

# ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

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Charenton-le-Pont, 4 October 2023

H. E. Mr Fahad Bin Maayouf Al Ruwaily  
Delegate ad intérim  
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi  
Arabia to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 Paris Cedex

## **World Heritage List 2024 – Additional Information The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area (Saudi Arabia)**

Dear Mr Fahad Bin Maayouf Al Ruwaily,

ICOMOS is currently assessing the nomination of “The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area” as a World Heritage property and an ICOMOS technical evaluation mission will visit the nominated property to consider matters related to its protection, management and conservation, as well as issues related to its integrity and authenticity.

In order to allow us to further evaluate this property, we would be grateful if the State Party could provide us with additional information on the following points:

### **Coordination of management**

The nomination dossier clearly explains that the management responsibility for the nominated property is divided between the Wadi ad-Dawasir office of the Heritage Commission of the Ministry of Culture (below the escarpment) and the National Center for Wildlife (above the escarpment) (p. 161). The nomination dossier also explains that the site management structure will achieve the coordination between these entities, and describes the joint working group that has been established between the two key organisations (p. 298).

- ICOMOS would appreciate additional information regarding the means by which the decisions taken by the different management authorities will be coordinated, building on the information already provided. What is envisaged in relation to the joint frameworks for management and governance?
- To what extent are the structures depicted in p. 36 of the management plan and described in section 5.e of the nomination dossier already in place and operating?

### **Buffer zone mapping**

In various places, the nomination dossier mentions that there is no full cadastral map of the buffer zone (for example, p. 257). ICOMOS would appreciate a brief additional explanation in this regard.

### **Protection of the wider setting**

ICOMOS notes that plans to establish protection of the wider setting (‘respect zone’) for the nominated property have been set up (p. 231, nomination dossier) and would appreciate additional information regarding the means of providing legal recognition of this designation once it is in place. ICOMOS would also appreciate any updated information on the progress in establishing this mechanism (if any).

### **Conservation approach**

The nomination dossier explains that “*innovative technical solutions*” are being developed, according to a “*step-by-step scientific conservation program*” (pp. 13, 64). ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about these aspects of the statement provided on protection and management.

While most attributes will be presented as they are or subject to consolidation techniques, it is also stated that anastylosis will be considered for a few specific buildings including the royal tomb and small oratory (pp. 207, 210, nomination dossier), the souk will be made accessible, and that a “*significant part of the ancient city will be restored*” (p. 315, nomination dossier). ICOMOS wishes to understand the basis of these possibilities, and others, if they have been identified, and how such decisions will be taken.

Spoil heaps from previous archaeological excavations are identified as a visually intrusive element, and it is indicated that there are longer-term plans to remove them (p. 191, nomination dossier). It is also acknowledged that this is a challenging goal to achieve, given their scale and the remote locations involved. ICOMOS is interested to better understand whether any of these are prioritised for removal, and how such discarded materials will be handled in the future.

### **Management plan**

The management plan mentions that a number of aspects are in development in order to meet the standards requested for World Heritage properties (p. 5, p. 84). In addition, the management activities detailed in the second part of the management plan concern the period from 2020-2022, and many items were due to be completed by or during 2023.

- ICOMOS would appreciate any updated information about the progress of these planned activities and developments, including the resourcing and capacities of the Wadi ad-Dawasir office of the Heritage Commission. This updated information can be provided concisely, for example, via a summary table.
- It is understood that an enhanced monitoring system is being developed according to the indicators outlined in section 6.a of the nomination dossier. ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about whether regular collection of monitoring data is occurring for any of the proposed indicators.

### **Tourism, visitor management and interpretation**

ICOMOS understands that the longer-term plans for this remote area will result in the creation of a tourism focus to this remote area which is not currently visited by many people (pp. 245-246, nomination dossier). ICOMOS would be interested in receiving some highlights regarding the readiness of the nominated property and its managers for such changes, as well as regarding the capability of the tourism planning frameworks.

The nomination dossier suggests that tourism is currently the subject of a Concept Master Plan, and that a comprehensive regional tourism strategy is being developed (p. 246). It is understood that this will be achieved in several steps. However, ICOMOS would appreciate additional information regarding the methodology for the carrying capacity study and information about any further progress in planning for sustainable tourism.

### **Future farming uses**

ICOMOS understands that there are no farms located in the nominated property, although there are a small number located in the buffer zone which depend on drilling into the water table (p. 235, nomination dossier). The nomination dossier indicates that this form of farming might diminish in the future, based on sustainability concerns. At the same time, the nomination dossier states that the potential World Heritage inscription of the nominated property will not prevent farming (p. 236). It would be appreciated if clarification could be provided about the likelihood of new farming areas being established in the nominated property and/or buffer zone, and how such proposals will be evaluated. Is there a map showing the extent of permitted agricultural parcels in the buffer zone?

ICOMOS notes that provisions are made within the management plan to ensure participation of Bedouin people in future decisions (p. 261, nomination dossier). ICOMOS would be pleased if additional information could be provided on this aspect.

The nomination dossier briefly mentions that Bedouin tribal laws provide an additional layer of protection for the nominated property (p. 253). ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about these traditions.

ICOMOS notes that 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid was inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria in the recently concluded 45<sup>th</sup> extended session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, 2023).

- ICOMOS would appreciate to receive a map clearly showing the spatial relationships between the above-mentioned World Heritage property and the boundary and buffer zone of the nominated property of The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area.
- Are 'Uruq Bani Mu'arid and The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area sharing the same protected area?
- ICOMOS would be interested to know if there are any 'overlapping' boundaries and/or buffer zones between the newly inscribed property and the nominated cultural landscape. If so, are there any foreseen potential issues for the management system or visitation arising from this overlap, given that different criteria have been utilised?

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** with the above information by **Friday 10 November 2023 at the latest**.

ICOMOS appreciates that the timeframe for providing this additional information is short. Brief responses are required at this stage, and can be discussed further with the State Party if needed during the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

Please note that the State Party shall submit a copy of the additional information to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and a copy to ICOMOS so that it can be formally registered as part of the nomination dossier.

We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Pauli:

Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to            Heritage Commission  
                        UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Riyadh, 8th November 2023

Ms. Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Dear Director,

In response to your letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (World Heritage List 2024 – Additional Information), which requested additional information on various aspects (a) coordination of management, (b) buffer zone mapping, (c) protection of wider setting, (d) conservation approach, (e) management plan, (e) tourism and visitor management and interpretation, (f) future farming uses, (g) local communities, (h) traditional protection, and (i) Uruq Bani Ma'arid within *The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area* and in its vicinity, the State Party has prepared a brief report as follows.

#### **A- Coordination of management**

The nomination dossier clearly explains that the management responsibility for the nominated property is divided between the Wadi ad-Dawasir office of the Heritage Commission of the Ministry of Culture (below the escarpment) and the National Center for Wildlife (above the escarpment) (p. 161). The nomination dossier also explains that the site management structure will achieve the coordination between these entities and describes the joint working group that has been established between the two key organisations (p. 298).

ICOMOS would appreciate additional information regarding the means by which the decisions taken by the different management authorities will be coordinated, building on the information already provided. What is envisaged in relation to the joint frameworks for management and governance?

The protection of *The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area* is based on two parallel legal mechanisms: the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage as well as the Environmental Protection Law. The shared area with 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid's (UBM) Nominated Property is protected by the Environment Protection Law and regulations applied in the reserve.

The HC-NCW working group was created on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to guarantee the effective and close coordination between the activities of the World Heritage General Department of the Heritage Commission (HC), and the Protected Areas Planning and Monitoring Department of the National Center for Wildlife (NCW). The overarching Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations, resulting from the work carried out by the working group in the past year, was signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 (See Annex 1).

The working group is currently developing a joint management and governance framework for Al-Faw and UBM, ensuring legal protection, administration, and regulation. This framework will be established through a Management Charter, which will act as a legally binding arrangement for the effective management of the areas shared by the two sites in a way that upholds the respective mission of the HC and NCW.

The Management Charter will:



1. Establish a set of principles that are agreed by the HC and NCW that also align with the Al-Faw Framework.<sup>1</sup>
2. Identify the impact and implications of each principle within the shared areas.
3. Identify how the principles will be supported and implemented by linking them to the relevant sections of the two Management Plans and their associated KPIs. This includes establishment of a permanent management mechanism, for sharing information and coordinating decisions between the two entities within the shared areas after the adoption of the charter.

To reach this objective, a series of monthly workshops are organised throughout July 2023-April 2024. The workshops are attended by legal and site management teams from both entities to ensure that, by the end of the series of workshops, a Memorandum of Understanding (deduced from the Management Charter) will be signed to formalise the management mechanisms for the shared areas.

To what extent are the structures depicted in p.36 of the management plan and described in section 5.e of the nomination dossier already in place and operating?

The formalisation of the higher and local steering committees is currently in the process of acquiring approvals, which are anticipated to be finalised in 2024. For that reason, a temporary taskforce has recently been established under the Emirate of Riyadh Region to carry out the tasks of these steering committees until the time the permanent committees are formalised (Fig.1 Management System). The temporary taskforce is composed of representatives from various ministries, national companies, and the NCW. The nomination of the representatives is currently underway, and it is anticipated that this taskforce will be operating before the end of 2023.

The third steering committee, the scientific committee, oversees the development of the research and conservation programmes. Its structure has been approved and the appointment of its members is now in process. It is anticipated that the scientific committee will be operational from the beginning of 2024 (see Fig.2 Scientific Committee Structure).

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Faw Framework provides a clear link between the vision, objectives and development principles for Al-Faw based on the regional conceptual masterplan.

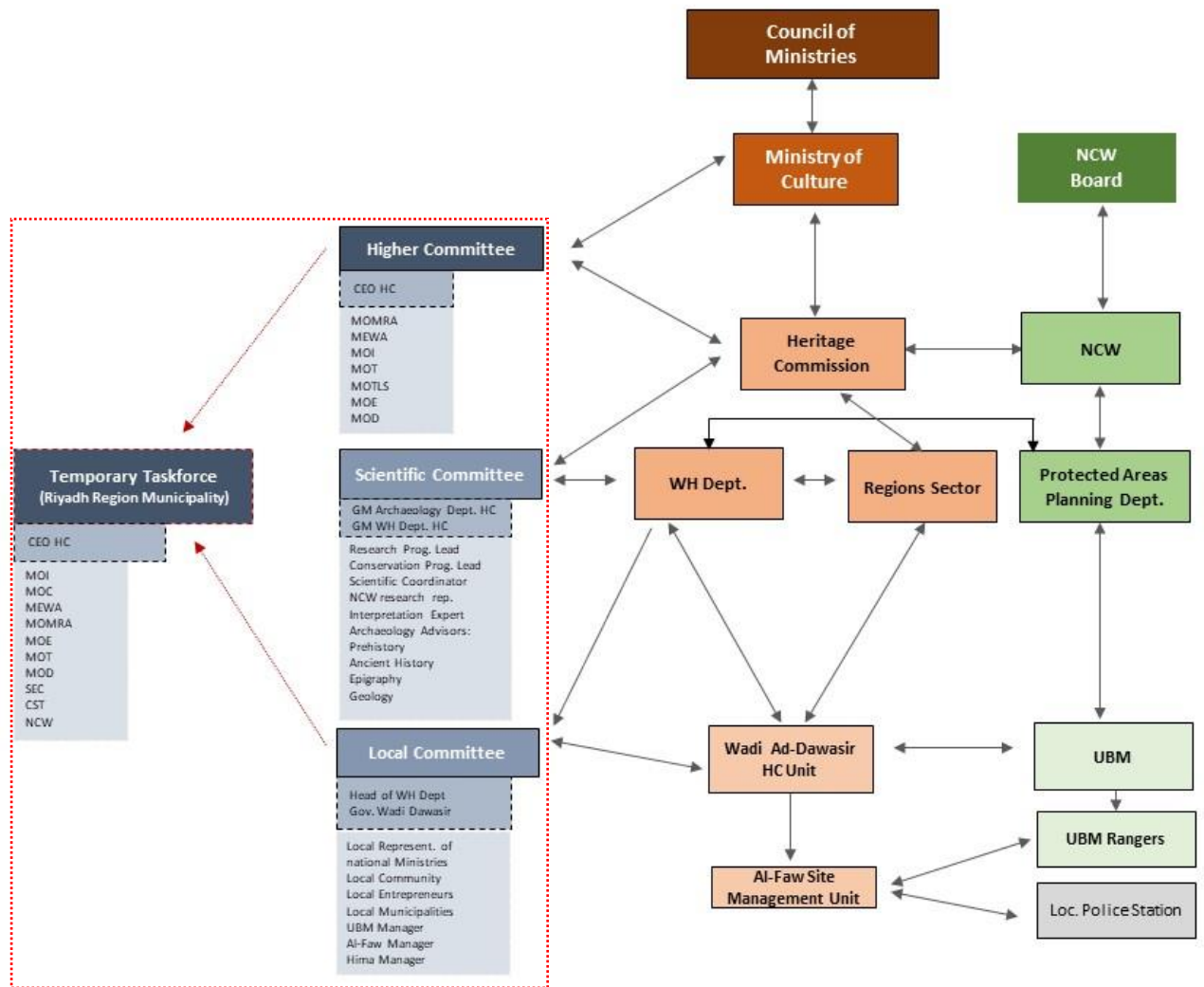


Fig.1 Management System



| Steering Members  | Expert Teams  |
|---|---|
| Scientific Committee  | Research Programme  |
| <b>Co-head:</b> Dr. Abdullah Alzahrani ( <i>Archaeology GM</i> )<br><b>Co-head:</b> Arc. Norah Alkhamis ( <i>WH GM</i> )<br><b>Research Prog. Lead:</b> Dr. Abdullah Alzahrani (HC)<br><b>Conservation Prog. Lead:</b> Benjamin Marcus (HC)<br><b>Scientific Coordinator:</b> Dr. Ajab Alotaibi (HC)<br><b>NCW research rep:</b> Dr. Othman Llewellyn (NCW)*<br><b>Interpretation Expert:</b> TBD*<br><b>Archaeology Advisor (Prehistory):</b><br>Dr. Abdullah Alsharekh (KSU)*<br>Dr. Sumio Fujii*<br><b>Archaeology Advisor (Ancient history):</b><br>Dr. Ricardo Eichmann (GAI)*<br>Dr. Derek Kennet (Durham University)*<br>Dr. Arnulf Hausleiter (GAI)*<br>Dr. Munir Arbash*<br>Dr. Abdulaziz Alghazzi (KSU)*<br>Dr. Salim Al-Tairan (KSU)*<br><b>Archaeology Advisor (Epigraphy):</b><br>Dr. Munir Arbash*<br><b>Archaeology Advisor (Geology):</b><br>Dr. Ali Alzahrani (MoE)* | <b>Research Programme Co-Lead:</b> Dr. Abdullah Alzahrani ( <i>Archaeology GM</i> )<br><b>Research Programme Co-Lead:</b> Giorgia Cesaro ( <i>Archaeology Director- SMU</i> )<br><b>World Heritage Expert:</b> Arc. Norah Alkhamis (HC)<br><b>Scientific Coordinator:</b> Dr. Ajab Alotaibi (HC)<br><b>General Coordinator:</b> Sumayyah Alghamdi (HC)<br><b>Editorial Coordinator:</b> Hetaf Alzaydi (HC)<br><b>Field Coordinator:</b> Shaker Abu Rasayn (HC)<br><b>Heritage Interpretation Expert:</b> TBD*<br><b>Intangible Heritage Expert:</b> Abdualлах Bin Kulayb (HC)<br><b>Natural Heritage Expert:</b> Dr. Othman Llewellyn (NCW)*<br><b>Archaeology Expert (Prehistory)</b><br>Dr. Khaled Alasmari (KSU)*<br>Dr. Azhari Sadig (KSU)*<br>Dr. Masashi Abe*<br>Dr. Faleh Alotaibi (MoE)*<br>Musfer Alqahtani*<br><b>Archaeology Expert (Ancient history)</b><br>Dr. Guillaume Charloux (CNRS)*<br>Dr. Arnulf Hausleiter (DAI)*<br>Dr. Seth Priestman (Durham University)*<br>Dr. Juan De Lara (UCL)*<br>Dr. Nada Aba Alqasim (MoE)*<br>Dr. Jeremie Schiettecatte (CNRS)*<br><b>Archaeology Expert (Epigraphy)</b><br>Dr. Risa Tokunaga (HC)<br>Dr. Jeremie Schiettecatte*<br>Dr. Alessia Prioletta *<br><b>Archaeology Expert (Geology)</b><br>Dr. Ali Alzahrani (MoE)* |
|   | Conservation Programme  |
|   | <b>Conservation Programme Lead:</b> Benjamin Marcus<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Scientific Coordinator:</b> Dr. Ajab Alotaibi (HC)</li> <li><b>General Coordinator:</b> TBD*</li> <li><b>Conservation Architect:</b> Eng. Abdulrahman AlAsem (HC)</li> <li><b>Coordinating Conservation Architect:</b> TBD*</li> <li><b>Structural Engineer:</b> TBD*</li> <li><b>Conservation Consultant (Research Lab):</b> SUPSI - The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland</li> <li><b>Archaeologist:</b> TBD*</li> </ul>   |

Fig.2 Scientific Committee Structure. (\* Indicates that the name is under confirmation) Please refer to Annex 4 for profiles.

## B- Buffer zone mapping

In various places, the nomination dossier mentions that there is no full cadastral map of the buffer zone (for example, p. 257). ICOMOS would appreciate a brief additional explanation in this regard.

Outside cities and villages, there are no cadastral maps (at the parcel level) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. There are deeds with written descriptions of the land parcels, and local knowledge of the property limits. A database gathering all the existing ownerships/existing deeds in the area is being prepared. Once completed, an updated 'ownership map' will be created highlighting ownership patterns.

However, most of the land of the Buffer Zone is state owned (refer to p. 30 of the nomination file on land ownership), with the exception of the agricultural plots that are privately-owned (but cover only a very small part of the Buffer Zone). The Nominated Property is entirely state owned and is registered under the national registry for antiquities (refer to pages 149-153 of the Management Plan file).



### C- Protection of the wider setting

ICOMOS notes that plans to establish protection of the wider setting ('respect zone') for the nominated property have been set up (p. 231, nomination dossier) and would appreciate additional information regarding the means of providing legal recognition of this designation once it is in place. ICOMOS would also appreciate any updated information on the progress in establishing this mechanism (if any).

The law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage issued by Royal Decree No. (M/3) dated 9/1/1436, stipulates the protection of archaeological and heritage sites and their adjacent areas in several articles (refer to Annex 2). Article 9, part 2 states *"Archaeological and urban heritage sites shall be preserved when carrying out projects for planning, expansion or improvement of urban or rural areas. In addition, easement rights shall be taken into consideration, including designation of construction-free areas, in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Planning projects, in which, or in the vicinity of which, there are archaeological and urban heritage sites, may not be adopted without the approval of SCTA<sup>2</sup>".* Hence, the Saudi legal framework gives the Heritage Commission the right to approve development plans or any permit or building license within the vicinity of the site which includes the Respect Zone.

