negatively affect its authenticity and integrity as these archaeological remains embody high evidential values that illustrate essential parts of the history of the property. On the other hand, the modern steel construction will negatively affect the integrity of the architectural fabric of the property and will distort its traditional landscape.



Figure 13: The construction of the electric elevator

**Demolishing part of the stone balustrade of the stairs leading to Al-Yousfeya Hall inside the Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs.**

On 23 May 2022, during the installation of the elevator, Israeli occupation forces had demolished part of the stone balustrade of the stairs leading to Al-Yousfeya Hall inside the Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs. The stone balustrade is considered one of the architectural strata which embodies historical values that illustrate the history of the Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs. In addition, it embodies esthetic values represented in the decorations of its stones which were removed as shown in Figure 15. Therefore, this new violation will cause irreversible damage to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will threaten its authenticity and integrity.



Figure 14: The stone balustrade before and after destruction in order to install the electric elevator



Figure 15: The valuable stones that were removed from the balustrade

## **Destruction of the archaeological remains in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque /The Tomb of the Patriarchs**

On 11 August 2022 , Israeli Occupation forces started archaeological excavations in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of the Patriarchs in order to construct the electric elevator and to find a path to facilitate the access of the settlers to that elevator. The excavations have revealed archaeological remains of large parts of the architectural fabric that goes back to the Ayyubid and Mamluki eras, it also contains remains of a cistern and infrastructure that goes back to earlier eras.



Figure 16: The archeological remains in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs

In December 2022, after the establishment of the elevator, the archaeological remains were destroyed in order to establish the path to the elevator. This act obliterates a material culture that is considered a main evidence of the original form of the architectural fabric in the WHP, which is the main attribute in the property. This illegal work has been undertaken by Israel, the Occupation Power, to serve Israeli Judaization policy of the Ibrahimi Mosque depriving the local community from their principle rights to use the place and prohibit the Palestinian competent Palestinian authorities to oversee and conserve such important cultural heritage remains. In addition, these architectural remains embody high evidential values that help present and future generations understand the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Therefore, this act threatens the authenticity and integrity of the WHP as well as its Outstanding Universal Value.



Figure 17: The archeological remains in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs



Figure 18: Destruction of the archeological remains in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs

### **Completion of the constructions of new concrete-stone stories in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs**

During September 2021, the IOP started working on a new project in front of Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs by adding new constructions from concrete and stone. This new construction harms the visual contact with the most important monument of the WHP, hides its elevations, and makes a very odd mass, which damages its historical fabric, skyline, traditional building materials, in addition to the overall landscape.





Figure 19: Constructions of new concrete-stone stories in front of the Ibrahimi Mosque

### **Demolition of seven commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market in the core zone of the property**

On 6 July 2022, Israeli settlers have demolished seven commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market in the core zone of the property. These stores are private properties refer to Al-kayyal family who are not allowed to reach it; as this market is closed for 23 years by Israeli military order. Also, the HRC is not allowed to restore these commercial stores for the same reason. This market and its components is an essential part of the architectural fabric which is one of the main attributes in the property. Therefore, this violation will affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as it causes irreversible damage to the architectural fabric and will threaten its authenticity and integrity.



Figure 20: Part of the commercial stores which were destroyed in Al-Hisbeh market

## Preventing conservation of historic buildings by Israeli military order

On 12 June 2022, one of the parts of the property had been collapsed due to the lack of maintenance and restoration since the Israeli occupation power is preventing its conservation by a military order. The damage will negatively affect the authenticity and integrity of the property as well as its Outstanding Universal Value.

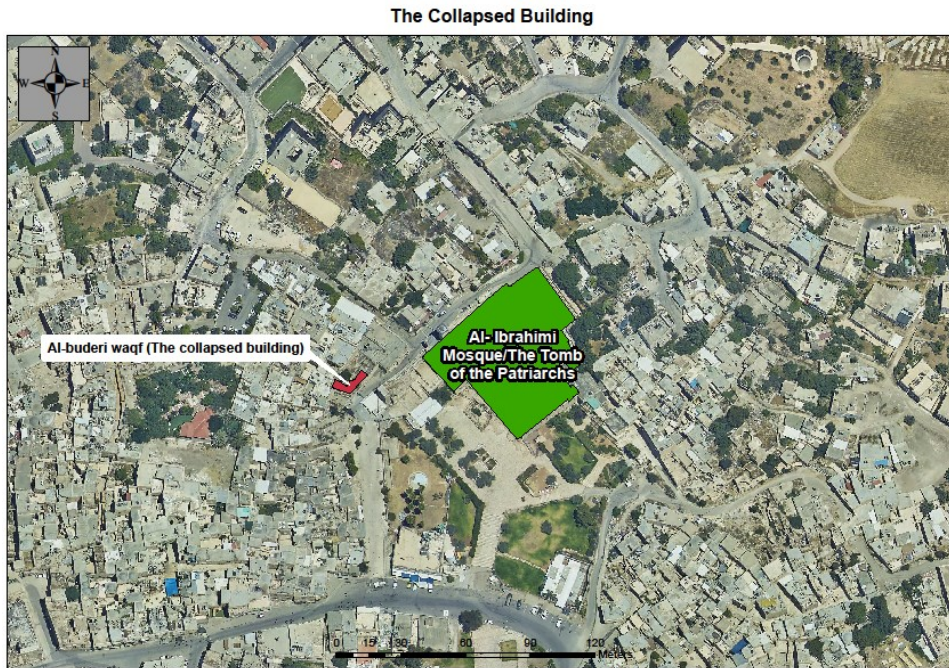


Figure 21: The location of the collapse building

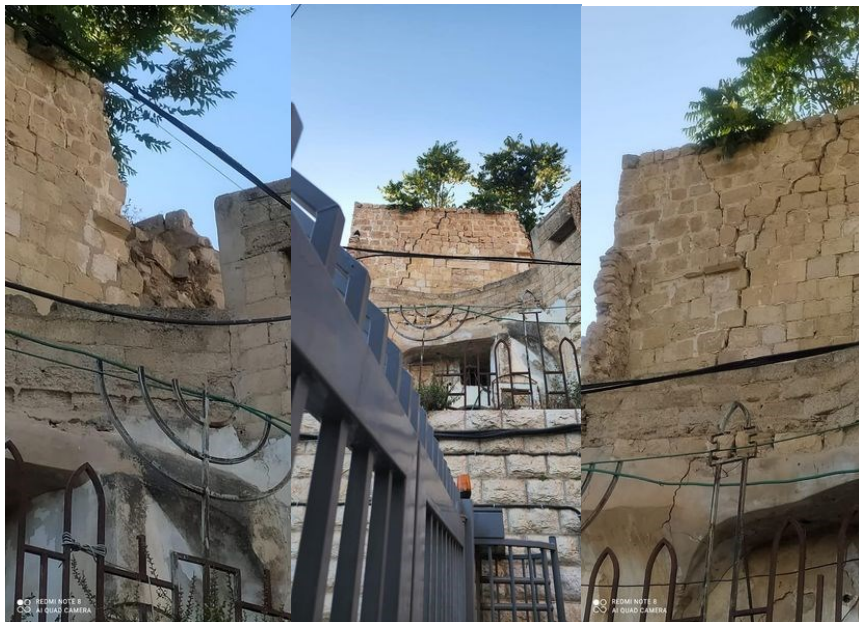


Figure 22: Part of the collapsed building

### Settler’s attack on the visitor center in the WHP

On 11 August 2022, Israeli settlers have attacked the Old Town’s visitor center in the Hammam Ibrahim al-Khalil by breaking its main entrance. The main entrance was closed by Israeli military order that prevented Palestinians from reaching it and forced them to find another entrance that passes through a residential courtyard. The attack resulted in the destruction of valuable archaeological artifacts that illustrate the history of the property. Therefore, this violation will affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as well as its authenticity and integrity.



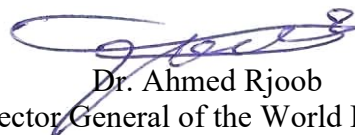
Figure 23: The destruction of the artifacts in the Old Town’s Visitor Center

## 5. Public access to the State of Conservation Report

The State Party agrees that the full State of Conservation Report can be made publicly available via the WH center’s Information System.

## 6. Signature of the Authority

This State of Conservation Report (SOC) for the World Heritage Property (WHP) Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (1565) was prepared by Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and other related stakeholders.