Considering the aforementioned law, two coordination meetings took place with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) to discuss the nomination file for Al-Faw at the Governorate of Wadi ad-Dawasir in April and September 2022, respectively. Moreover, a third coordination meeting between the CEO of the HC and MOMRA took place in January 2023 to discuss heritage sites managed by HC, including *The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area*. Accordingly, the site boundaries, including the Nominated Property, Buffer Zone and Respect Zone, were shared with MOMRA, all relevant ministries and authorities and they have been notified with a formal letter stating that it is forbidden to implement or take any actions within all site boundaries without prior approval of the Heritage Commission (See Annex 3). Hence, the implementation of the Respect Zone's protection is effectively in place.

### D- Conservation approach

The nomination dossier explains that *"innovative technical solutions"* are being developed, according to a *"step-by-step scientific conservation program"* (pp. 13, 64). ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about these aspects of the statement provided on protection and management.

The consolidation and conservation of the ancient town of Al-Faw is a major challenge from the scientific and technical points of view. Blocks made of a mix of clay and gypsum, which form a large part of the masonry structures, is a still little-studied material for which no ready-made consolidation techniques are available. In the framework of the nomination, a series of laboratory tests and small *in-situ* tests have been carried out to test the most suitable consolidants and verify their impact on the medium term in the extreme climatic conditions affecting Al-Faw Archaeological Area. The first results, detailed in the nomination, are very positive. New tests have been implemented (and new samples collected) in October 2023 by a team from the University of Applied Sciences and Art of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI).

<sup>2</sup> SCTA was replaced by the establishment of the Ministry of Culture (MoC), with the Heritage Commission as MoC's heritage authority. See section A.5 of the Annexes of the Management Plan.





The whole process, and the consolidants adopted, follow a carefully designed technical protocol and respect international best practice in conservation. Various innovative and established technical solutions are being employed during conservation at Al-Faw including use of ammonium phosphate to pre-consolidate weakened masonry, aging chambers to test conservation material in the laboratory, and environmental monitoring of the site's microclimate to inform conservation actions. This endeavour is also 'innovative' for its scale, for the characteristics of the original building material, and for its application in such extreme climatic conditions.

The site management plan defines a preliminary timeframe for the finalisation of the conservation protocol and for the launch of the consolidation campaigns that will respect the authenticity and integrity of the property. The actual timing, however, might vary depending on the data progressively acquired by the scientific team and the solutions designed. The HC is fully engaged in the process and is committed to its medium and long-term implementation. The work is ongoing according to the plans and the strategy presented in the nomination file (Chapter 4 and Management Plan). All phases of these works include capacity building of local staff and regional heritage professionals.

While most attributes will be presented as they are or subject to consolidation techniques, it is also stated that anastylosis will be considered for a few specific buildings including the royal tomb and small oratory (pp. 207, 210, nomination dossier), the souk will be made accessible, and that a "*significant part of the ancient city will be restored*" (p. 315, nomination dossier). ICOMOS wishes to understand the basis of these possibilities, and others, if they have been identified, and how such decisions will be taken.

The largest part of the antique city was made with blocks constituted of a mix of clay and gypsum (discussed above). Some structures were built with locally quarried stone of medium quality, and only a few 'prestigious' buildings (mainly religious and funerary structures) were built with high-quality limestone blocks carefully cut and assembled. It is only for some of these buildings that, the possibility to carry out an anastylosis may be envisaged, subject to detailed architectural and archaeological studies (a model of the small altar of the city is presented in the National Museum). Anastylosis will only be considered where there is direct photographic or archaeological evidence from the excavation records showing stones that were previously in place or, if there is a clear continuity between stones that are *in situ* and those lying next to the structure. There will be no need to add substantial new elements to reinstate the stones lying next to the structure.

Thanks to the recent survey techniques used on site (notably the 3D scan in 2022), the possibility to consider the partial anastylosis also of the royal tomb is being considered, depending on the amount of original stone blocks that could be retrieved, and on the full understanding of its original architecture. No decision on these projects can be made at the moment, and no anastylosis is planned in the coming months.

The progressive opening of the ruins of the city to the visitors will be based on the implementation of the consolidation campaigns. In the medium- and long-term, it is expected that a substantial part of the city will be made accessible. The 'souk' is the most visible remain, and likely one of the most famous ensembles of the ancient city. It is a fragile site that cannot, at the moment, be visited by the public. A comprehensive programme of conservation for this complex has started in July 2023, with preliminary laboratory tests made by SUPSI on the samples collected in November 2022. In October 2023, SUPSI carried out a field mission to collect new samples, and implemented a second series of tests on site, in view of identifying the most suitable consolidation and conservation techniques. There will not be any reconstruction, only the limited restoration of areas where consolidation is not enough to structurally support an element. The souk will be made accessible only when a significant part

of the structure has been consolidated (tentatively 2028-2030), and the area is deemed safe for visitors. Based on the 3D scan made in 2022, a 3x3 m model will be built and presented in the Temporary Visitor Centre by 10/2024.

Spoil heaps from previous archaeological excavations are identified as a visually intrusive element, and it is indicated that there are longer-term plans to remove them (p. 191, nomination dossier). It is also acknowledged that this is a challenging goal to achieve, given their scale and the remote locations involved. ICOMOS is interested to better understand whether any of these are prioritised for removal, and how such discarded materials will be handled in the future.

HC recognises that spoil heaps are an important issue at the site due to the visual intrusion they cause. The HC also recognises the potential research value of some spoil heaps and previously un-analysed material they may contain. The decision on when, how, where to and what procedures are to be adopted to remove the spoil heaps will be the subject of a detailed investigation carried out under the Scientific Committee's Research Programme (SCRIP). The SCRIP team will also provide advice on suitable processes and locations for future spoil heaps. This is planned within the research activities intended for 2024.

## E- Management plan

The management plan mentions that a number of aspects are in development in order to meet the standards requested for World Heritage properties (p. 5, p. 84). In addition, the management activities detailed in the second part of the management plan concern the period from 2020-2022, and many items were due to be completed by or during 2023.

- ICOMOS would appreciate any updated information about the progress of these planned activities and developments, including the resourcing and capacities of the Wadi ad-Dawasir office of the Heritage Commission. This updated information can be provided concisely, for example, via a summary table.

Table 1: Management Actions for 2023

| Activities:                 | Responsible:  | Status:  | Percentage completion: | Start date: | End date:                            |
|-----------------------------|---|--|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Site Cleaning               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NP: Engineering Department (MOC)</li> <li>Buffer zone: Municipality</li> <li>Roads: MOTLS</li> </ul> | Completed and next round is scheduled beginning of November 2023 | 100%                   | August 2023 | Repeated Periodically every 3 months |
| Deep cleaning (Phase 1 & 2) | External Contractor under HC  | On-going   | 50%                    | August 2023 | April 2024                           |

|  |                              |  |      |                                      |   |
|--|------------------------------|--|------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Removal of the old KSU storage                                   | External Contractor under HC | Completed  | 100% | August 2023                          | September 2023  |
| Retrofitting / improvement of the Research Centre                | External Contractor under HC | Completed  | 100% | June 2023                            | September 2023  |
| Design and implementation of the Temporary Visitor Centre        | External Contractor under HC | On-going   | 20%  | June 2023                            | December 2024   |
| Speed limit  | MOTLS                        | Maps are approved. Speed control elements to be placed.  | 50%  | September 2023                       | March 2024  |
| Creation of the SMU & strengthening of Wadi ad-Dawasir HC office | Heritage Commission          | On-going. SMU created, hiring against remaining vacant roles in progress. Human resources planning will be done in phases.   | 30%  | January 2023                         | SMU creation: June 2023<br><br>Complete all hiring: June 2024 |
| Establishment of Management System                               | Heritage Commission          | On-going The temporary taskforce is established. The scientific committee will be operational beginning 2024. The Higher and Local Steering committees expected June 2024. | 40%  | January 2023                         | June 2024   |
| Completion of Conceptual Masterplan                              | Heritage Commission          | Ongoing  | 50%  | 2021 (transfer to HC in August 2023) | December 2024   |
| Management Charter   | HC and NCW                   | On-going   | 30%  | July 2023                            | June 2024   |

The Site Management Unit (SMU) has been established with several professional appointments now complete, most of whom are from the local communities in Wadi ad-Dawasir. The facilities and infrastructure specialist will start work by early 2024. The Archaeology Director for Al-Faw and the Visitor Management and Interpretation Director are in the final process of being hired. The community and stakeholder's specialist, visitor management specialist, planning and monitoring specialist, and the conservation architect are currently in the interviewing process. Short biographies of the existing and confirmed staff members are presented in Annex 5.

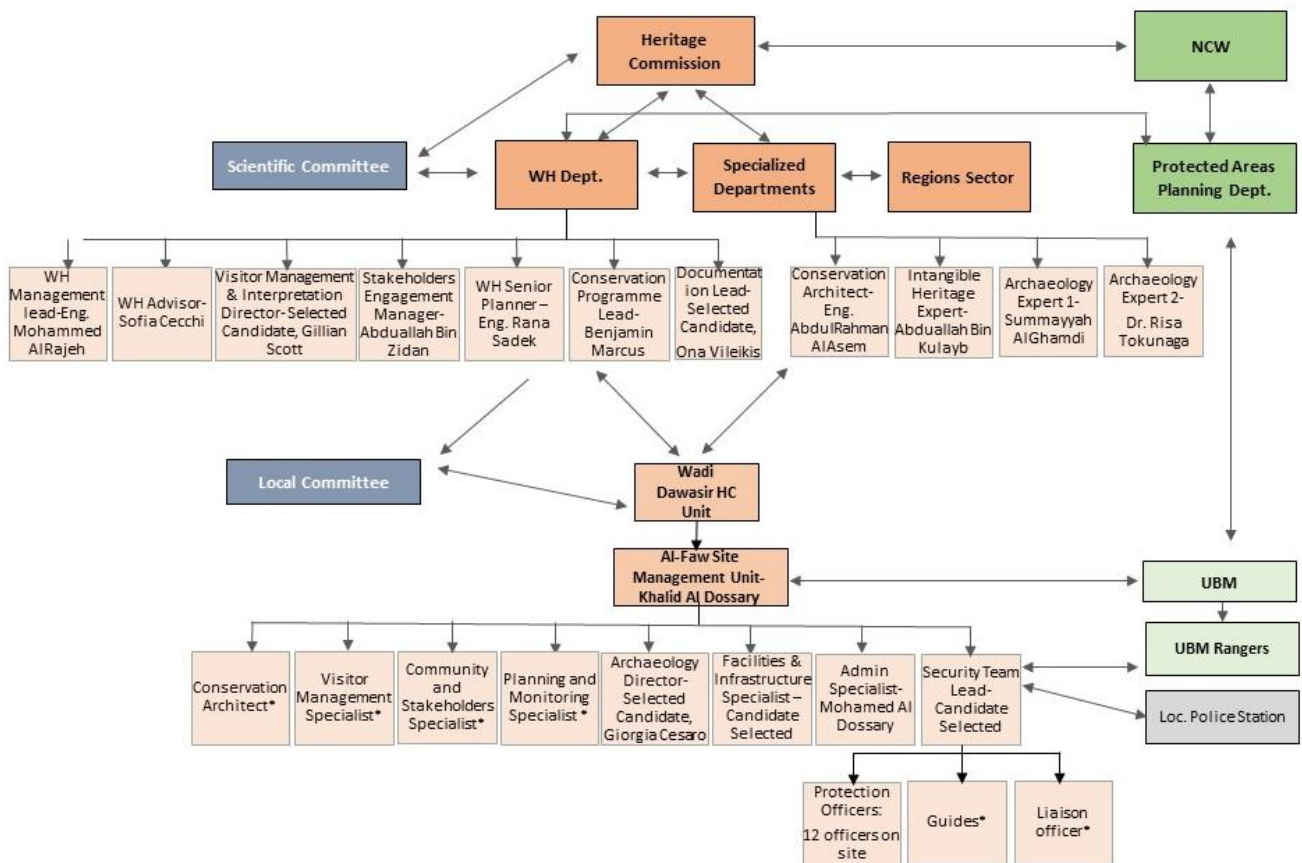


Fig.3 Management Structure. (\*Indicates that the roles are under hiring) Please refer to Annex 5 for Short Biographies of the Existing and Confirmed Staff Members.

It is understood that an enhanced monitoring system is being developed according to the indicators outlined in section 6.a of the nomination dossier. ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about whether regular collection of monitoring data is occurring for any of the proposed indicators.

The ensemble of the monitoring strategy is being progressively established in line with the operational plan and yearly expected outcomes, the reinforcement of the site team and of their competences. Capacity-building programs on monitoring principles and practice are planned in 2024 once the full team is in place.



Table 2: Updated information on the collection of Monitoring data (for the relevant indicators refer to pages 332-338 nomination file)

#### 1- Climate and Environment Indicators

| N | Indicators   | Status  |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Record of climatic data in the NP  | Climatic data collection is ongoing and continuously updated through the digital data loggers placed onsite. The data collected are progressively integrated in the conservation strategy to support the selection of the most suitable consolidation solutions. Data on rain ml and special events are collected by the National Center for Meteorology. To have more accurate data, a global weather station will be implemented by early 2024. |
| 2 | Record of special Climatic events/natural disasters in the NP                                | None recorded   |
| 3 | Number of active deep wells and level of water tables in the BZ                              | None recorded   |
| 4 | Number of fines for illegal littering and dumping of building material and garbage in the BZ | Pictures are taken weekly by the protection officers and monthly reports are sent to MOTLS and the Municipality.  |

#### 2- State of Conservation Indicators

| N Indicators | Status  |
|--------------|---|
| 5-11         | The reporting system is not yet operative, but the data are acquired. Data on the state of conservation of the structures are being collected and processed by the conservation team. The indicators relative to the presence of visitors on site are not yet applicable as the site is not open to the public. Similarly, the data on any damages caused by visitors are not yet applicable. |

#### 3- Planning and development Indicators

| N Indicators | Status   |
|--------------|--|
| 12-17        | No formalised system yet, but no modification of the situation in the NP or in the BZ in the past year has been recorded. The implementation of the planned monitoring strategy will develop in parallel to the progressive strengthening of the local team. |

#### 4- Visitors and Tourism Indicators

| N Indicators | Status  |
|--------------|---|
| 18-25        | This category of indicators is not yet active as the site is not open and the larger regional tourism strategy is still not approved/finalised. |



## 5- Management Indicators

| N  | Indicators   | Status   |
|----|--|--|
| 26 | Number of staff with qualifications (Human Resources)                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Al-Faw Conservation Programme Lead: Benjamin Marcus (Apr 2023)</li> <li>- Al-Faw Senior Planner: Rana Sadek (Aug 2023)</li> <li>- Al-Faw Site Manager: Khalid Al-Dossary (May 2023)</li> <li>- Al-Faw Site Admin: Mohammed Al Dossary (Jan 2023)</li> <li>- Archaeology Director: Giorgia Cesaro (Q1 2024)</li> <li>- Visitor Management &amp; Interpretation Director: Gillian Scott (Jan 2024)</li> <li>- Documentation Lead: Ona Vileikis (Q1 2024)</li> <li>- 12 Protection Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Saad Rashid Saad Al-Dosari</li> <li>o Farraj Mubarak Fahad Al-Dosari</li> <li>o Abdul Aziz Mohammed Mubarak Al-Dosari</li> <li>o Nasser Faleh Nasser</li> <li>o Fahad Abdullah Al Muthai</li> <li>o Faisal Mohammed Al Barrak</li> <li>o Faleh Mayouf Al Dossary</li> <li>o Faleh Ayed Al Dossary</li> <li>o Misfer Mohammed Al-Dossary</li> <li>o Nasser Ali Al-Dossary</li> <li>o Abdullah Hamad Al-Wadaani</li> <li>o Salman Abdullah Al-Dossary</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Planning and Monitoring Specialist: Candidate under interviewing process</li> <li>- Facilities &amp; Infrastructure Specialist: Candidate Selected (Q1 2024)</li> <li>- Security Team Lead: Candidate Selected (Q1 2024)</li> </ul> |
| 27 | Number of training and capacity-building programs for the staff and guides | <p>Khaled Al-Dossary, Site Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training on the Impact Assessment of World Heritage, ICCROM &amp; ARC-WH (20-24 Nov 2022)</li> <li>- World Heritage Site Managers' Forum as an Observer, ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS &amp; WHC (Jun, July, and Sept 2023)</li> <li>- Managing World Heritage: People, Nature, Culture, ICCROM (15-22 Oct 2023)</li> </ul> <p>Farraj Mubarak Al-Dossary, Protection Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mechanisms and Concepts of the World Heritage Convention (27-30 Mar 2022)</li> <li>- MS Office Software Skills (18-21 Sept 2022)</li> </ul> <p>Mohamed Al-Dossary, Admin Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mechanisms and Concepts of the World Heritage Convention (21-23 May 2022)</li> <li>- Operations Management (Dec 2022)</li> </ul>  |





|                |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
|                |  | All Protection Officers, UBM Rangers and local Scouts group:<br>- Training on the Protection Laws and Regulations for Heritage and Archaeological Sites (Sept 2023) |
| 28             | Number of security issues (unauthorized access, car trespassing, illegal excavations/looting, theft/collection of archaeological elements, etc.) | None recorded   |
| 29             | Completion/state of fence and guarding system (cameras, signage, etc.)   | On-going and process 50% completed. The guarding system is composed of regular patrols in and around the site.  |
| 30             | Cleanliness of the site  | Monthly reports by the site management team   |
| 31<br>32<br>33 | The indicators for the visitors' infrastructure are not yet applicable.  |   |

#### 6- Community Involvement Indicators

| N  | Indicators  | Status   |
|----|---|--|
| 34 | School visits and community-focused cultural visits   | This indicator is not yet applicable.  |
| 35 | Community awareness-raising programs, materials, and events   | Last community awareness workshops for local community groups held in August 2023.   |
| 36 | Number of meetings with local community representatives   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Community and Local Entrepreneurs Management Meeting was conducted in December 2022</li> <li>Rapid Needs Assessment through interviews, field observation and survey was conducted for <b>193</b> community members (Socio-Economic Baseline Study)</li> <li>5 community workshops are planned until April 2024 as part of the intangible cultural heritage study for Wadi ad-Dawasir. The workshops aim at developing a database for local craftsmen, ICH practitioners and heritage enthusiasts, and the inventorying and documentation of the ICH elements in the area.</li> </ul> |
| 37 | Community- oriented capacity-building programs (micro enterprises, English language, food, and accommodation) | This indicator is not yet applicable.  |



## 7- Research Indicators

| N                    | Indicators   | Status  |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 38<br>39<br>42<br>43 | Number of Archaeological programs and missions,<br>Number of Scientific Reports<br>Number of conservation-related research projects in lab or on site (nomination file pg.338) | The scientific program described in the nomination file is being implemented. The archaeological and conservation research programmes are being implemented.  |
| 40                   | Number of scientific publications  | A scientific article on the recent research has been presented in July 2022 to the Seminar of Arabian Studies.<br>The article on Al-Faw is published in the proceedings of the seminar and available online since September 2023 ( <a href="https://archaeopresspublishing.com/ojs/index.php/PSAS/article/view/1562">https://archaeopresspublishing.com/ojs/index.php/PSAS/article/view/1562</a> ). |
| 41                   | Number of seminars and of participants in scientific seminars, conferences on the Nominated Property   | A dedicated international scientific symposium on Al-Faw is planned for mid-2024.   |

## F- Tourism, visitor management and interpretation

ICOMOS understands that the longer-term plans for this remote area will result in the creation of a tourism focus to this remote area which is not currently visited by many people (pp. 245-246, nomination dossier). ICOMOS would be interested in receiving some highlights regarding the readiness of the nominated property and its managers for such changes, as well as regarding the capability of the tourism planning frameworks.