Dr. Ahmed Rjoob  
Director General of the World Heritage  
Focal Point of the World Heritage Convention

## Annex 1: Revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

### Brief Synthesis

Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town is one of the oldest living cities and spiritual centres in the world. Its numerous ancient, well preserved, monuments and buildings bear witness to a rich and prosperous past, through a series of successive and imbricated civilizations from very early antiquity until modern times. The World Heritage Property constitutes an important part of the continuous fabric of the present city that dates back to at least the Mamluk and Ottoman periods (13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century AD). The property is surrounded by a protective buffer zone comprised of the foothills around the Hebron/Al-Khalil valley and of archaeological remains that include Tell Rumeida.

The old town expanded on three hills and into the valley around Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/ The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex, which is an outstanding and multi-layered example of architecture illustrates significant stages in human history and is one of the main elements that shaped the Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town. Traditions, religious and spiritual beliefs have been the foundation of the town's cultural character for many centuries as the site is revered by three monotheistic religions. Thanks to its location along one of the main commercial routes in the region, the town became a meeting place for different faiths and cultures, with socio-economic and cultural exchange occurring throughout the centuries. The Outstanding Universal Value of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town is demonstrated by its existence as an exceptionally complete and well-preserved example of exceptional urban and vernacular architectural elements which reflect characteristics inspired by the human values of Hebron/Al-Khalil's community . The main attributes of Outstanding Universal Value can be observed within the limits of the old town, including the Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex, *Suqs*, *Khans*, *Zawiyas*, *Maqams*, *Takiyya*, and *Hammams*, the traditional quarters and the ahwash, as well as the town's historical setting, and its design.

**Criterion (ii):** Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town represents an outstanding example of a community built around the interchange of human values. Since its creation, the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex has been a source of great inspiration to surrounding communities and to their social, religious, and spiritual values. The site has been in continuous religious use since the early Roman Period to this day. Herod the Great, a Roman client king of the region, probably built a monumental enclosure (*temenos*) around the sacred Cave of Machpelah/ al-Ghar as-Sharif, visited and worshipped by pilgrims and a church was probably built inside the enclosure during the Byzantine Period. In the Umayyad Period, a mosque was also built inside the enclosure; and the cenotaphs were placed in their present position. In the Crusades period, the mosque was converted into a church, known as the Castle of Saint Abraham. After Saladin reconquered the area, the church was converted back into a mosque, which became known as the Haram Al-Ibrahimi.

The main roads of the town connect the different quarters in Hebron/Al-Khalil to Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex. The relation with the prophet Ibrahim and the presence of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex has attracted pilgrims from around the world, making Hebron/Al-Khalil a meeting place for a great variety of faiths, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds. This intermixing has led to a high degree of socio-economic and cultural exchange throughout the centuries reflected in the many public buildings of the property and beyond, including *Suqs*, *Khans*, *Zawiyas*, *Maqams*, *Hammams*, and the *Takiyya*.

In the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods, Hebron/Al-Khalil became a significant centre of Sufism. Sufis, who came from different cultural backgrounds, found a promising environment in the vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi, and subsequently Sufi *zawaya* (sing. *zawiya*) were built throughout the city's quarters and become one of their distinguishing features.

For more than a millennium, the *Takiyya*'s tradition (Hospice- free kitchen) of the Hebron/Al –Khalil influenced the whole region as evidenced in early historic accounts from the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD presented in the *Takiyya* of this day. Similar charitable institutions were later established in Jerusalem, Istanbul, Damascus, and Cairo.

**Criterion (iv):** Hebron/al Khalil Old Town is an outstanding example of an urban district which has remarkably preserved-historical fabric. It has also preserved the morphology and residential typologies dating back to the Mamluk period, all of which contribute to the visual and structural integrity of the cityscape. The residential neighbourhoods of the old town were built in a *hosh* system. The *hosh* system is a congregation of separate room units or groups of rooms clustered around several small courtyards. They are found in different locations and levels, which have organically evolved into distinctive tree-shaped residential structures.

The continuity of buildings on the outer edges of the town made it difficult to access the town and created an effective defence system of “rampart houses”. These included hidden nooks and circuitous alleyways that played a protective role against intrusions. This system can still be observed clearly within the old town in the road system and urban structures, which are perfectly preserved to this day.