As stated above, the property is not currently ready to receive tourists. In this regard, the first goals of the HC are: 1) to increase the scientific knowledge about Al-Faw archaeological area; 2) to conserve the site in the most appropriate way, 3) to conceive an interpretation strategy and develop interpretive materials, so that 4) it can be reopened to limited visitation by 2024 / 2025.

The Saudi legal framework gives the HC the right and responsibility to draft the development plans that will be implemented around heritage sites, jointly with other concerned stakeholders. There are three steps to guide the tourism, visitor management and interpretation:

- 1- Conceptual Master Plan, which provides high-level guidelines and vision for the tourism development strategy. A socio-economic baseline study is being conducted as part of the formulation of the conceptual masterplan to analyse potential positive and negative impacts of tourism on local communities.
- 2- The Management Plan entails the visitor management actions as described in the nomination file.
  - a. The implementation of the temporary visitor centre and initial pathways to the core zone by the end of 2024.



- b. The implementation of the permanent visitor centre in the Buffer Zone and extended pathways inside the site, which are expected to be completed by the end of 2026.
  - c. An inclusive interpretation and presentation plan is prepared and implemented within the activities of the research programme led by the Scientific Committee.
  - d. A visitor's management programme is developed to share the site's values to visitors and ensure responsible visitation and protection for its attributes and values and it will be implemented by the Visitor Management team (part of the SMU). At the site level, the programme will follow the examples of other sites, including World Heritage Sites in Saudi Arabia. All visitation to the site will be controlled by pre-booked tickets and guide accompanied tours, so that numbers are strictly limited to numbers that can be managed on site with the staff resources available and the site carrying capacity at any one time. Visits will follow obliged paths, which have been designed in close coordination with the archaeologists and the conservation specialists, to avoid harming the vestiges and spoiling the site value. The design and positioning of the paths were updated in July 2023 and will continuously be subject to modification to comply with conservation or archaeological studies and needs.
- 3- The Management Charter establishes detailed principles and guidelines on implementation and management of the Respect Zone and the zones shared with UBM. This will guide the identification of the development zones in the masterplan and the location of tourism and visitation facilities.

The nomination dossier suggests that tourism is currently the subject of a Concept Master Plan, and that a comprehensive regional tourism strategy is being developed (p. 246). It is understood that this will be achieved in several steps. However, ICOMOS would appreciate additional information regarding the methodology for the carrying capacity study and information about any further progress in planning for sustainable tourism.

During the preliminary reopening of the site, a carrying capacity of maximum 15 people per time has been estimated (guided tours only) at 15-minute intervals, avoid impacting on the vestiges and for the safety of the visiting public. This calculation is coherent with the size of the Temporary Visitor Centre. The carrying capacity in terms of group size and number of time staggered group visits per day will be revisited once the interpretation and visitor infrastructure has been put in place. The first stage expected visitors will mainly be locals (individual / families and schools), from Riyadh region, scientific researchers, and expats mainly from Riyadh. Visitations following the soft opening will be monitored and carrying capacity adjusted accordingly. It is worth noting that at the present time, the accommodation / welcoming capacity in Wadi ad-Dawasir remains very limited.

## **G- Future farming uses**

ICOMOS understands that there are no farms located in the nominated property, although there are a small number located in the buffer zone which depend on drilling into the water table (p. 235, nomination dossier). The nomination dossier indicates that this form of farming might diminish in the future, based on sustainability concerns. At the same time, the nomination dossier states that the potential World Heritage inscription of the nominated property will not prevent farming (p. 236). It would be appreciated if clarification could be provided about the likelihood of new farming areas being established in the nominated property and/or buffer zone, and how such proposals will be evaluated. Is there a map showing the extent of permitted agricultural parcels in the buffer zone?



“The potential World Heritage inscription of the nominated property will not prevent farming” (p. 236) means that the nomination does not aim to stop the current farming activities. The HC recognises the importance of farming to the area to local livelihoods.

What will be forbidden are future developments on these plots (creation of large storage sheds, additional drilling for circles, new concessions, etc.). This is in alignment with the current Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture’s (MEWA) regulation to control and limit the drilling of new wells. Accordingly, it is foreseen that once plots dry out, they will be left as such to favour the progressive reinstatement of the desert landscape or the re-introduction of traditional ecological farming systems. No farms will be developed in the Nominated Property, and no new concessions will be granted in the Buffer Zone.

## **H- Local communities**

ICOMOS notes that provisions are made within the management plan to ensure participation of Bedouin people in future decisions (p. 261, nomination dossier). ICOMOS would be pleased if additional information could be provided on this aspect.

The SMU is primarily composed of staff from the area, aware of the interests of local communities. Moreover, the formalisation of the Local Steering Committee will ensure the participation of community members in all decision-making processes related to *The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area*. Until the local committee is formalised, the Al-Faw team are conducting regular community meetings (recently in August 2023) to discuss relevant matters on site. For example, the community leader of Al Zohor was able to identify a new proposed location of the water pump station to be relocated within these periodic consultative workshops. In similar World Heritage Sites in Saudi Arabia, like Rock Art in Hail Region or Hima Cultural Area, the same engagement strategy and participation practices are being adopted and have proved to be very effective. Moreover, Saudi Arabia conducts a yearly World Heritage Management Seminar, where site managers of Saudi WH sites share with each other experiences and lessons learnt to ensure that participatory approaches in planning and management of world heritage sites are continuously improved.

## **I- Traditional protection**

The nomination dossier briefly mentions that Bedouin tribal laws provide an additional layer of protection for the nominated property (p. 253). ICOMOS would appreciate additional information about these traditions.

The traditional law of the Arabian tribes that inhabited the central desert regions prohibits the corruption of the lands. This tribal law has been strongly implemented and maintained generation after generation to this day and is considered to be an intangible cultural heritage element. For example, during community meetings, the community leader for Al Zohor community described how he protected the site (before it was closed to visitors) from a foreign tourist group who were trying to take some stones. To this day, it would be a ‘shameful act’ for most tribes to find a member of their clan abusing any of the resources available in the lands. This same traditional law is also applied in Hima Cultural Area, a World Heritage Site since 2021, some 200 km south of Al-Faw.

Al-Faw management values the tribal law and considers it an additional protection layer, as it is one of the reasons why so many petroglyphs are still visible today in the Arabian deserts. Therefore, the Management System ensures the participation of the local community in the management of the property (as employees or through representation in the local committee),



where their tribal law is respected and integrated into the protection arrangements for the Nominated Property, its Buffer Zone and the Respect Zone.

#### **J- ‘Uruq Bani Ma’arid**

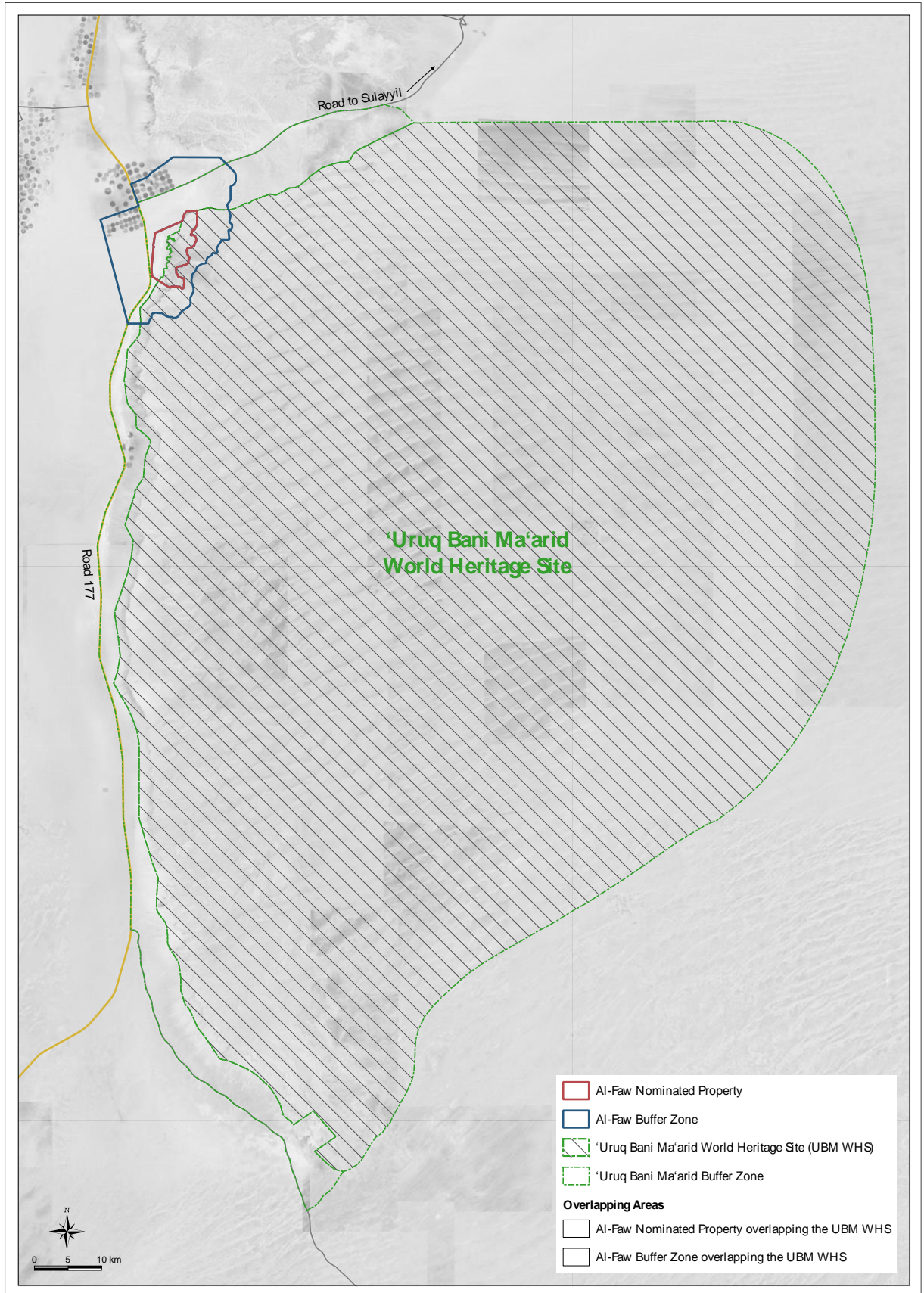
ICOMOS notes that ‘Uruq Bani Ma’arid was inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria in the recently concluded 45<sup>th</sup> extended session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, 2023).

- ICOMOS would appreciate to receive a map clearly showing the spatial relationships between the above-mentioned World Heritage property and the boundary and buffer zone of the nominated property of The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area.

Kindly refer to Map 1 below, which demonstrates the spatial relationship between ‘*The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area*’ Nominated Property and ‘Uruq Bani Ma’arid World Heritage Site, including their respective buffer zones.

- Are ‘Uruq Bani Ma’arid and The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area sharing the same protected area?

*The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area* represents a cultural site, which is protected under the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage, executed by the Ministry of Culture (represented by the Heritage Commission). ‘Uruq Bani Ma’arid World Heritage Site completely coincides with the ‘Uruq Bani Ma’arid Protected Area, which is governed by the Environment Law in regard to the specific national mandate of the National Center for Wildlife (NCW). Map 1 clarifies the shared areas between the two sites. With the inscription of UBM on the World Heritage List, the overlapping sections of the nominated properties and buffer zones will benefit from an even stronger protection. The UBM management team's attention is focused primarily on the natural assets, and the Al-Faw Nominated Property's team focuses mainly on the cultural elements.







- ICOMOS would be interested to know if there are any 'overlapping' boundaries and/or buffer zones between the newly inscribed property and the nominated cultural landscape. If so, are there any foreseen potential issues for the management system or visitation arising from this overlap, given that different criteria have been utilised?

As explained above, there is a limited level of overlap between the two sites. For this reason, the Heritage Commission and the National Center for Wildlife have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (c.f. answer to question A), which clarifies the governance and management arrangements jointly adopted to ensure the effective management of *The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area*.

This includes the establishment of a joint management working group with a mandate to oversee and coordinate the management of the areas of overlap with the objective being to ensure: 1) the effective and long-term application and enforcement of the two legislative frameworks mentioned above, 2) the full adherence to the requirements of the World Heritage Convention in respect to the protection, conservation, and sustainable development (including all aspects pertaining to visitation, interpretation and accessibility) of the cultural and natural heritage of the two sites, 3) the maintenance of continuous and effective communication and coordination between two national entities to enable them to jointly fulfil their mandates and obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

Based on the joint governance framework and management arrangements, no issues or conflicts are foreseen on the strategic or day-to-day management levels of the two properties as the adopted 'one programme approach' will ensure the protection and maintenance of all outstanding cultural and natural heritage values and attributes of the two properties as required by the Convention. Moreover, heritage and environmental impact assessments studies will be conducted by both entities for any development projects.

In an initial appraisal done by the HC-NCW working group, none of the activities foreseen in the UBM zones will negatively impact the cultural heritage of Al-Faw, including wildlife activities. Moreover, any visitation activities in the shared zones will be mutually coordinated through both site management teams. Currently, the working group is capitalising on the opportunity to showcase the cultural and natural attributes of both sites.

Should you have any further questions, the Heritage Commission remains at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Jasir Alherbish  
CEO, Heritage Commission



## Annexes

- 1) Annex 1: Copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between HC and NCW
- 2) Annex 2: Copy of the Relevant Articles in the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage.
- 3) Annex 3: Formal Letter to the various ministries about Al-Faw Archaeological Area Site Boundaries.
- 4) Annex 4: Scientific Committee and Research Programme Candidates Profiles.
- 5) Annex 5: Short Biographies of the Existing and Confirmed Staff Members.

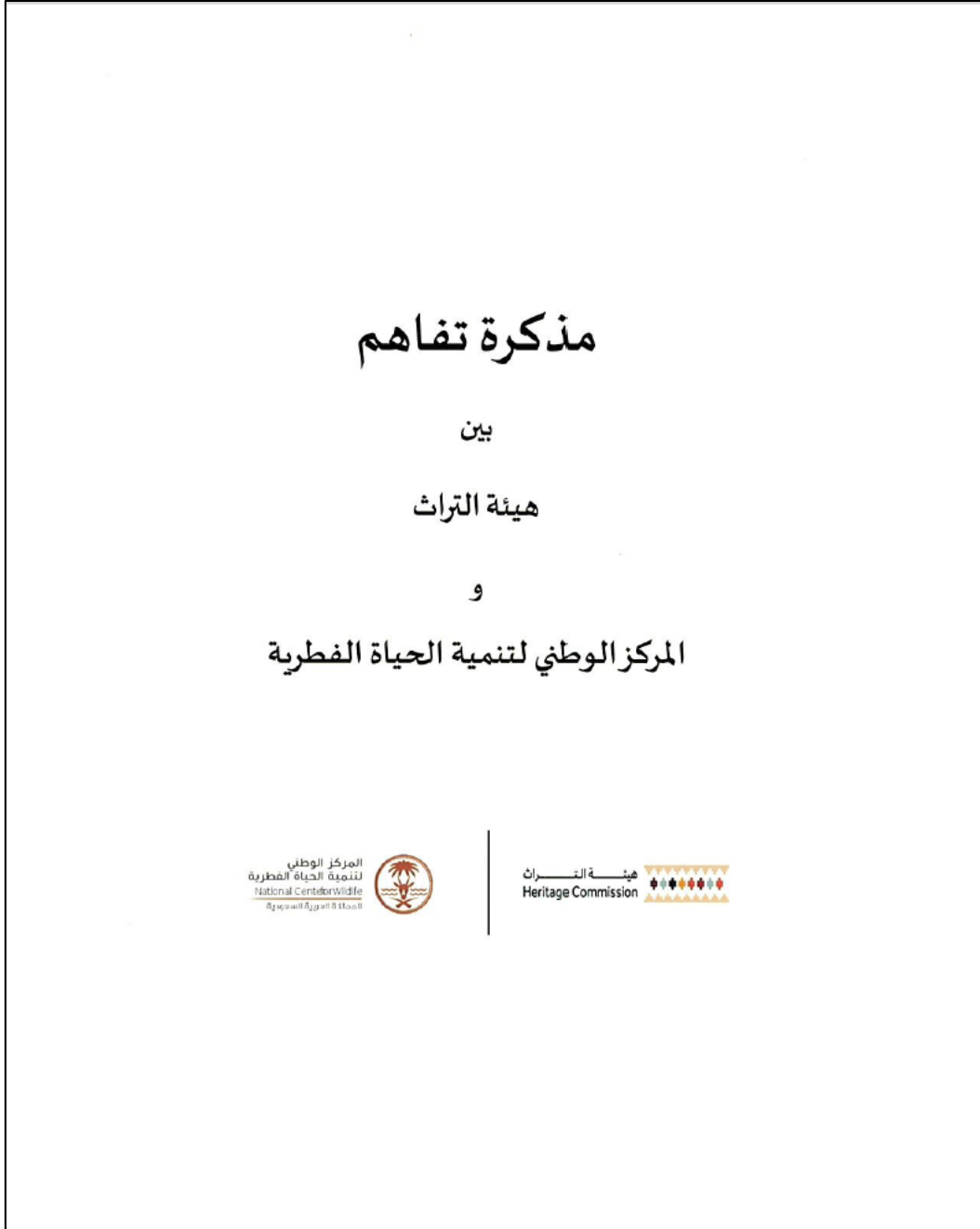




|         |   |
|---------|---|
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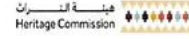
Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW



Annex 1



## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW



بسم الله وتوفيقه، أبرمت مذكرة التفاهم هذه ("المذكرة") في يوم الثلاثاء بتاريخ ٨ / ٤ / ١٤٤٥ هـ، الموافق ٢٣ / ١٠ / ٢٠٢٣ م ("تاريخ السريان") بمدينة الرياض، المملكة العربية السعودية، بين كل من:

١. هيئة التراث، وعنوانها ص.ب (٣٤٢٤) الرياض (١٣٧١١) هاتف (٠١١٨٣٦٣٣٥٢) المملكة العربية السعودية، ويمثلها في التوقيع على هذه المذكرة الدكتور جاسر الحريش بصفته الرئيس التنفيذي.