**Criterion (vi):** The Hebron/Al-Khalil’s Old Town is one of the holiest cities in the world for three great monotheistic religions. For centuries, Hebron/Al-Khalil was a town in which prophets visited, lived, and were buried. Traditions and religious beliefs for the three monotheistic religions, have been its cultural foundation and the source of enduring values carried from one generation to the next. Furthermore, the prophet Ibrahim/Abraham’s spirit of generosity and hospitality has been and continues to be deeply ingrained into the traditions of Hebron/Al-Khalil. A key attribute of these traditions is the prophet Ibrahim/Abraham’s *Takiyya* (Hospice), established before the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, which has continued until today to offer meals to the poor and visitors.

In the Mamluk period, 13<sup>th</sup> century AD, Hebron/Al-Khalil became a significant centre of Sufism. Sufis found a promising environment in the vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi and, subsequently, sufi *zawaya* (sing. *zawiya*) were built throughout the city and have become one of its distinguishing features.

### **Statement of Integrity**

After the Roman and Byzantine periods, the original city moved from Tell Rumeida to the valley adjacent to Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex, and became the focal point of the town and strongly influenced its development. The boundaries of the property correspond to the boundaries of the continuous fabric of Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town, during the Mamluk period.

Hebron/al Khalil Old Town has remarkably preserved its Mamluk historical urban fabric as well as the morphology and residential typologies of *Hara* and *ahwash* (plural of *hosh*). These create an intricate network of alleys, which is influenced by

the location of Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of Patriarchs that connects the various neighbourhoods in the old town and contributes to the visual and structural integrity of the cityscape. Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs monumental complex has been a source of great inspiration to the three monotheistic religions and to the surrounding communities and their social, religious, and spiritual values. It has been in continuous religious use since early Roman period to this day. The importance of this sacred place is evident in the town's structure. Whilst Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town has never been protected by town walls, its limits are well marked by the topography and the "rampart houses" built on the town's external perimeter, some of which have survived to this day.

The property is very vulnerable due to the political situation. The Israeli settlement activities and procedures inside the property and in its buffer zone are illegal under the international law, including ongoing excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers, military and mobility restrictions, and roadblocks, inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, which harmfully affect the integrity of the site. Nevertheless, efforts are made by the State of Palestine to mitigate any adverse effects of development and/or neglect to the integrity of the property.

### **Statement of Authenticity**

The morphological configuration of the old town and the spatial organization of the urban fabric, dating back to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods have remained mostly unchanged, and the main distinctive attributes have been retained. The authenticity of the urban structure and of the buildings, quarters and *hoshs* have also remained intact. The property has retained its use and function which are attested in a number of public buildings, such as Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs complex, *zawiya's* and *hammams* dating back to the Mamluk period. Function is strongly demonstrated through the continued maintenance, conservation and veneration of the property's attributes that are observed within its limits, most notably, the monumental site of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of Patriarchs. The spirit of generosity and hospitality of the prophet Ibrahim/Abraham has been and continues to be deeply instilled into the traditions of Hebron/Al-Khalil through its *Takiyya* (Hospice) which continues to offer meals to the city's poor and visitors. Conservation efforts made in the old town since the mid-1990s have, to a great extent, preserved the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and contributed to continuity of uses. These efforts led to a return of the inhabitants and an effective urban regeneration of the old town. The use of traditional materials and techniques in these restoration operations has contributed to the protection of the authenticity of the old town and in the reactivation of craftsman trades.

### **Protection and management requirements**

Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town possesses a high level of legal protection, both at the national and local levels. At the national level, it is protected by the law on Tangible Cultural Heritage (No. 11, 2018) for the protection, conservation and management of tangible cultural heritage in Palestine, as well as by the Jordanian law (No. 79, 1966) on building and zoning of towns, villages, and buildings. At the local level, protection of the property is based on the municipal physical master plan for the city of Hebron and the “Hebron's Old City: Preservation and Revitalization Master Plan 2015-2040”, a strategy to manage and conserve the old town’s urban planning, infrastructure, education, tourism, public health, economy, social development, and other important sectors. As per the law on Tangible Cultural Heritage (No. 11, 2018), the property is managed by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in close cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf, Hebron Municipality, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, and the local community. The local community involvement is made through workshops, seminars, in order to enhance the current management and state of conservation of the property , the above mentioned partners are closely cooperating in preparing the Management and Conservation Plan, in order to establish an effective management system and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property.