ويشار إليها فيما بعد بـ ("الطرف الأول/الهيئة").

٢. المركز الوطني لتنمية الحياة الفطرية، هو مركز حكومي سعودي أنشئ بموجب قرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (٤١٧) بتاريخ ١٩ / ٧ / ١٤٤٠ هـ، وعنوانه طريق الامام فيصل بن تركي بن عبد الله - حي عيشة، الرياض، ص.ب (٦١٦٨١) الرياض (١١٥٧٥)، المملكة العربية السعودية، هاتف (٠٠٩٦٦١١٤٤١٨٧٠٠) فاكس (٠٠٩٦٦١١٤٤١٠٧٩٧)، ويمثلها في التوقيع على هذه المذكرة الدكتور محمد علي بن بهاء الدين قريان بصفته الرئيس التنفيذي.

ويشار إليه فيما بعد بـ ("الطرف الثاني/المركز").

ويشار إلى كل من هيئة التراث والمركز الوطني لتنمية الحياة الفطرية منفردين بلفظ ("الطرف") ومجتمعين بلفظ ("الطرفين / الطرفان").

### التمهيد:

تحقيقاً لما ورد في (رؤية المملكة العربية السعودية ٢٠٣٠) الصادرة بموجب قرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (٣٠٨) وتاريخ ١٨ / ٧ / ١٤٣٧ هـ، من توحيد الجهود وتسهيل الإجراءات وتفعيل مسؤولية الجهات في تسلم ميثاقها بشكل يسمح لها بالتنفيذ ويضمن استمرارية العمل والمرونة في مواجهة التحديات، وانطلاقاً نحو الغرض الأساسي لهيئة التراث - وفقاً لتأريخها التنظيمية الصادرة بموجب قرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (٣٩٨) وتاريخ ١٠ / ٦ / ١٤٤١ هـ - وهو تنظيم قطاع التراث في المملكة وتطويره، والنهوض بمقوماته، ودعم وتشجيع الممارسين فيه، وتحقيق ذلك من خلال اختصاصاتها، وكذلك ما ورد في نظام الآثار والمتاحف والتراث العمراني الصادر بالمرسوم الملكي رقم (م/٣) وتاريخ ١٩ / ٧ / ١٤٣٦ هـ وتعديلاته ولوائحه التنفيذية وحيث إن المركز الوطني لتنمية الحياة الفطرية مسؤول على المناطق المحمية وإدارتها، وحماية الحياة الفطرية وفق نظام البيئة الصادر بالمرسوم الملكي رقم (م/١٦٥) بتاريخ ١٩ / ١١ / ١٤٤١ هـ، ولأهمية التنسيق بين هيئة التراث والمركز الوطني لتنمية الحياة الفطرية بما يخدم ويحقق أهدافهما وتوجهاتهما المذكورة أعلاه، عليه اتفق الطرفان على التفاهم على ما يلي:

### المادة الأولى: التمهيد

يعد التمهيد أعلاه جزءاً لا يتجزأ من هذه المذكرة يقرأ ويُفسر معاً ومكملاً لها.

### المادة الثانية: الغرض من المذكرة

تحديد أطر عامة للتعاون بين الطرفين، يتم من خلالها العمل على تطوير المشاريع والفرص المحتملة لهنم تنفيذها من قبل الطرفين في مجالات مشتركة تهتم الطرفين كما هي محددة في المادة (٣) الثالثة أدناه.

*(Handwritten signatures and stamps)*



## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

المركز الوطني  
للحياة الفطرية  
National Centrewildlife  
المركز الوطني للحياة الفطرية



هيئة التراث  
Heritage Commission

### المادة الثالثة: أوجه ومجالات التفاهم

حدد الطرفان أوجه ومجالات التفاهم التالية:

١. التفاهم حول مواقع التراث الطبيعية والثقافية، وتقديم الدعم اللازم للمحافظة عليها.
٢. التفاهم حول تسجيل مواقع التراث الطبيعية والثقافية المرشحة في قائمة التراث العالمي بما يتفق عليه الطرفان، وتقديم الدعم اللازم لاستكمال ملف الترشيح.
٣. التفاهم حول ترشيح موقع عروق بني معارض في قائمة التراث العالمي والعمل بشكل مشترك على المحافظة والاستجابة لمتطلبات منظمة اليونسكو من خلال:
  - ٣/١. تطوير إطار حوكمة مشترك لمنطقة الحماية والمناطق المشتركة، وأي مناطق مشتركة أخرى متفق عليها، لضمان الحماية القانونية.
  - ٣/٢. تطوير إطار إداري مشترك لمحمية عروق بني معارض وموقع الفاو الأثري.
  - ٣/٣. المشاركة في إدارة تنفيذ أطر الحوكمة والإدارة والمبادئ التوجيهية للمواقع المشتركة.
٤. التفاهم حول ترشيح موقع الفاو في قائمة التراث العالمي والحدود المشتركة، والعمل بشكل مشترك على المحافظة والاستجابة لمتطلبات منظمة اليونسكو من خلال:
  - ٤/١. تطوير إطار حوكمة مشترك لمنطقة الحماية والمناطق المشتركة، وأي مناطق مشتركة أخرى متفق عليها، لضمان الحماية القانونية.
  - ٤/٢. تطوير إطار إداري مشترك لمحمية عروق بني معارض وموقع الفاو الأثري.
  - ٤/٣. المشاركة في إدارة تنفيذ أطر الحوكمة والإدارة والمبادئ التوجيهية للمواقع المشتركة.
٥. التفاهم حول تسجيل المواقع الطبيعية في شبكة برنامج الإنسان والمحيط الحيوي.
٦. التفاهم المشترك في تطبيق وممارسة أفضل تدابير الحفظ، والإدارة، والمراقبة للمواقع المشتركة.
٧. بحث إمكانية تنفيذ خطة لإدارة حفظ الملفات المقدمة لليونسكو للمواقع المرشحة للتسجيل أو المسجلة.
٨. بحث إمكانية تنفيذ حالة الحفظ والحماية القانونية والإدارة والزيارة والمراقبة للمواقع المرشحة للتسجيل أو المسجلة.
٩. بحث إمكانية إعداد التقارير الدورية وفقاً للمعايير النظامية لبيئة التراث والتي تتماشى مع معايير اليونسكو للمواقع المرشحة.
١٠. بحث إمكانية الاستفادة من قاعدة البيانات والإحصاءات التي يمتلكها الطرف الأول عن المواقع الأثرية والتراثية التي تقع تحت نطاق الطرف الثاني، والبيانات التي يمتلكها الطرف الثاني، والعمل على تدعيمها وتغنيها مع عدم الإخلال بمبدأ سرية المعلومات.
١١. بحث إمكانية تنفيذ برامج تدريبية بين الطرفين للعاملين في مجال المحافظة على التراث (الثقافي والطبيعي) لمسؤولي الحماية وللفريق الفني للطرفين، والتفاهم حول تنفيذ برامج توعوية لرفع مستوى الوعي لدى المجتمع في المحافظة على موارد التراث (الثقافي والطبيعي).
١٢. بحث إمكانية العمل على حماية وتعزيز وصون التراث غير المادي للحياة الفطرية ذات الصلة بالعادات والتقاليد والطقوس والأعراف المجتمعية والقصص المتعلقة به.
١٣. بحث إمكانية ابتكار منتجات ثقافية بين الطرفين ذات دلالات ورموزيات من بيئة الحياة الفطرية لاستخدامها بين الطرفين كتراف ثقافي غير مادي في المحافل والمناسبات الرسمية وحماية ملكيتها الفكرية.
١٤. بحث إمكانية ابتكار برامج ومنتجات ثقافية وتوعوية وورش عمل متاحة للمجتمع المحلي من المهتمين والممارسين في جميع أنحاء المملكة حول الممارسات والعادات والطقوس والتقاليد ذات الصلة بالحياة الفطرية.
١٥. التفاهم حول تبادل الدراسات والأبحاث والبيانات ذات الصلة بالتراث غير المادي للحياة الفطرية.
١٦. أي مجالات أخرى يتفق عليها الطرفان على تحقيقها ضمن إطار هذه المذكرة.

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موقع  
موقع



## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW



### المادة الرابعة: آلية تفعيل أوجه ومجالات التفاهم

- يعمل الطرفان على تفعيل أوجه ومجالات التفاهم في المجالات المشار إليها في المادة (٣) التالية من خلال الوسائل الآتية:
- تشكيل فريق عمل مشترك يضم مختصين من الطرفين: وللفريق -إذا تطلب الأمر- الاستعانة بخبرات متخصصة من خارج الطرفين. وله -بحسب الحاجة- تشكيل فرق عمل فرعية بحسب المسارات، وله إعداد خطط تفصيلية، وتحديد المسؤولين من الطرفين.
  - دعم الطرفين لبعضهم بما تطلبه من وثائق ومعلومات يحتاجه أحد الأطراف لتقديم وتنفيذ أوجه التفاهم.

### المادة الخامسة: مدة المذكرة

- يسري تنفيذ هذه المذكرة اعتباراً من تاريخ السريان وتمتد لمدة سنة ميلادية واحدة، وتعتبر هذه المذكرة مجددة لمدة أو مدد مماثلة ما لم يخطر أحد الطرفين الطرف الآخر خطياً بعدم رغبته في التجديد قبل (٣٠) ثلاثون يوماً على الأقل من تاريخ انتهاء المدة الأصلية أو الممددة.

### المادة السادسة: الإشعارات والتقارير والمراسلات

- جميع الإشعارات والتقارير والمراسلات التي تتم بموجب هذه المذكرة تكون كتابية وتعتبر مستلمة إذا تم تسليمها بواسطة أحد الوسائل التالية:
  - التسليم الشخصي لضابط الاتصال المعني لكل طرف.
  - العنوان البريدي المدون في هذه المذكرة لكل طرف.
  - البريد الإلكتروني الرسمي، والمدون في هذه المذكرة لكل طرف.
- كما يجب على كل طرف تحديد ضابط الاتصال من وقت لآخر ليكون مسؤولاً عن تيسير التعاون والمتابعة بين الطرفين ومراجعة الإنجازات والتطوير فيما يتعلق بهذه المذكرة ("ضابط الاتصال المعني").
- يكون ضابط الاتصال المعني لكل الطرفين اعتباراً من تاريخ سريان هذه المذكرة على النحو التالي:

| الطرف الأول  | الطرف الثاني   |
|--|--|
| الاسم: عبد الله بن زيدان                           | الاسم: أثار محمد خلاوي   |
| المناصب: رئيس قسم إدارة المشاريع والشؤون الإدارية  | المناصب: رئيس قسم السياحة البيئية                              |
| العنوان: الرياض - حي السفارات - مبنى وزارة الثقافة | العنوان: الامام فيصل بن تركي بن عبد الله، عيشة، الرياض (١٢٧٤٦) |
| الهاتف: ٥٠٥٢٩٢٢٩٩                                  | الهاتف: ٥٩٠ ٢٨٧٩٢٤   |
| البريد الإلكتروني: abinzidan@moc.gov.sa            | البريد الإلكتروني: athar@ncw.gov.sa                            |

- يحق للطرفين تغيير ضابط الاتصال المعني وذلك بإشعار خطي يقدمه إلى الطرف الآخر.

*(Handwritten signatures and stamps)*

## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW



المركز الوطني  
للقيمة الثقافية  
National Center for Value



هيئة التراث  
Heritage Commission

المادة السابعة: إخلاء المسؤولية وعلاقة الطرفين

١. الغرض من هذه المذكرة هو لتوثيق عملية التفاهم بين الطرفين في أوجه التفاهم المشار إليها في المادة (٣) الثالثة، وعليه فإن هذه المذكرة لا تؤدي إلى إنشاء أي شراكة أو مشروع مشترك أو تعد قائمة بين الطرفين بموجب هذه المذكرة، ويقر الطرفان أنه لن يكون لأحدهما الصلاحية في توقيع أو إبرام أي عقد أو تقديم أي إقرار أو ضمان أو تعهد أو أي التزام آخر أو تقديم مستندات أخرى بالنيابة عن الطرف الآخر أو تمثيله أو الادعاء بأنها ملزمة له، إلا بتفويض خطي صريح منه.
٢. لا يترتب على توقيع هذه المذكرة أي التزامات قانونية أو مالية أو مسؤوليات من أي نوع على طرفيها، إلا في حال الاتفاق على خلاف ذلك بموجب اتفاق كتابي موقع من قبل الطرفين.
٣. لا يوجد في هذه المذكرة ما يمنح أحد الطرفين حق استخدام الملكية الفكرية أو استخدام حقوق النشر أو الأسماء التجارية أو العلامات التجارية أو علامات الخدمة التي يستخدمها الطرف الآخر (أو الشهرة المرتبطة بها) إلا في حال موافقة الطرف المعني الخطية على ذلك.
٤. لا يحق لأي طرف إصدار بيان صحفي عن هذه المذكرة أو الإفصاح عنها أو عن طبيعتها لأي طرف ثالث دون موافقة خطية مسبقة من الطرف الآخر، والتي لا ينبغي حججها دون مسوغ معقول.
٥. في حال وجود أي احتمال للتعاون بين الطرفين ناشئة عن هذه المذكرة، سيتعين على الطرفين إبرام اتفاقيات لاحقة إضافية لكل منها وفقاً للشروط والأحكام التي سيتم الاتفاق عليها في حينها بموجبها.
٦. يتحمل كل طرف مسؤولية تكاليفه الخاصة فيما يتعلق بجميع الأنشطة المنفذة بموجب هذه المذكرة، ما لم يتفق الطرفان على خلاف ذلك.

المادة الثامنة: القوة القاهرة

لا يعتبر أي من الطرفين مسؤولاً تجاه الآخر عن أي فشل أو تأخير في تنفيذ الأعمال المترتبة بهذه المذكرة إذا كان ذلك عائداً إلى القوة القاهرة، وعلى الطرف المتأثر من القوة القاهرة أن يقوم بإشعار الطرف الآخر خطياً خلال (٣٠) ثلاثين يوماً من وقوع تلك القوة القاهرة مع بيان السبب، كما عليه بذل الجهود المعقولة لإزالتها، وعلى الطرفين الاتفاق على تعديل أو إنهاء المذكرة إذا استمر وضع القوة القاهرة لمدة تزيد عن (٦) ستة أشهر من تاريخ وقوع تلك الأسباب.

المادة التاسعة: السرية

يتعهد كل طرف بالحفاظ على سرية المعلومات التي تتوفر لديه بسبب تطبيق مواد هذه المذكرة سواء كانت شفوية أو مكتوبة، ولا يجوز إنشاء هذه الأسرار لأي طرف ثالث إلا بعد الحصول على موافقة كتابية مسبقة من الطرف الآخر.

المادة العاشرة: إنهاء المذكرة

يحق لأي من الطرفين إنهاء هذه المذكرة في أي وقت وذلك بموجب إشعار خطي يوجه للطرف الآخر قبل (٣٠) يوماً على الأقل من تاريخ الإنهاء ودون الحاجة لإبداء أي سبب.

المادة الحادية عشر: النزائل أو التعديل على المذكرة

لا يحق لأي طرف نقل حقوقه أو التزاماته بموجب هذه المذكرة أو النزائل عنها كلياً أو جزئياً دون موافقة خطية مسبقة من الطرف الآخر. كما أنه لن يعتد بأي تعديل على هذه المذكرة أو تغييرها أو الإضافة عليها ما لم يكن ذلك خطياً وموقعاً من قبل الطرفين.



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## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

| الطرف الأول  | الطرف الثاني  |
|--|---|
| <p>هيئة التراث</p> <p>ويمثلها: جاسر بن سليمان الحريش</p> <p>بصفته: الرئيس التنفيذي</p> <p>التوقيع: </p> | <p>المركز الوطني لتنمية الحياة الفطرية</p> <p>ويمثله: محمد علي قريان</p> <p>بصفته: الرئيس التنفيذي</p> <p>التوقيع: </p> |

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## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

### Unofficial Translation Memorandum of Understanding

By and Between

the

Heritage Commission

and the

National Center for Wildlife



## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

This Memorandum of Understanding (the "Memorandum") is made and entered into on Tuesday, 08/04/1445AH, corresponding to 23/10/2023 ("date of entry into force"), in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, by and between the following Parties:

**1-Heritage Commission:** Address: PO Box (3424) Riyadh (13711), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Phone: 0118362352. Represented by: Dr. Jasir Al-Herbish, Chief Executive Officer

(Hereinafter referred to as the "First Party" or the "Commission")

**2-National Center for Wildlife:** A Saudi government center, established pursuant to the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (417), issued on 19/07/1440AH. Address: Imam Faisal Bin Turki Bin Abdullah Road, Ulaishah District, Riyadh, PO Box (61681) Riyadh (11575), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Phone: +966114418700. Fax: +966114410797. Represented by: Dr. Mohammed Ali Bin Bahaaddin Qurban, Chief Executive Officer

(Hereinafter referred to as the "Second Party" or the "Center")

The Heritage Commission and National Center for Wildlife are hereinafter referred to as the ("Party"), individually, and the ("Parties") jointly.

### Preamble:

Saudi Vision 2030, as outlined in the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (308), dated 18/07/1437AH, emphasizing the need for consolidated efforts, streamlined procedures, and active engagement of the Parties in fulfilling their responsibilities. This collaboration aims to enhance task execution, ensure business continuity, and build resilience in overcoming challenges.

The fundamental objective of the Heritage Commission, delineated in its organizational arrangements pursuant to the Council of Ministers Resolution No. (398), dated 10/06/144AH. This objective focuses on regulating and developing the heritage sector, enhancing its capabilities, and promoting its growth, all within the Commission's defined scope of competence. This commitment aligns with the core principles of the Law of Antiquities, Museums, and Urban Heritage, established under the Royal Order No. (M/3), dated 09/01/1436AH, along with its subsequent amendments and executive bylaws.

The mandate entrusted to the National Center for Wildlife under the Environmental Law, enacted through the Royal Order No. (M/65), dated 19/11/1441AH. This legislation empowers the Center to oversee protected areas, manage their resources, and safeguard wildlife.

A critical need for effective coordination between the Royal Commission and the National Center for Wildlife to realize their shared objectives and strategic directions.

Considering these considerations, the Parties have mutually agreed to the following:

### Article 1: Preamble





## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

The preamble above shall be deemed an integral part of this Memorandum. It is to be read, construed, and interpreted in conjunction with the following articles and shall be considered complementary thereto.

### Article 2: Objective of the Memorandum

The primary objective of this Memorandum is to establish the general frameworks of cooperation between the Parties. These frameworks will guide the development of potential joint projects and opportunities outlined in detail in Article 3 below.

### Article 3: Areas and Fields of Agreement

The Parties have agreed upon the following areas and fields of agreement:

1. Collaborating on the preservation and support of natural and cultural heritage sites, providing necessary assistance for conservation efforts.
2. Jointly nominating selected natural and heritage sites for inclusion in the World Heritage list and cooperating to complete the nomination files.
3. Agreeing to register the Uruq Bani Ma'arid site under the World Heritage list and ensuring joint cooperation for conservation and meeting UNESCO requirements by:
  - a. Developing a joint governance mechanism for the protected area, shared areas, and any other agreed-upon shared area to ensure legal protection.
  - b. Creating a joint administrative framework for Uruq Bani Ma'arid Reserve and Al-Faw Archaeological Site.
  - c. Participating in the management of governance and management frameworks, as well as the guidelines for joint sites.
4. Agreeing to nominate the Al-Faw Archaeological site for inscription under the World Heritage List and ensuring joint cooperation for conservation and meeting UNESCO requirements by:
  - a. Developing a joint governance mechanism for the protected area, shared areas, and any other agreed-upon shared area to ensure legal protection.
  - b. Creating a joint administrative framework for Uruq Bani Ma'arid Reserve and Al-Faw Archaeological Site.
  - c. Participating in the management of governance and management frameworks, as well as the guidelines for joint sites.
5. Registering natural sites under the Man and the Biosphere Programme Network.
6. Applying best practices for conservation, management, and monitoring of joint sites.
7. Identify the mechanism of executing a plan for the record-keeping management for records submitted to UNESCO on registered sites or sites nominated for registration.
8. Identify the mechanism of implementing practices for the conservation, legal protection, management, visitation, and monitoring of registered sites or sites nominated for registration.
9. Identify the mechanism of preparing periodic reports on nominated sites according to the statutory standards of the Heritage Commission aligned with UNESCO standards.
10. Identify the mechanism of utilizing the statistics and database owned by the First Party on heritage sites within the jurisdiction of the Second Party and sharing data without compromising information confidentiality.





## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

11. Identify the mechanism of conducting training program on natural and cultural heritage conservation for both Parties' protection officers and technical teams, as well as implementing awareness programs to enhance community awareness.
12. Identify the mechanisms to protect, promote, and preserve intangible heritage related to customs, traditions, rituals, social norms and wildlife.
13. Exploring the possibility of creating cultural products related to wildlife as intangible heritage, to be used by both Parties during events and special occasions while ensuring their intellectual property rights.
14. Recognizing the importance of developing cultural and awareness programs, products, and workshops for the local community, including interested parties and practitioners throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on wildlife-related practices, customs, rituals, and traditions.
15. Agreeing to exchange studies, research, and data related to wildlife intangible heritage; and
16. Any other fields in which achievement has been agreed upon by both Parties within the scope of this Memorandum.

### Article 4: Mechanism of Activation of the Areas and Fields of Agreement

Both Parties shall actively engage in the activation of the agreed areas and fields outlined in Article 3 above through the following means:

- a. Forming a joint team encompassing experts from both Parties. When necessary, the team may engage external specialists and create sub-teams to focus on specific aspects. This collaborative effort aims to devise detailed plans and designate officers from both Parties.
- b. Supplying each other with the required documentation and information needed by either Party for submitting and executing the areas and fields of agreement.

### Article 5: Term of this Memorandum

This Memorandum shall enter into force as of its effective date and shall remain valid for a period of one Gregorian Year from that date. This Memorandum shall be deemed renewed for one or more equivalent terms unless either Party provides written notice to the other of its intention not to renew. Such notice must be given no less than thirty (30) days before the expiry of the original or extended term.

### Article 6: Notices, Reports, and Correspondence

1. All notices, reports, and correspondence in accordance with this Memorandum shall be communicated in writing and shall be considered received once submitted through one of the following means:
  - Personal delivery to the communication officer of each Party;
  - Postal address of each Party, as listed herein; or
  - Official e-mail address of each Party, as listed herein.
2. Each Party shall designate a communication officer ("concerned communication officer") responsible for facilitating cooperation, maintaining correspondence, and overseeing the progress of this Memorandum.







## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

3. The concerned communication officers of each Party, as of the date of entry into force of this Memorandum, are listed below:

| First Party  | Second Party   |
|--|--|
| Name: Abdullah Bin Zidan   | Name: Athar Mohammed Allawi  |
| Position: Head of the Project Management and Administrative Affairs                    | Position: Head of the Environmental Tourism  |
| Address: Ministry of Culture Building, Diplomatic Quarter, Riyadh<br>Phone: 0505292299 | Address: Imam Faisal Bin Turki Bin Abdullah Road, Ulaishah District, Riyadh (12746)<br>Phone: 0590287924 |
| E-mail Address: abinzidan@moc.gov.sa   | E-mail Address: athar@ncw.gov.sa   |

4. Either Party may change its concerned communication officer by providing written notice to the other Party.

### Article 7: Disclaimer and Relationship between the Parties

1. This Memorandum serves as a documented agreement between the Parties concerning the areas and fields outlined in the Third Article (3) above. It does not establish a partnership or joint venture between them. Both Parties expressly acknowledge that neither is authorized to sign contracts, make statements, pledges, or undertakings, or submit any documentation on behalf of the other Party without explicit written authorization from the concerned Party.
2. The signing of this Memorandum does not impose any legal or financial obligations or responsibilities on either Party unless otherwise agreed in writing by both Parties through a separate agreement.
3. This Memorandum does not grant either Party the right to use the other Party's intellectual property rights, copyrights, trade names, brands, or trademarks, or its goodwill unless expressly authorized in writing by the concerned Party.
4. Both Parties shall not issue any press release related to this Memorandum or disclose its contents or any related information to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
5. In the event of potential collaboration arising from this Memorandum, the Parties shall enter into additional agreements for each collaboration. These agreements will outline specific terms and conditions agreed upon by both Parties.
6. Each Party shall bear its own costs related to all activities executed under this Memorandum unless mutually agreed otherwise between the Parties in writing.

### Article 8: Force Majeure

Neither Party shall be held liable to the other for any failure or delay in executing the obligations outlined in this Memorandum if such delay or failure is caused by a force majeure event. The Party affected by the force majeure event shall promptly serve a written notice to the other Party within thirty (30) days of the occurrence, providing details of the reasons behind the delay or failure. The affected Party shall make reasonable efforts to address the circumstances arising from the force





## Annex 1: MOU between MOC and NCW

majeure event. If the force majeure event continues for a period exceeding six (6) months from its occurrence, both Parties shall mutually agree on amending or terminating this Memorandum.

### Article 9: Confidentiality

Each Party shall undertake to maintain the confidentiality of any information, whether communicated in written or verbal form, obtained as a result of the execution of this Memorandum. This information shall not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party in this regard.

### Article 10: Termination of this Memorandum

Either Party may terminate this Memorandum at any time by providing written notice to the other Party at least thirty (30) days before the termination date, without being obligated to provide any grounds for such termination.

### Article 11: Waiver or Amendment of this Memorandum

Neither Party shall have the right to transfer, partially or entirely, its rights or obligations arising from this Memorandum, or waive them, without the prior written consent of the other Party in this regard. Any amendment, modification, or addition to this Memorandum shall only be considered valid if it is in writing and signed by both Parties.

### Article 12: Applicable Law and Dispute Resolution

This Memorandum shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws in force in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All its provisions and stipulations shall be executed accordingly. This Memorandum shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws in force in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All its provisions and stipulations shall be executed accordingly. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute amicably within the specified period, the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the laws in force.

### Article 13: Memorandum Counterparts

This Memorandum has been executed in two (2) original copies in Arabic, each intended for a Party, to be acted upon accordingly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Memorandum has been duly signed.

#### First Party

**Heritage Commission**  
Represented by: Dr. Jasir Al-Herbish, Chief  
Executive Officer  
Signature: *(Signed)*

#### Second Party

**National Center for Wildlife**  
Represented by: Dr. Mohammed Ali Bin  
Bahauddin Qurban, Chief Executive Officer  
Signature: *(Signed)*



## Annex 1



## Annex 2: Copy of the Relevant Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage

### **Article 7**

SCTA shall decide the archaeological value of antiquities and urban heritage and determine items that should be registered. The registration of any archaeological item entails the State's acknowledgment of its national, historical, cultural, or artistic significance, as well as the preservation, protection, and exhibition thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its Regulations.

### **Article 9**

1. SCTA shall determine archaeological and urban heritage sites and coordinate with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and relevant agencies, each within their jurisdiction.
2. Archeological and urban heritage sites shall be preserved when carrying out projects for planning, expansion or improvement of urban or rural areas. In addition, easement rights shall be taken into consideration, including designation of construction-free areas, in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Planning projects, in which, or in the vicinity of which, there are archaeological and urban heritage sites, may not be adopted without the approval of SCTA.
3. Licenses for construction or renovation in areas adjacent to archaeological

### **Article 10**

1. Land grants and distribution decisions may not be enforced on archaeological sites or urban heritage sites agreed upon with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.
2. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture shall coordinate with SCTA when designating lands for grants or farms in predetermined archaeological and urban heritage areas and areas adjacent thereto.

### **Article 11**

No hazardous installations may be established near immovable antiquities except upon SCTA's approval. The Regulations shall specify relevant controls.

### **Article 12**

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Transportation shall coordinate with SCTA in preparing studies for field projects.
2. The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources shall coordinate with SCTA prior to the issuance of mining and quarry permits and designation of quarry sites. SCTA shall inform the Ministry of its response within 30 days from the date of receipt of the coordination request, without prejudice to the responsibility of the entity working at the site to safeguard existing antiquities and urban heritage.
3. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, as well as other competent government and private entities shall, when discovering antiquities or urban heritage sites during construction of their projects, safeguard such antiquities or sites and notify SCTA. SCTA shall provide its opinion within 30 days from date of receipt of such notification.

## Annex 2





### Annex 3: Formal Letter to the various ministries about Al-Faw Archaeological Area Site Boundaries



وزارة الثقافة  
Ministry of Culture  
(٢٨٤)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- برقية سرية وعاجلة جداً -

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صاحب السمو الملكي وزير الطاقة  
صاحب السمو الملكي أمير منطقة الرياض  
صاحب السمو الملكي وزير الداخلية  
صاحب السمو الملكي وزير الدفاع  
صاحب المعالي وزير البيئة والمياه والزراعة  
صاحب المعالي وزير الشؤون البلدية والقروية والإسكان  
صاحب المعالي وزير الصناعة والثروة المعدنية  
صاحب المعالي وزير النقل والخدمات اللوجستية  
صاحب المعالي وزير السياحة  
صاحب المعالي وزير الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته...

أشير إلى الأمر السامي رقم ٣٢٧٢٢ وتاريخ ١٤/٦/١٤٤٠هـ، القاضي بالتأكيد على عدم الإزالة أو التعديل أو المساس بالمواقع والمعالم التاريخية أو الأثرية، وإلى اتفاقية التراث العالمي التي وقعها المملكة مع منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة (اليونسكو)، لحماية المواقع التراثية والطبيعية في المملكة.

وحيث أن المملكة تعمل من خلال وزارة الثقافة ممثلة بهيئة التراث على تسجيل ملف موقع (الفاو الأثري) في قائمة (اليونسكو للتراث العالمي)؛ مما يتطلب التزام جميع الجهات الحكومية المعنية بضوابط ومعايير مواقع التراث العالمي المعتمدة من منظمة (اليونسكو)، وبما قضى به نظام الآثار والمتاحف والتراث العمراني رقم (م/٣) وتاريخ ١٩/١/١٤٣٦هـ ورقم (م/١٦٥) وتاريخ ١٩/١١/١٤٤١هـ بعدم التعرض للمواقع الأثرية بالتعديل أو الإزالة.

لذا أمل التأكيد على الجهات التابعة لكم بالالتزام بذلك، وللتنسيق في هذا الشأن يمكن للمختصين التواصل مع الأستاذ/خالد الرديني الدوسري جوال رقم: (٠٥٦٦٥٤٣٠١)، والبريد الإلكتروني: (kaldossari@moc.gov.sa).

وتقبلوا أطيب تحياتي وتقديري...

وزير الثقافة  
رئيس مجلس إدارة هيئة التراث

بدر بن عبد الله بن فرحان آل سعود

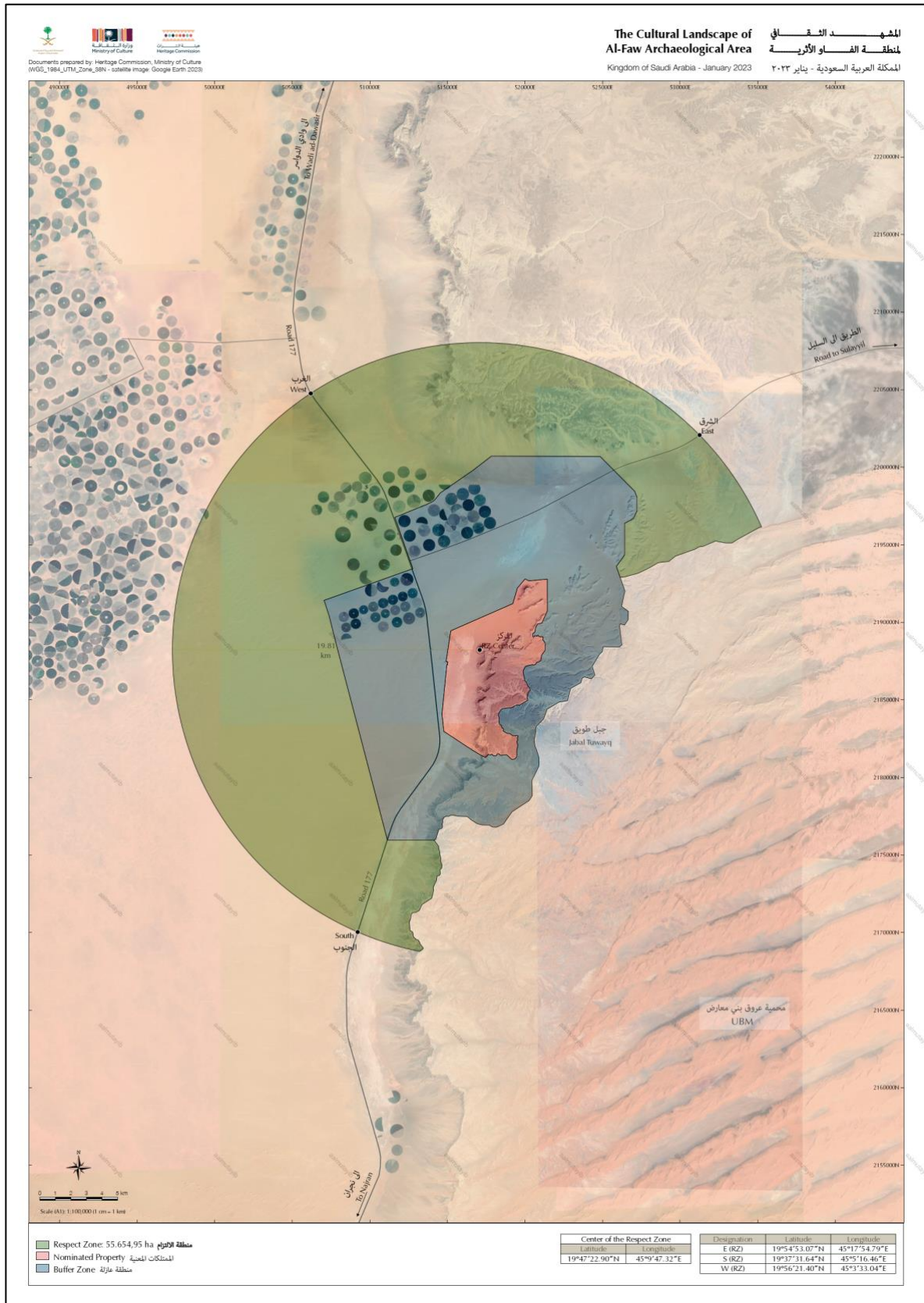
Ministry of Culture  
King Faisal Road, Al Diriyah  
P.O. Box 3424, Riyadh 13711  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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ص.ب. 3424، الرياض 13711  
للمملكة العربية السعودية

### Annex 3: Formal Letter to the various ministries about Al-Faw Archaeological Area Site Boundaries



Annex 3

### Annex 3: Formal Letter to the various ministries about Al-Faw Archaeological Area Site Boundaries



June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

Unofficial Translation

- Confidential and Urgent -

His Royal Highness Minister of Energy  
His Royal Highness Emir of Riyadh Province  
His Royal Highness Minister of Interior  
His Royal Highness Minister of Defense  
His Excellency Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture  
His Excellency Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs and Housing  
His Excellency Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources  
His Excellency Minister of Transport and Logistic Services  
His Excellency Minister of Tourism  
His Excellency Minister of Communications and Information Technology,

Peace and blessings be upon you,

I write to you in accordance with Royal Decree No. 32722 dated 14/6/1440 AH affirming the prohibition of any removal, modification or tampering of historical and heritage sites and monuments, and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention ratified by the Kingdom to protect cultural and natural heritage sites within the Kingdom.

Whereby the Kingdom's ongoing efforts, through the Ministry of Culture represented by the Heritage Commission, to inscribe the Al Faw Archaeological Area on the UNESCO World Heritage List, all governmental entities are required to comply with the regulations and standards of World Heritage Sites as certified by UNESCO. Heritage sites are also protected from trespassing, distortion, removal, damage or defacement by Royal Decree No. M/3 of the Law of Antiquities, Museums, and Urban Heritage dated 19/1/1436 AH and M/165 dated 19/11/1441 AH.

With this, I ask you to communicate with all entities affiliated with your Ministries about the necessity of complying with the regulations. To coordinate on this matter, the relevant authorities may communicate with Mr. Khaled Alrdainy Aldossari (Phone: 0566654301; email: [kaldossari@moc.gov.sa](mailto:kaldossari@moc.gov.sa)).