*Notes: At the time of the nomination evaluation, ICOMOS could not visit the property therefore the statement of integrity and authenticity and the protection and management requirements could not be assessed on the ground. In addition, at the moment of inscription of the property, the aim for a comprehensive vision for the management of the property is made more difficult by the constraints imposed by the Israeli Occupying Power on zone H2 in the old town.*

### **Annex 2: Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)**

The State of Palestine is committed to the removal of Hebron/Al-Khalil from the World Heritage list in danger. Therefore, the stakeholders have diagnosed and assessed the factors affecting the WHP in order to develop the most appropriate and plausible plans and actions to achieve the Desired State of Conservation, as well as key Corrective Measures to be adopted by the World Heritage Committee for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as follows:

- A. Dismissing all of the Occupying Power’s plans and/ or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property (WHP) and its authenticity and integrity.
- B. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that any development plans in the property, the buffer zone and the setting do not negatively affect the OUV of the property.
- C. Adoption of an integrated effective Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP.



D. Achieving appropriate conservation and safeguarding of the WHP's OUV, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.

## **2. B. Proposed Corrective Measures to achieve the DSOCR**

A.1 Take all possible measures to obtain the dismissal of all of Occupying Power plans and actions that affect the OUV of the property including building settlements, destruction of parts of the architectural and urban fabric, illegal excavations, separation barriers, access blocks and street closures.

A.2 Dismiss all of the Israeli Occupying Power illegal regulations imposed on the local Palestinian authorities which hinder the maintenance and conservation of the property.

B1. Develop and promulgate bylaws and urban regulations to protect the historic environment of the WHP, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.

B2. Develop a process for strategic and heritage impact assessments for all significant planning and development projects in the property, its buffer zone, and its setting.

C1. Preparation and implementation of a Comprehensive and integrated Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP that involves all concerned stakeholders with emphasis on the local community.

C2. Develop and implement an efficient practical management and monitoring system based on the best practices for the WHP.

D1. Implement conservation projects to enhance the quality of the historic environment of the WHP and improve the socio-economic status and the living conditions of the local community.

D2. Enhance the capacity building of practitioners, institutions, networks and communities to work together towards effective conservation and management of the WHP.

D3. Conduct a comprehensive inventory and documentation of the physical attributes of the WHP's OUV used to assess their State of Conservation and generate an integrated database system for the WHP.