With gratitude,  
Minister of Culture  
Chairman of the Heritage Commission Board of Directors  
Bader bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud



### Annex 3



#### Annex 4: Scientific Committee and Research Programme External Candidates Profiles

| Name   | Position/Role  | Current Institution /Research Scope   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Candidates for the Scientific Committee</b> |  |   |
| <b>Dr. Othman Llewellyn</b>                    | NCW research representative candidate  | Environmental Planner, National Centre for Wildlife (1989-Present)<br>Environmental Planner, Hajj Research Center (1982-1989)   |
| <b>Dr. Salim Tayran</b>                        | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Ancient History                | Professor, Department of Archaeology, College of Tourism and Archaeology, King Saud University<br>Research scope: Epigraphy (Ancient South Arabian inscriptions)  |
| <b>Dr. Abdullah Alsharekh</b>                  | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Prehistory                     | Professor, Department of Archaeology, College of Tourism and Archaeology, King Saud University<br>Research scope: Prehistory of Saudi Arabia, in particular, Paleolithic period and the stone structures of later periods.  |
| <b>Dr. Sumio Fujii</b>                         | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Prehistory                     | Specially Appointed Professor, Institute of the Study of Ancient Civilizations and Cultural Resources, Kanazawa University, Japan.<br>Research scope: Neolithic – Early Bronze Age, origin of the pastoral nomadism and tribal society<br>Conducting excavations and surveys in the al-Jafr Basin in southern Jordan (1995~), the Bishri mountain range in central Syria (2007~2011) and the Tabuk Plateau in northwestern Saudi Arabia (2007~) |
| <b>Dr. Ricardo Eichmann</b>                    | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Ancient history                | Former Director of the Orient Department of the German Archaeological Institute (1996 and 2020).<br>Research scope: Near Eastern archaeology, music archaeology. Led the Saudi German Archaeological Project in Tayma.  |
| <b>Dr. Derek Kennet</b>                        | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Ancient history                | Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology, Durham University, UK.<br>Research scope: Archaeology of Arabia, the Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and South Asia, principally in the Early Historic to Late Antique/Early Medieval periods. Current projects include “Kadhima: an Early Islamic settlement and landscape on Kuwait Bay” and “Qarn al-Harf (Ras al-Khaimah, UAE).”  |
| <b>Dr. Arnulf Hausleiter</b>                   | Archaeology Advisor: Ancient history   | Head of the Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula Section, Orient-Department, German Archaeological Institute<br>Orient-Department, Berlin, Germany.<br>Research scope: Bronze age to the first millennium BCE in northwest Arabia and has been leading a number of projects in Tayma and al-Ha’it.  |
| <b>Dr. Munir Arbash</b>                        | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Ancient history and epigraphy  | Writer and historian researcher, National Centre for Scientific Research, France.<br>Research scope: Ancient south Arabian history and epigraphy. He has been engaged in archaeological fieldwork in Saudi Arabia and Yemen.  |
| <b>Dr. Abdulaziz Alghazzi</b>                  | Scientific Committee Candidate Archaeology Advisor: Ancient History                | Professor, Department of Archaeology, College of Tourism and Archaeology, King Saud University<br>Research scope: Archaeology and history of the Arabian Peninsula, Kingdom of Kindah and prehistoric stone structures. Working with Saudi French archaeological mission in al-Kharj.   |
| <b>Dr. Ali Alzahrani</b>                       | Scientific Committee Candidate and Research Programme Archaeology Advisor: Geology | Instructor, Ministry of Education (Riyadh)<br>PhD in Archaeology, King Saud University<br>Research scope: Geology, archaeology, GIS. He worked with the Heritage Commission to build a database of prehistoric stone structures.  |

| Candidates for the Research Programme |                                |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Dr. Khaled Alasmary</b>            | Archaeology<br>Prehistory      | expert: Associate Professor, Department of Archaeology, College of Tourism and Archaeology, King Saud University<br>Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula, Ethnoarchaeology. Participated in King Saud University's excavation at al-Faw in 2001 and 2022, and led the excavation at al-'Uyaynah, Tabuk Province.   |
| <b>Dr. Azhari Sadig</b>               | Archaeology<br>Prehistory      | expert: Professor, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Tourism and Archaeology. King Saud University<br>Research scope: Prehistoric archaeology, Nubia, and Sudan.   |
| <b>Dr. Masashi Abe</b>                | Archaeology<br>Prehistory      | expert: Senior Researcher, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo<br>Research scope: Archaeology, Bahrain, Arabian Gulf Archaeology, and Dilmun. Currently leading the "Wadi al Sail Archaeological Project" in Bahrain.   |
| <b>Dr. Faleh Alotaibi</b>             | Archaeology<br>Prehistory      | expert: Teacher, Ministry of Education<br>Ph D from King Saud University<br>Research scope: Geology  |
| <b>Musfer Alqahtany</b>               | Archaeology<br>Prehistory      | expert: Ph. D. Candidate, University of Pittsburgh, and researcher<br>Research scope: GIS  |
| <b>Dr. Guillaume Charloux</b>         | Archaeology<br>Ancient history | expert: Research engineer (permanent) at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS, UMR 8167, Orient & Méditerranée, Paris)<br>Research scope: Co-led the Al-Faw excavations in 2022. Since 2010 directing the archaeological and epigraphic mission "Oasis of Desert Arabia", grouping together several major sites: al-Bad' (codirector S. Sahlah, KSU), Camel Site (codirectors M. Guagnin, Max Planck Institute & A. AlSharekh, KSU) and Dumat al-Jandal (codirector R. Loreto, L'Orientale). |
| <b>Dr. Arnulf Hausleiter</b>          | Archaeology<br>Ancient history | expert: Head of the Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula Section, Orient-Department, German Archaeological Institute<br>Orient-Department, Berlin, Germany.<br>Research scope: Bronze age to the first millennium BCE in northwest Arabia and has been leading a number of projects in Tayma and al-Ha'it.   |
| <b>Dr. Seth Priestman</b>             | Archaeology<br>Ancient history | expert: Honorary Research Fellow, Durham University<br>Research scope: Ceramics. Contributed to the Al-Faw 2022 season. Working on themes of settlement, ceramic production, and economic exchange with a particular focus on the Indian Ocean, the Gulf, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Iran, and the Caucasus.   |
| <b>Dr. Juan De Lara</b>               | Archaeology<br>Ancient history | expert: Director of The Armenian Institute, Associate Researcher at the University of Oxford – Khalili Research Centre for the Art and Material Culture of the Middle East and is also a Trustee of Global Learning London.<br>Research scope: Archaeology, history of Art, Hellenistic world, late antiquity to early Islamic period, and has published on Al-Faw art. He has over 20-year experience in digital engineering leading businesses and charities.  |
| <b>Dr. Nada Alqassim</b>              | Archaeology<br>Ancient history | expert: Supervisor, Management of Education, Sabya Governorate<br>Ph.D. from King Saud University<br><br>Research scope: Ancient History. Ph. D thesis "Qaryat al-Faw from the 4th c. BCE to the 4th c.: A Study of History and Civilization"  |



|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Dr. Jeremie Schittecatte</b> | Archaeology expert:<br>Ancient history &<br>Epigraphy | Visiting Research Scholar, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (2023-24)<br>Research fellow at the French National Centre for Scientific Research<br>Research scope: Co-led the Al-Faw excavations in 2022. Archaeology and history of the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa from the Bronze Age to the Early Islam |
| <b>Dr. Alessia Priolella</b>    | Archaeology expert:<br>Epigraphy                      | French National Centre for Scientific Research, UMR 8167 "Orient et Méditerranée"<br><br>Research scope: Ancient South Arabian epigraphy, Semitic languages. She has been engaged in the al-Hima epigraphic project. Contributed to the Al-Faw 2022 season.   |

## Annex 5: Short Biographies of the Existing and Confirmed Staff Members

| Name                                      | Position/Role  | Experience/Research Focus   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Mohamed AlRajeh</b>                    | World Heritage Convention Nominations and Management Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Expertise:</b> Heritage preservation, World Heritage, Project management</li> <li>- <b>Professional Experience:</b> Architect with 10+ years working in Heritage preservation, with a background in Project Management and PMP certified</li> <li>- <b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Architecture, and Masters in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development" from the University of Torino</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sofia Cecchi</b>                       | WH Advisor   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Expertise:</b> Preparation of the WH nomination file, WH nomination process, archaeological research, and site management strategy</li> <li>- <b>Professional Experience:</b> Archaeologist, with a special focus on heritage and museums management. Before working as WH Advisor in Saudi Arabia, worked at the Chilean Ministry of Culture implementing UNESCO conventions (WH and ICH nominations, fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, etc.).</li> <li>- <b>Education:</b> University of Cambridge, UK. M.Phil. Archaeological Heritage and Museums<br/>Columbia University, USA. B.A. Major in Archaeology, Minor in Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Gillian Scott (Selected Candidate)</b> | Visitor Management and Interpretation Director               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Expertise:</b> 2 decades of executive experience in arts &amp; culture sector, and heritage preservation and accessible interpretation.</li> <li>- <b>Professional Experience:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Director of Curatorial Affairs and Exhibitions- National Museum of Saudi Arabia- (April 2022-Present)</li> <li>o Head of Exhibitions and Collections- Australian National Maritime museum (Apr 2021- Nov 2021)</li> <li>o Senior Manager, Exhibitions – Australian museum (Oct 2016- Apr 2021)</li> <li>o Head of Exhibition Curation (Apr 2016-Sep 2016)</li> <li>o International Cultural Curator- Dhahran Saudi Arabia (Apr 2016- Sep 2016)</li> <li>o Tyne&amp; Wear Archives &amp; Museums (8 years)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Education:</b> PhD in Egyptology – University of York<br/>MSc, Palaeopathology - Durham University,<br/>BA, Egyptian Archaeology – UCL</li> </ul> |
| <b>Abduallah Bin Zidan</b>                | WH Stakeholder's Engagement Specialist                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Expertise:</b> Stakeholders Engagement</li> <li>- <b>Professional Experience:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Head of Projects and Administrative Affairs Department, WH Department (2022-present)</li> <li>o Various roles at WH Department, Saudi commission for tourism (2002-2021)</li> <li>o Participating Consultant, Ernst &amp; Young (2001-2002)</li> <li>o Coordinator, National Guard (2000-2001)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Education:</b><br/>Diploma in Strategic Destination Marketing in University of Pretoria (Pretoria / South Africa).</li> </ul>   |



|                            |                               |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                            |                               | Bachelor of Arabic culture - Imam Mouhammad University<br>Diploma in English language in (Wessex Academy) in UK  |
| <b>Rana Sadek</b>          | WH Senior Planner             | <p>- <b>Expertise:</b> Local Area Planning, Rehabilitation of Historic Areas, Stakeholder's Engagement</p> <p>- <b>Professional Experience:</b> An architect and an urban designer with 6 years of experience in international development in the fields of participatory planning, institutional governance, organisational partnerships, and capacity development. Focused on embedding participatory and comprehensive planning approaches and practices within national and local processes. Acquired extensive strategic management and technical skills building cross sectoral synergies with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ).</p> <p>- <b>Education:</b> MSc Urban Design- Revitalization of Historic City Districts, Brandenburg Technical University Cottbus and Senftenburg, Germany<br/>BSc Architectural Engineering, American University in Cairo - Cairo, Egypt</p>  |
| <b>Benjamin Marcus</b>     | Conservation Lead             | <p>- <b>Expertise:</b> Architectural Conservator with 20 + years of experience in the conservation and management of heritage sites and with particular experience in conservation of earthen architecture, archaeological sites and strong buildings as well as capacity building for cultural heritage.</p> <p>- <b>Professional Experience:</b><br/>Project Specialist- The Getty Conservation Institute 2012-2023<br/>Building Conservator – Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage 2009- 2012<br/>Architectural Conservator – Page &amp; Turnbull 2007-2009</p> <p>- <b>Education:</b> M.S Historic Preservation (2004-2006)<br/>Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.<br/>Istituto d'Arte di Firenze<br/>Corso Biennale di perfezionamento- stone sculpture</p>  |
| <b>Ona Vileikis Tamayo</b> | Documentation Lead (Jan 2024) | <p>- <b>Expertise:</b> An architect and heritage specialist, who has been working worldwide at governmental and local levels, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, IICAS, WB and WMF in the fields of capacity building and consulting on the UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention, heritage conservation, heritage impact assessments, digital technologies for documentation and monitoring of heritage management. ICOMOS GA2023 Scientific Symposium Co-Chair Sydney.</p> <p>- <b>Professional Experience:</b> Research Fellow at University College London (Jan 2019- present)<br/>International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):<br/>1)ICOMOS SDGs Task Team Coordinator<br/>2)ICOMOS GA2023 &amp; GA2020 Co-Chair Symposia Sydney<br/>3)CIPA Heritage Documentation Executive Committee Member<br/>International Cultural Heritage Consultant<br/>Editor – Emerald Publishing Journal of Cultural Management and Sustainable Development.</p> <p>- <b>Education:</b> KU Leuven. PhD Engineering Science: Civil Engineering.</p> |

|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
|                                  |   | Brandenburg Technische Universität Cottbus- Senftenburg.<br>Master of Arts- MA, World Heritage Studies.<br>Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. BA- Architecture.   |
| <b>Abdulrahman AlAsem</b>        | Conservation Architect                                      | <p><b>Expertise:</b> project management, execution of conservation interventions, conserving adobe structures</p> <p><b>- Professional Experience:</b><br/>Senior Project Manager, Ministry of Culture - Heritage Commission (2020-Present)<br/>Conserving heritage sites involves assessing their significance, developing a conservation plan, managing budgets and tenders, supervising conservation works, and regularly reviewing and intervening as needed as well as managing and engaging stakeholders.<br/>Project Manager, Ministry of Tourism (2018-2020)</p> <p><b>- Education:</b><br/>Bachelor of Applied Architectural Engineering, King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals (2014)<br/>Conservation of Built Heritage - Rome, Italy, ICCROM (Mar-Jun 2023)<br/>Impact Assessment for World Heritage - Hail, Saudi Arabia, The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (2022)<br/>Repairing Traditional Masonry P1 - Charleston, Scotland, Scottish Lime Centre Trust (2022)</p> |
| <b>Abdullah Nasser BinKulayb</b> | Intangible Heritage Expert                                  | <p><b>- Expertise:</b> Documentation and identification of intangible cultural heritage assets and expert in local community engagement.</p> <p><b>-Professional Experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Led the nomination of the ICH file 'Cultural practices related to Taif roses' element on the list of UNESCO</li> <li>○ Heritage judge for Arabic coffee Championships since 2019 as a safeguarding measure.</li> </ul> <p><b>- Education:</b><br/>BSc Architecture<br/>Participated in the UNESCO workshop on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 11-15 June 2023.</p>   |
| <b>Dr. Risa Tokunaga</b>         | Archaeology Advisor and Research Programme Epigraphy Expert | <p><b>- Expertise:</b> Epigraphy: Ancient North Arabian and early Islamic inscriptions</p> <p><b>- Professional Experience:</b><br/>Advisor, Heritage Commission, Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia (April 2023 - Present)<br/>Visiting Associate Professor, Kanazawa University, Japan (2016 - March 2023)<br/>Researcher, Arabic Islamic Institute in Tokyo (2008 - 2021)<br/>Lecturer, Sophia University (2020 - 2023 March)<br/>Lecturer, Tokyo Institute of Polytechnics, Kanagawa, Japan (2008 - 2010)<br/>Lecturer, Keio University (2005 - 2010)<br/>Research Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2004 - 2006)<br/>Field survey experience: Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia<br/>Recent selected publications (54 publications in total):<br/><br/>Tokunaga, R., S. Fujii &amp; T. Adachi, "Early Islamic and Ancient North Arabian Graffiti and Petroglyphs in Tabūk Province: Saudi-Japanese al-Jawf/Tabūk Archaeological Project (JTAP),</p>                                     |



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   |   | <p>March 2017 Field Season," <i>Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies</i> 49, 2019, pp. 275–282.</p> <p>Tokunaga, R., "A New Example of Proto-<i>hamzah</i> in the Early Islamic Graffiti of Wādī al-Khirqah," <i>Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies</i> 51, 2022, pp. 403–412.</p> <p>Tokunaga, R., "The Influence of Aesthetics on Orthographic Decisions in the Early Islamic Graffiti of Wadi al-Khirqa, Northern Hijaz" in B. O'Kane, A. C. S. Peacock, and M. Muehlhaeusler (eds.), <i>Inscriptions of the Medieval Islamic World</i>, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023, pp. 559-582.</p> <p><b>Education:</b><br/> <b>PhD</b> in History, Keio University (Tokyo), Graduate School of Letters, January 2005<br/> <b>MA</b> in History, Keio University, Graduate School of Letters, March 1999<br/> <b>BA</b> in History, Department of Archaeology and Ethnology, Faculty of Letters, Keio University, March 1997<br/> <b>Diploma</b> in Arabic Language, Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud University, February 2008</p> |
| <p><b>Sumayyah<br/>Mohammad Al<br/>Mohisen Alghamdi</b></p> | <p>Research Programme<br/>General Coordinator</p> | <p>- <b>Expertise:</b> specialized in the history of northwest Arabia.<br/> - <b>Professional Experience:</b><br/> Archaeology Research Officer, Heritage Commission.<br/> Participation in archaeological excavation in Tayma with Saudi-Germany team season Feb 2022-Mar2022.<br/> - <b>Education:</b><br/> PHD student. Ancient History, KSU.<br/> Master of Art History, KSU, 2019.<br/> Bachelor of Islamic law, UQU, 2011.</p>  |

## Al-Faw Site Management Unit

| Name   | Position/Role               | Experience/Research Focus   |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Khalid Al Dossary</b>                       | Al-Faw Site Manager         | <p><b>-Expertise:</b> Administration and management, with a key focus on quality management.</p> <p><b>-Professional Experience:</b><br/> Faculty and staff member Al-Sulail colleges 2012-2015<br/> Director of Public Relations &amp; Media at Deanship of Student Affairs in Al-Kharj<br/> Manager of Quality and Institutional Excellence, Institute of Research and Consulting Services – Prince Sattam University</p> <p><b>- Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training on the Impact Assessment of World Heritage, ICCROM &amp; ARC-WH (20-24 Nov 2022)</li> <li>- World Heritage Site Managers' Forum as an Observer, ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS &amp; WHC (Jun, July, and Sept 2023)</li> <li>- Managing World Heritage: People, Nature, Culture, ICCROM (15-22 Oct 2023)</li> <li>- Master of Business Administration (2011)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Giorgia Cesaro<br/>(Candidate Selected)</b> | Al-Faw Archaeology Director | <p><b>- Expertise:</b><br/> Program and project manager. Heritage conservation and management specialist (Advanced Master of Science) with fourteen-year experience in heritage management and preventive conservation, protection of heritage at risk, cultural heritage documentation and interpretation, condition assessment at heritage sites, culture and development.</p> <p><b>- Professional Experience:</b><br/> Program Manager at Royal Commission for AlUla, Sept 2022 – present<br/> Head of Unit and Senior Project Manager (P4 level)<br/> UNESCO Amman Office, Culture Unit<br/> Nov 2020 – Aug 2022: Project Manager (P3 level)<br/> UNESCO Amman Office, Culture Unit Oct 2018 – Nov 2020</p> <p><b>- Education:</b><br/> 2012 MSc Advanced Master of Conservation of Monuments and Sites (cum laude) Raymond Lemaire<br/> International Centre for Conservation (RLICC), KU Leuven (Belgium)<br/> 2008 MA Classics and Archaeology (110/110 cum laude) Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)<br/> 2007-2008 ERASMUS Exchange Program   National University of Athens (Greece)<br/> 2005 BA Classics (110/110 cum laude) Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)</p> |
| <b>Mohamed Al Dossary</b>                      | Al-Faw Admin Specialist     | <p><b>- Expertise:</b> Organizing programs and events, the Commission of Tourism and National Heritage, and organizing more than 10 events.</p> <p><b>- Professional Experience:</b> Experience in administrative work 2013-2022.<br/> Inspector and classifier of tourist accommodation 2013-2020</p> <p><b>- Education:</b> Bachelor's in business administration</p>   |



Riyadh, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Ms. Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Dear Director,

In response to your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (World Heritage List 2024 – Interim report and additional information request), which requested further elaboration on various aspects:

(a) Legal Protection in the buffer zone, (b) Management, (c) Research, and (d) Interpretation within *The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area* and in its vicinity, the State Party has prepared a brief report below.

#### **Legal protection in the buffer zone**

Recent research has demonstrated that the buffer zone has strong archaeological potential; therefore, ICOMOS considers that it is important to ensure robust legal protection of the archaeological remains in the buffer zone. While the landscape of the buffer zone can be effectively protected by the regulation to control and limit the drilling of new wells of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA), the legal provision for protecting the archaeological remains seems weaker. ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide detailed information on how the archaeological remains located in the buffer zone are protected by legal, regulatory, contractual, and customary means.

The Law of Antiquities, Museums, and Urban Heritage (the law) establishes comprehensive regulations and protections for archaeological sites and its surroundings (Annex 1: Relevant Articles in the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage).

The law ensures protection of designated buffer zones for archaeological or heritage sites in article 46 as follow:

“The radius of the protection zone of the classified urban heritage or archaeological site or building shall be two hundred meters from such building or site, particularly the side on which the façade of the building or the site is located. Controls and conditions related to the protection zone shall be determined in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Said zone may be extended or reduced pursuant to a decision by the President, in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and relevant agencies.”

Accordingly, the proposed buffer zone’s boundary, that extends beyond two hundred meters, and controls and conditions within this protected zone have been agreed with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA), as part of the preparation for the nomination file and management plan for Al-Faw Archaeological site. As attached to the first additional letter response, a circular was sent to all the ministries notifying them with the site boundaries. Moreover, as per Article 24 in the law, HC is responsible for the approval of any development plans for these areas in coordination with MOMRA (Annex 1). The management plan (operational as per Article 24 of the law) also states that no development “that may change the physical appearance of the



archaeological.... or disturb their archaeological layers” is allowed within the buffer zone. Therefore, by law only carefully planned site visitation facilities that take into account the preservation of the archaeological features can be approved. Any visitation facilities or infrastructure will be exclusively managed by the Heritage Commission (HC).

Furthermore, HC requires that any proposed development is preceded by preventive archaeological surveys and heritage impact assessments, which may lead to the discovery of new sites that will be registered in the Antiquities Record<sup>1</sup> and thereby be granted full protection under the Law. Also, MOMRA and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA) must coordinate and receive HCs approval prior to granting development licenses “in predetermined archaeological and urban heritage areas and areas adjacent thereto” (Annex 1: Article 10(2) and Article 24(b) and (c)).

Operationally, the documentation of archaeological features within the buffer zone is being conducted using aerial (drone) and terrestrial (ground truthing) surveys and systematically updated in the Al-Faw Geographic Information System (GIS). Any newly discovered archaeological remains will be directly registered on the Antiquities Record. In this regard, all documented and protected remains/sites within the buffer zone are additionally protected as per the law (see Annex 1 and Annex 2). Thereby, the management and conservation of registered features will be carried out through cyclical monitoring and maintenance, as necessary, by the HC. Since early 2024, management coordination across the different ministries and relevant institutions is being realized through the monthly meetings of the taskforce, led by the Governor of Wadi Ad-dawasir and HC. This ensures effective communication and continuous alignment on the implementation of the management plan activities and the development plans across other ministries.

## Management

ICOMOS welcomes the significant progress that has been made in establishing the collaborative management mechanism between the cultural and natural conservation sectors. Currently, the whole nominated property has been designated as a National Heritage Site and is protected by the Law of Antiquities, Museums, and Urban Heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Heritage Commission of the Ministry of Culture is the governmental institution responsible for implementing this law. However, based on the current administrative arrangement, the National Center for Wildlife (NCW) is in charge of managing the part of the nominated property above the escarpment. Since the primary function of the NCW is to protect natural heritage, ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could provide further clarification on the responsibilities of the various institutions in relation to the cultural heritage situated above the escarpment.

According to Article 5 and Article 24 of the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage, the responsibility for protecting archaeological sites lies with the Heritage Commission (HC) and it may seek assistance from any government entities to contribute to this task. The law clearly states that other entities are not permitted to take any decisions or make any changes to archaeological sites which might lie within their areas of control without fully coordinating and seeking prior consent from the HC. Any archaeological finds in the Kingdoms by any government or private entities must immediately be reported to the HC (see Annex 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Article 8 of antiquities

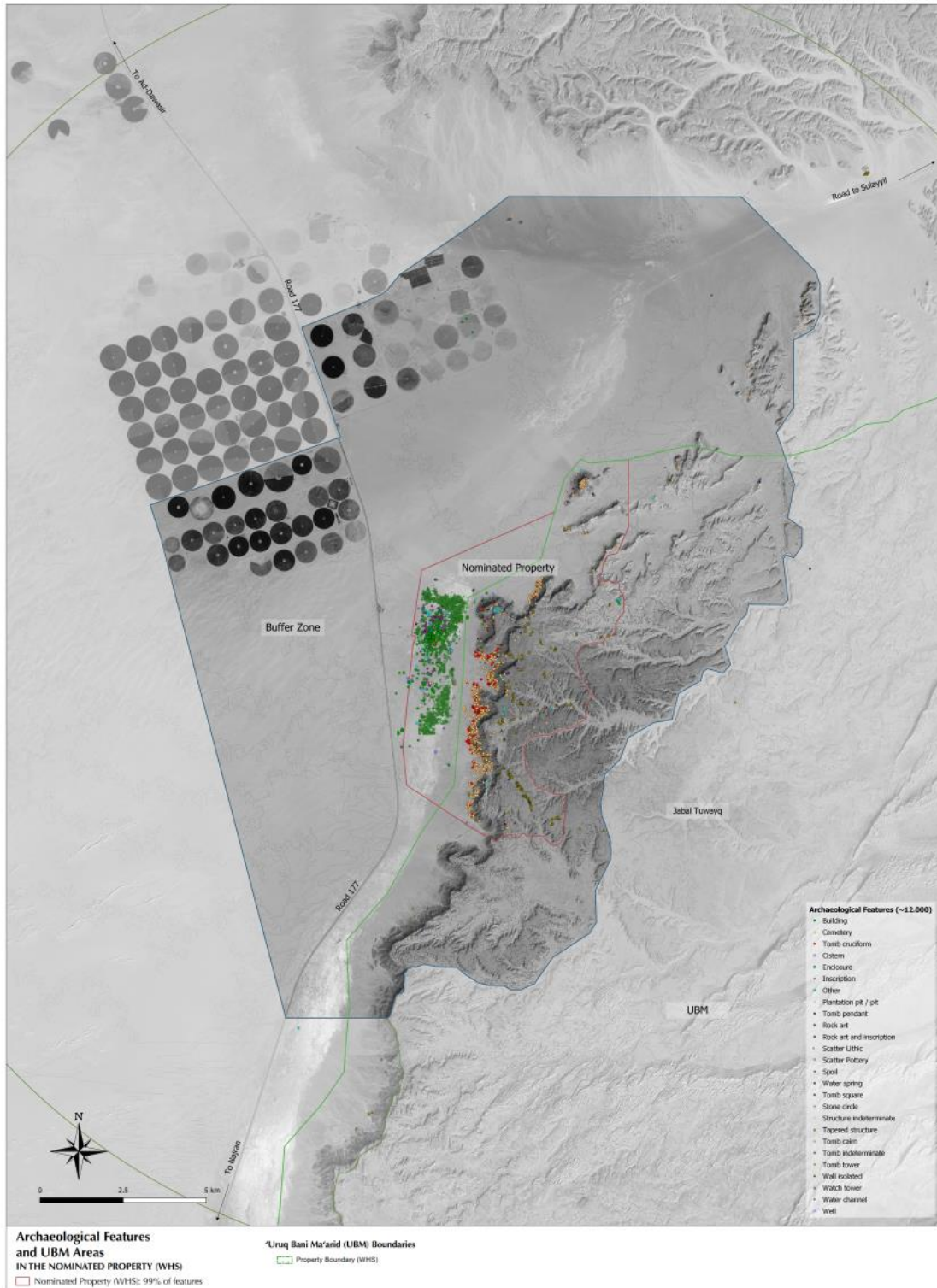
To ensure full adherence to the above, the Heritage Commission and the National Center for Wildlife (NCW) have signed a memorandum of understanding with the objective (among several others) to facilitate HC's full access and enable its complete oversight over all target cultural components lying within the Uruq Bani Ma'arid (UBM) boundaries. A joint working group was established to coordinate the activation of the MOU and the implementation of its joint executive program.

The program of work of the joint group includes:

- Ensuring that the protection and conservation of the archaeological features on the escarpment, including neolithic tombs and tapered structures, is managed by HC through a system of cyclical monitoring and stabilization, when required (see Map 1, Archaeological Features and UBM nominated property). Archaeological features have been documented using advanced digital technologies serving as the baseline data for the monitoring of the site. Orthophotos, 3D model, terrestrial photos and survey are stored in a HC owned GIS database, and is shared with NCW.
- Implementing a monitoring protocol managed by HC, to consist of a yearly drone survey, ground truthing and the completion of a monitoring form that records information about each feature's condition, with special attention given to risk factors such as storms and floods. Cyclical monitoring of the features allows HC to record change over time, and to prioritize the conservation of features deemed at risk.
- Developing a joint management and governance framework for Al-Faw and UBM, ensuring legal protection, administration, and regulation. This framework will be established through a Management Charter, which will act as a legally binding arrangement for the effective management of the areas shared by the two sites in a way that upholds the respective mission of the HC and NCW. It is composed of principles and guidelines on implementation to be applied in the shared areas, where they cover various topics from a) Environment and biodiversity, b) Cultural heritage, c) Tourism, d) Social and community, and e) Planning and Development (see Annex 3: Principles of the management charter). Moreover, operational guidelines will also be included in the last section to entail communication, monitoring and visitation mechanisms as required. An executive program is being prepared between the HC and the NCW based on the outcomes of the management charter, outlining the responsibilities of each institution within the archaeological site, as well as the supporting mechanisms to ensure the integrated protection and maintenance of all outstanding cultural and natural heritage values and attributes of the two properties as required by the convention. The Management Charter and Framework will be shared once it is finalized and approved by both entities, which is expected by June 2024. In the present time, there's an agreement between HC and NCW, that ensures that no one is given access to the archaeological features without HC's approval. Rangers have been trained on how to recognize these features and the designated routes for driving to avoid these features. NCW team acknowledge and facilitate full access and support coordination for all conservation works that is required above the escarpment. Moreover, both teams on site maintain very good relations with one another. They're all from the local community, which makes communication and cooperation on both sides much easier. The research visits above the plateau are currently facilitated by UBM Rangers and HC Protection Officers.

Finally, it should be noted that the Ministry of Culture (MOC) represented by the HC is the responsible entity in Saudi Arabia for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Therefore, all nature, culture and mixed sites are monitored by the HC.





Map 1: Archaeological Features within the Nominated Property and its Buffer Zone and the UBM Property Boundary

## Research

ICOMOS acknowledges that the past decades of archaeological research have established a solid foundation for understanding the values of the site. ICOMOS also notes that new technologies used in recent years have improved the surveying, documentation and recording of archaeological remains, leading to significant archaeological discoveries in the nominated property and buffer zone. ICOMOS would be interested to know whether there is a long-term archaeological research plan in place to further the knowledge of these areas.

In continuation of the research conducted by King Saud University (KSU) for 36 years (1972-2008) and the one conducted by HC in recent years (2021-2023), the research and conservation teams have prepared a Research Strategy proposal for the Al-Faw Archaeological Area (see Annex 4: Preliminary Research Strategy). Main research focus will be on archaeology and site conservation methods, and will extend to also include interpretation planning, documentation and data management. In order to foster close collaboration between conservators and archaeologists, a scientific committee has been formed (as referenced in the first additional request letter). This Committee, which includes professionals with diverse expertise in archaeology and conservation, aims to review, finalize, and approve the Research Strategy proposal and oversee its implementation. This integrated approach between conservators and archaeologists ensures that research efforts undertaken are in line with conservation goals and vice versa. This approach is crucial as it allows for a comprehensive understanding of the site and facilitates its protection and preservation.

The Research Strategy expands on previous research and aims to investigate the following research gaps:

- Human activities in the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods in the area
- Environmental evolution of the Al-Faw area (bioarchaeological approach)
- Collecting sufficient data to fill chronology gaps
- The land-use and territoriality of Protohistoric population through the study of “avenues” of tapered structures
- The long-range connectivity of the Protohistoric population with the Dilmun civilization
- The birth of the settlement and its evolution into a full-grown city
- Ethnicity of the populations of Al-Faw based on epigraphy
- Long-distance contacts based on epigraphy and the circulation of artefacts

The strategy is planned to be implemented in two phases; short term in 2024-2025 and long term from 2025-2029 (see Annex 4, section 5.5: Archaeology Research). The Research Team will be responsible for the development and implementation of the archaeological research plan, with the Scientific Committee approving the plan and overseeing deliverables and outcomes. Moreover, collaboration between academic institutes in Saudi Arabia and international research institutes will be utilized to extend research activities. The key role of KSU in furthering understanding of the site will continue under the framework managed by the HC, in addition to, KSU selected staff being already part of the Scientific Committee and the Research Team.

Several modalities for the implementation of the Research Strategy are planned by the HC, they include (1) dissemination and communication, (2) connection with other research in the region, (3) collaboration on research projects, (4) capacity building and (5) documentation and data

management (see Annex 4, section 4: Strategic Actions). Some of the modalities are summarized below:

1. Organising an International Scientific Symposium on the Al-Faw Archaeological Area in 2024 (see section 4.2). This symposium aims to present the results of research conducted between 2021 and 2023 and facilitate collaboration among academics, research teams, international experts, and Saudi researchers. It will also serve as an opportunity to identify interested organizations and researchers in the field. The Research Team of Al-Faw Archaeological Area will prepare the publication of the symposium proceedings and ensure its distribution and wider access digitally. This symposium will be periodic to provide a platform for presenting and discussing recent findings. These symposia will also serve as a forum for workshops and round table discussions on the actions and priorities of the research strategy, as well as generate recommendations to shape the future direction of the research strategy.
2. Issuing a Call for Research Proposals to invite interested organisations to submit research proposals in line with the research priorities defined by the Scientific Committee (see section 4.4). The proposals should be in line with the overall Research Strategy and build upon existing knowledge.
3. Expanding the ongoing collaboration between the HC and the Royal Commission for AlUla will be expanded to conduct a comparative study with other historic caravan cities in northern Arabia, such as Tayma and Dadan (see section 4.3). Additionally, the existing scientific collaboration between Saudi and Danish scholars will be expanded under the auspices of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) to further explore the connections between Al-Faw and Dilmun civilizations.
4. Implementing an Archives Project, in which legacy data of previous excavations and surveys will be collated and inventoried. The existing GIS of Al-Faw will be organized and made accessible to the working teams. Moreover, a project for digitizing existing archives will be implemented (2024-2027), as there is a wealth of data in hard copies from previous excavations and missions that needs to be available to support research efforts (see section 4.6.1).

Overall, these modalities promote collaboration, knowledge exchange, accessibility, and the development of a multidisciplinary research approach in implementing the Research Strategy for the Al-Faw Archaeological Area.

## Interpretation

ICOMOS considers that opening the nominated property to visitors is a positive step in communicating its value to a wider audience. The current tourism strategy and cautious approach to developing tourism facilities without damaging the landscape or archaeological remains are commendable. ICOMOS considers that, while the physical infrastructure constitutes a part of the presentation and interpretation of the values of the nominated property, the narratives are equally important. ICOMOS would like to know whether a holistic interpretation and presentation plan has been envisaged by the State Party, whether the narratives have placed the nominated property within the political, economic, and religious contexts of the region, and whether the history of the cities, oasis, tribes, kingdoms, and trade hubs in the Arabian Peninsula and beyond have been integrated into the narratives used for interpretation of the nominated property.



The interpretation planning for Al-Faw Archeological Area is planned to be undertaken in two phases with the overarching aim to present and effectively communicate the nominated property's values and significance: (1) a short-term plan to present the site in the temporary opening (late 2024/early 2025); (2) a long-term interpretation plan that ensures a full range of activities to heighten public awareness of the site, wider landscape, and encompasses up-to-date research.

Both plans will be developed in partnership with the Research and Conservation Teams, and approved by the Scientific Committee, to ensure full alignment with the vision and needs of the site. The interpretation team consists of a multidisciplinary group, including specialists in interpretation, archaeology, history, natural heritage, and other related fields. This team operates under the Research Team umbrella, which is responsible for implementing the Al-Faw Research Strategy (see Annex 4, section 2). This approach ensures having one unified narrative of the site. Additionally, natural heritage values will be integrated through input provided by the natural heritage expert of the Scientific Committee, notably Dr Othman Llewelyn of the National Centre for Wildlife, whose responsibilities include ensuring that the natural attributes of 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid are included in the visitor experience at Al-Faw to establish a narrative that ties both sites. This synergy is derived from the Management Charter (see Management section above).

In both phases, the following areas are to be covered:

1. Historical periods of Al-Faw (Prehistory/Protohistory/Antique)
2. Agriculture (oasis) and water management
3. Trade routes connections
4. Al-Faw within the regional context (economic, religious, and political)
5. Kingdoms and tribal history
6. Natural attributes, including the flora and fauna, geology, hydrology, and the linkages between the natural landscape and the cultural heritage (e.g., the ancient hunting practices portrayed in rock art).
7. Local intangible heritage and its linkages with the archeological evidence of the site (e.g., oasis-based practices, incense making traditions, etc.)
8. Site's research history as one of the first archeological research projects in the country, including the legacy of Saudi researchers.
9. Conservation challenges and current efforts.