**Annex 3: The Indicators and Timeframe for Implementation of the DSCOR and Corrective Measures**

<b>DSOCR &amp; Corrective Measures (CM)</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Method of Verification</b>	<b>Timeframe of CM</b>	<b>Timeframe of DSCOR</b>
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<p><b>A</b> <b>Dismissing all of the Occupying Power’s plans and/ or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property (WHP) and its authenticity and integrity.</b></p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>A1. Take all possible measures to obtain the dismissal of all of the Occupying Power plans and actions that affect the OUV of the property including building settlements, destruction of parts of the architectural and urban fabric, illegal excavations, separation barriers, access blocks and street closures.</p> <p>A.2 Dismiss all of the Israeli Occupying Power illegal regulations imposed on the local Palestinian authorities which hinder the maintenance and conservation of the property.</p>	<p>A1. A final and binding decision by Israel dismissing the plans and/or actions affecting the attributes of the WHP’s OUV.</p> <p>A2. A final and binding decision by Israel dismissing illegal regulation imposed on the Palestinian authorities which hinders the maintenance and conservation of the property.</p>	<p>The WHP is currently threatened by several of Israel’s/the Occupying Power’s plans and actions that may irreversibly affect the property’s OUV.</p> <p>The Occupying Power must dismiss all plans and actions including building settlements, destruction of parts of the architectural fabric, illegal excavations, separation barriers, access blocks, or any other actions that may negatively affect the OUV of the property.</p>	<p>A1.1 binding Israeli decision is adopted and no subsequent plans and/or actions might affect the OUV.</p> <p>A1.2 Barriers, blocks, and closures are removed.</p> <p>A1.3 Free circulation and movement throughout the WHP.</p> <p>A2 Binding Israeli decision is adopted and no subsequent plans and/or actions might affect the OUV.</p>	<p><i>No specific date</i></p>	<p><i>No specific date</i></p>
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<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b>Mechanisms are in place to ensure that any development plans in the property, the buffer zone and the setting do not negatively affect the OUV of the property.</b></p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>B1. Develop and promulgate bylaws and urban regulations to protect the historic environment of the WHP, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.</p> <p>B2. Develop a process for strategic and heritage impact assessments for all significant planning and development projects in the property, its buffer zone, and its setting.</p>	<p>B1. Endorse and implement bylaws and regulations in accordance with the tangible cultural heritage law (No 11. 2018), as well as the local government regulation and bylaws in line with the above law.</p> <p>B2. Process of the Impact Assessment is established and adopted by related authorities.</p>	<p>Effective bylaws are needed to ensure the protection of the property at the national and local levels.</p> <p>Ensure that all significant planning and development projects do not negatively affect the OUV of the property.</p> <p>Preparation of an MCP for the WHP is urgently needed to ensure the sustainability of the OUV ,and to preserve its authenticity and integrity, which had been facing various threats and challenges.</p>	<p>B1.1 monitoring that the bylaws are endorsed</p> <p>B1.2 monitoring of the effective implementation of the endorsed bylaws</p> <p>B2.1 Monitoring of the establishment and adoption of the process of Impact Assessment by the related authorities.</p> <p>B2.2 Monitoring of significant planning and development projects using the above assessment tools.</p>	<p>2020-2023</p> <p>2022-2028</p>	<p>2021-2024</p> <p>2021-2024</p> <p>2021-2028</p>	<p>2022-2028</p> <p>2021-2024</p> <p>2021-2028</p>	<p>2029</p> <p>2029</p> <p>2029</p>
<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><b>Adoption of an integrated effective Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP.</b></p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>C1. Preparation of a Comprehensive and integrated Management and Conservation Plan for the WHP that involves all concerned stakeholders with emphasis on the local community.</p>	<p>C1. Preparation and endorsement of the MCP.</p> <p>C2. Monitoring the effective</p>		<p>C1. Adoption of the MCP by all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>C2.1 Effective Implementation of the management and conservation plan.</p> <p>C2.2 Implementation of assessment and</p>		<p>2021-2024</p>	<p>2029</p>	

<p>C2. Effective implementation of the management and conservation plan.</p>	<p>implementation of the MCP.</p>		<p>monitoring strategies and activities as per the MCP action plan.</p>		
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<p><b>D</b> <b>Achieving appropriate conservation and safeguarding of the WHP’s OUV, its physical attributes, integrity and authenticity.</b></p> <p><i>Related Corrective Measure(s):</i></p> <p>D1. Implement conservation projects to enhance the quality of the historic environment of the WHP and improve the socio-economic status and the living conditions of the local community.</p> <p>D2. Raise awareness about the WHP and its OUV and Enhance the capacity building of practitioners, institutions, networks and communities to work together towards effective conservation and management of the WHP.</p> <p>D3. Conduct a comprehensive inventory and documentation of the physical attributes of the WHP’s OUV used to assess their State of Conservation and generate an integrated database system for the WHP.</p>	<p>D1. Implementing conservation projects and related social programs to safeguard the WHP including maintenance projects for vulnerable parts of the WHP, such as Qaytoun Quarter.</p> <p>D2.1 Developing programs to raise awareness about the WHP and its OUV.</p> <p>D2.2. Improving conservation and management capacity-building by conducting a number of technical training programs.</p> <p>D2.3 Establishing economic incentives for the local community.</p> <p>D3.1 Developing and implementing documentation and inventory projects for generating a database for the management of attributes of the WHP.</p> <p>D3.2 Establishing and executing conservation guidelines.</p>	<p>Although conservation program of the Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town has been in effect since 1996, further efforts are needed to improve the quality of the historic environment, the socio-economic status and living conditions of the local community, raise awareness about the WHP and its OUV, and enhance capacity building of professionals working for the property.</p>	<p>(1) Monitor conserved attributes of the WHP.</p> <p>(2) Regular evaluation of conservation program.</p> <p>(3) Evaluation of training program.</p> <p>(4) Regular Evaluation of economic program and incentives.</p> <p>(5) Evaluation of the documentation and database system.</p>	<p>2022 -2028</p>	<p>2029</p>
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