Additionally, audience groups targeted for interpretation listed below will be defined to ensure relevance and appropriateness (profiles, segmentation, and target audiences):

1. Leisure visitors
  - a. Heritage/history enthusiasts
  - b. Local community
  - c. National tourists
  - d. Foreign tourists
2. Education visitors
  - a. School groups
  - b. University students
3. Outreach
  - a. Local communities
  - b. Young people (excluding education visits)
  - c. Disabled people

In both phases, content will be developed to train visitor guides ensuring clarity, accessibility, and depth to the information provided. The training will be supported by a Visitor Guides' Manual. The

outcomes of some of the documentation activities in the site will also feed into the Interpretation Plans, for example, the 3D models are conducted at two different levels (landscape and structures/features) to highlight the attributes contributing to the OUV.

#### Short-term Interpretation Plan (completed by mid-2024)

This is an interim plan to define and ensure clear messaging to visitors to the temporary opening by early 2025. The plan will start with considering the site's context, management plan, and new research. It will breakdown the subject matter and take into consideration the site's conservation management and access issues. Visitor profiles will be detailed to ensure that the interpretive tools selected are addressing the broadest needs. It should be noted that only the central areas are envisaged to be open for visitation under strictly guided tours and visitor pathways that are carefully designed to protect the site and to also allow visitors to witness the conservation works.

An approach will be developed to meet the needs of the temporary opening. This approach will clarify the key messages with the overall objectives for each visitor group. It will also define the methodology for content development to ensure accessibility. This plan will be based on the current understanding of the site as documented in various studies (see Annex 5). This also includes the forthcoming publications of scholarly papers for Al-Faw symposium on 2024.

#### Long-term Interpretation Plan (start 2024, to be completed by late 2025)

This long-term plan is to set out the strategic planning and visioning for the site, exhibition design, final branding and wayfinding. This plan will cover the area beyond the temporary opening, covering Kashm Qaryah, northern and southern necropolis and potentially other areas after assessment. Community consultations will be conducted to consider the potential integration of the local family farm to the visitor experience and local community's stories related to the site and local heritage.

The plan will explore ways to improve access through interpretive tools, and it will inform interpretive infrastructure (facilities etc.), and the Visitor Guides' Manual that will be the main resource for the guides' who are permanently engaged in the public communication of information related to the values and significance of the site. The interpretation plan will also inform public programming, audio guides, A/V tools, guidebooks, brochures, map/s, and other tools.

Several ongoing projects contribute to the formulation of the interpretation plan, apart from archaeological research. These projects include:

- 1) Oral history project: This project aims to record stories from local communities and archaeologists who were involved in the site's research from the 1970s onward.
- 2) Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory: This study maps all intangible cultural heritage attributes and elements and explores their connections to the Al-Faw archaeological site. It aims to create a comprehensive inventory of cultural elements and proposes strategies to engage and empower the local community in safeguarding and activating intangible heritage.
- 3) Digitization of Al-Faw Archives: This project involves digitizing the data collected during the initial archaeological excavations conducted by King Saud University (KSU) from the 1970s onward. The digitized archives will support the interpretation of the site through exploring the state of the site when excavated, the Saudi research team's endeavors, and the archeological research techniques available then, linking to the state of conservation of the site.



Should you have any further questions, the Heritage Commission remains at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Jasir Alherbish  
CEO, Heritage Commission

#### Annexes

- 1) Annex 1: Official Translation of the Relevant Articles in the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage
- 2) Annex 2: Copy of the Telegram from the Royal Court
- 3) Annex 3: Principles of Al-Faw and 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid Management Charter
- 4) Annex 4: Preliminary Research Strategy
- 5) Annex 5: Bibliography for Al-Faw Archaeological Area Preliminary Research Strategy





## **Annexes**

- 1) Annex 1: Official Translation of the Relevant Articles in the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage
- 2) Annex 2: Copy of the Telegram from the Royal Court
- 3) Annex 3: Principles of Al-Faw and 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid Management Charter
- 4) Annex 4: Preliminary Research Strategy
- 5) Annex 5: Bibliography for Al-Faw Archaeological Area Preliminary Research Strategy



### Annex 1:

## **Official Translation of the Relevant Articles in the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage**

Note: The national heritage activity of Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH, former SCTA) have been transferred to the Ministry of Culture's Heritage Commission for heritage mandate by the Decree of Council of Ministries No 307 dated 5/5/1441 - 31/12/2019.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Article 5 | <p>Ownership of a land shall not entitle the owner nor beneficiary to dispose of movable or immovable antiquities above or underground. A landowner or beneficiary may not undertake excavation work for antiquities in the land. Excavation shall be carried out by SCTA or by any party authorized by SCTA.</p> <p>Any archaeological finds shall be considered the property of the State. SCTA may, if necessary, relinquish claim on immovable antiquities in the land upon establishing their significance, classification, documentation, and registration, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its Regulations.</p>  |
| Article 6 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is prohibited to trespass to, distort, remove, damage, or deface archaeological sites or urban heritage sites by writing, painting, inscription, posting flyers, setting fire, or altering or obliterating their features.</li> <li>2. No signs, banners, or any other advertising posters may be placed on archaeological sites or urban heritage sites without the approval of SCTA.</li> </ol>  |
| Article 7 | <p>SCTA shall decide the archaeological value of antiquities and urban heritage and determine items that should be registered. The registration of any archaeological item entails the State's acknowledgment of its national, historical, cultural, or artistic significance, as well as the preservation, protection, and exhibition thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its Regulations.</p>   |
| Article 8 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SCTA shall maintain a record named "Antiquities Record" for registering all antiquities. The Record shall include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Movable and immovable antiquities.</li> <li>b) Historical sites and folk heritage sites, according to their classification as specified in Article 25 of this Law.</li> <li>c) Folk heritage artifacts, according to their classification as specified in Article 34 of this Law.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. SCTA shall prepare registration lists to be approved by the President.</li> <li>3. The registration of any antiquity may be cancelled in whole or in part, and the cancellation decision shall be issued by the President. The Regulations shall specify rules governing full or partial registration.</li> <li>4. If SCTA, in exception to paragraph 1 of this Article, deems it unnecessary to register an antiquity or decides to cancel its registration, in whole or in part, it shall allow disposal thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its Regulations.</li> </ol> |
| Article 9 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SCTA shall determine archaeological and urban heritage sites and coordinate with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and relevant agencies, each within their jurisdiction.</li> <li>2. Archeological and urban heritage sites shall be preserved when carrying out projects for planning, expansion or improvement of urban or rural</li> </ol>  |



|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | <p>areas. In addition, easement rights shall be taken into consideration, including designation of construction-free areas, in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Planning projects, in which, or in the vicinity of which, there are archaeological and urban heritage sites, may not be adopted without the approval of SCTA.</p> <p>3. Licenses for construction or renovation in areas adjacent to archaeological and urban heritage sites may not be issued without SCTA's agreement.</p>  |
| Article 10 | <p>1. Land grants and distribution decisions may not be enforced on archaeological sites or urban heritage sites agreed upon with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.</p> <p>2. The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture shall coordinate with SCTA when designating lands for grants or farms in predetermined archaeological and urban heritage areas and areas adjacent thereto.</p>   |
| Article 18 | <p>1. Any person who owns or has under his control any antiquity or urban heritage site registered in the Antiquities Record or in the Urban Heritage Record shall be responsible for the preservation thereof.</p> <p>2. No antiquity or urban heritage site may be invested in or operated without authorization from SCTA. The Regulations shall set conditions for granting said authorization.</p> <p>3. Any user, operator, or investor of any antiquity or urban heritage site shall maintain, restore, and use said antiquity or site in accordance with the Regulations.</p> <p>4. An investor of any antiquity or urban heritage site may charge an entry fee to cover upkeep expenses. The Regulations shall specify necessary controls.</p>               |
| Article 19 | Any person operating an archaeological, historical, or folk or urban heritage site shall give access to SCTA's officers to examine the site in accordance with statutory procedures.  |
| Article 22 | Archaeological and urban heritage sites may not be altered; the debris found thereat may not be used; and soil, rocks, or any other material may not be removed therefrom without the permission and supervision of SCTA.   |
| Article 23 | Any person who discovers or becomes aware of the discovery of any immovable or movable antiquities shall immediately notify SCTA or the nearest government authority. Said authority shall safeguard said antiquity and promptly notify SCTA.   |
| Article 24 | <p>1. The following activities may not be carried out within the limits of archaeological and urban heritage sites without the prior approval of SCTA:</p> <p>a) Whole or partial demolition.</p> <p>b) Utility, communication, and road works, as well as any activity or process that may change the physical appearance of the archaeological and urban heritage sites, or buildings thereon, or disturb their archaeological layers.</p> <p>c) New construction or landscaping projects.</p> <p>2. SCTA shall respond within 60 days from the date of receipt of the application for performing any of the activities set out in paragraph 1 of this Article.</p> <p>3. Activities set out in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be subject to SCTA's control.</p> |



|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | 4. SCTA shall, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, develop technical and procedural mechanisms for dealing with any dilapidated heritage buildings.  |
| Article 42 | SCTA shall have the sole right to carry out archaeological survey and archaeological excavation. This shall include submerged antiquities in maritime zones under the sovereignty or the jurisdiction of the Kingdom. SCTA, in coordination with relevant authorities, may authorize universities; national organizations, institutions, and scientific societies; archaeological excavators; and foreign missions to conduct archaeological survey and archaeological excavation, either individually or in conjunction with SCTA, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its Regulations.  |
| Article 46 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The radius of the protection zone of the classified urban heritage or archaeological site or building shall be two hundred meters from such building or site, particularly the side on which the façade of the building or the site is located. Controls and conditions related to the protection zone shall be determined in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Said zone may be extended or reduced pursuant to a decision by the President, in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and relevant agencies.</li> <li>2. An urban heritage protection zone shall be established and designated in cities and villages if they have historical, cultural, artistic, or scientific significance justifying the preservation. A decision to this effect shall be made by the President, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, which shall include an urban heritage protection and development plan. Full or partial classification of the protection zone may be cancelled pursuant to a decision by the President.</li> <li>3. The protection zone may be changed under the supervision of SCTA and pursuant to a decision by the President, in coordination with relevant agencies in accordance with protection requirements of classified urban heritage when developing or reviewing detailed architectural and structural plans and designs, provided they meet protection zone requirements.</li> </ol> |



**Annex 2:**  
**Translation of the Telegram from the Royal Court**



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Royal Court  
(061)

Royal Court  
35400  
Issue No.: 9555  
Issue Date: 09/02/1444 AH  
Attachments:

**Telegram  
(Circular)**

His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, and Deputy Prime Minister,  
A copy of this circular shall be distributed to each ministry and government entity.  
Each entity shall notify its affiliated or associated bodies accordingly.

Greetings,

In accordance with the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers' letter No. 1597 dated 03/02/1444 AH, which references telegram No. 2949 dated 17/06/1443 AH issued by His Highness the Minister of Culture and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Heritage Commission, it is hereby reiterated that the Heritage Commission serves as the sole authority concerning all affairs about antiquities and urban heritage within government entities, authorities, and royal reserves, in alignment with its defined responsibilities as outlined in relevant laws and directives. It emphasizes the necessity of coordinating with the Heritage Commission before commencing any projects or activities falling under its jurisdiction.

The Council of Ministers, on 03/02/1444 AH, has thoroughly reviewed this issue and instructed all government agencies to collaborate with the Heritage Commission before initiating any projects within its realm of expertise, especially those that could potentially impact historical or archaeological sites and landmarks through removal, distortion, or alteration.

As official approval has been granted for the directives set forth by the Council of Ministers, I kindly request Your Highness to ensure prompt implementation of the prescribed actions.

Yours sincerely,

President of the Royal Court  
Fahd bin Mohammed Al-Issa

Ministry of Culture:  
Entry No.: 1073  
Date: 10/02/1444 AH  
Attachments: N/A  
Referred by: Office of HE Vice Minister of Culture



13521 Riyadh, Anas Ibn Malik Rd, ALMALQA District, ALMALQA Center, Bridge E Floor 2 Office 36





**Annex 2:**  
**Official Telegram from the Royal Court**

**tarjama**  
WORDSMITHS

الدوائر المختصة  
٢٥٤٠٠  
رقم الصادر : ٩٥٥٥  
تاريخ الصادر : ١٤٤٤ / ٠٢ / ٠٩  
المرفقات :

٠٩١

بوقية

- تعميم -

سيدي صاحب السمو الملكي ولي العهد  
نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء  
نسخة لكل وزارة ومصلحة حكومية  
وعلى كل جهة إبلاغ الجهات التابعة لها أو المرتبطة بها  
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته:

أشير إلى كتاب الأمانة العامة لمجلس الوزراء رقم ١٥٩٧ في ١٤٤٤/٢/٣ هـ  
المرفق به المعاملة المشتملة على برقية صاحب السمو وزير الثقافة رئيس مجلس إدارة هيئة  
التراث رقم ٢٩٤٩ في ١٤٤٣/٦/١٧ هـ المتضمنة طلب التأكيد على الجهات الحكومية  
والهيئات والمحميات الملكية أن هيئة التراث هي المرجعية في كل ما يتعلق بالآثار  
والتراث العمراني وفقاً لاختصاصاتها المنصوص عليها بموجب الأنظمة والتعليمات، والتأكيد  
على التنسيق مع الهيئة قبل البدء بأي أعمال أو مشاريع تتعلق باختصاصاتها. وما أوضحته  
الأمانة العامة من أن مجلس الوزراء اطلع على الموضوع في ١٤٤٤/٢/٣ هـ ووجه بالتأكيد  
على جميع الجهات الحكومية بأن تنسق مع هيئة التراث قبل قيامها بأي عمل أو مشروع  
يتعلق باختصاصاتها، قد يترتب عليه إزالة أو تعديل أو مساس بالموقع أو المعالم التاريخية  
أو الأثرية.

وحيث تمت الموافقة الكريمة على ما وجه به مجلس الوزراء بهذا الشأن؛ أرجو تفضل  
سموكم بالأمر بإكمال اللازم، وتقبلوا سموكم أطيب تحياتي وتقديري.

رئيس الديوان الملكي

فهد بن محمد العيسى

وزارة الثقافة  
Ministry of Culture  
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### **Annex 3:** **Principles of Al-Faw and 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid Management Charter**

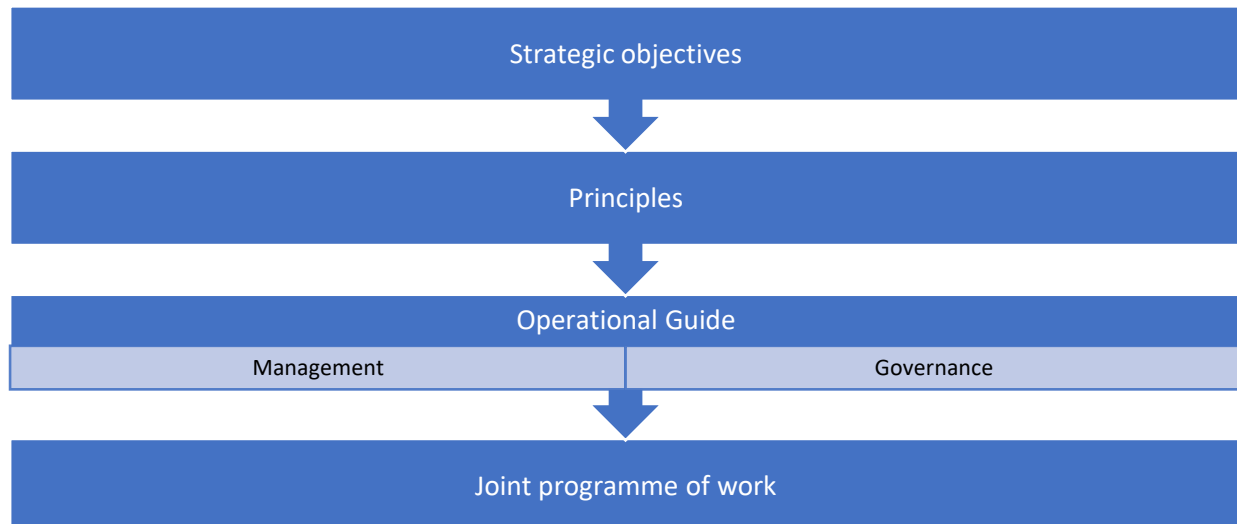
#### **Al-Faw Archaeological Area and 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid World Heritage Site: Management Charter February 2024**

##### **Introduction and background**

The purpose of the charter working group is to:

- 1) Establish a set of principles that are agreed by the HC and NCW that aligns with the vision and strategic objectives of Al-Faw Archaeological Area and 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid (UBM) World Heritage Site.
- 2) Identify the implications of the principles to the zones shared between the two sites.
- 3) Identify how the principles will be implemented by linking them to the relevant sections of the Management Plans of the two sites and their associated KPIs. This includes establishment of a permanent management mechanism, for sharing information and coordinating decisions between the two entities within each of the shared areas after the adoption of the charter.

The final document will be organised as follows:





## 1) Strategic objectives

### Al-Faw Archaeological Area Strategic Objectives

1. To preserve and conserve Al-Faw's values, authenticity, integrity and attributes through scientific research, multi-disciplinary collaboration and best practice. The proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property is based on three main criteria:
  - a. (ii) The testimony to the cultural interchange and the exchange of human values between the resident desert tribes and trading groups that frequented the region over time.
  - b. (iv) The exceptionally well-preserved Protohistoric landscape that exhibits monumental, urban and rural creations: dwellings, administrative and religious buildings, caravanserai and a merchant quarter, various necropolises, and a vast agricultural area with a sophisticated water management system.
  - c. (v) The ecological evolution experienced by human communities (including hunting and domestication) since prehistoric times reflected in the rock carvings and petroglyphs portraying local fauna.
2. To implement an inclusive interpretation and visitor management infrastructure that accurately presents the site's proposed Outstanding Universal Values, and other values, including those linked to local communities.
3. To actively foster collaboration with local communities and ensure their inclusion in the management of the site.
4. To engender and enhance the sustainability of natural and cultural assets and communities, including through financial stability.

### 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid Strategic Objectives

1. To conserve in perpetuity, the area's Outstanding Universal Value and natural attributes; these have been internationally recognised through the listing of the site on the UNESCO World Heritage List (Natural under criteria vii and x). The natural values are:
  - a. The wilderness of the western edge of Ar-Rub' al-Khali – where the sand desert – with its linear sand dunes – meets the limestone escarpment of Jebel Tuwayq and the area is interspersed with well vegetated wadis.
  - b. The only free-ranging population of Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) in the region and the World.
  - c. A flora of locally endemic, near endemic and regionally endemic species.
  - d. The outstanding aesthetic values represented by the varied landscapes and landforms resulting from the meeting point between Sand Sea of the Empty Quarter and the Tuwayq Escarpment (from east to west: sand dunes, gravel plains, vegetated wadis, limestone plateau, mountain ridges, sandy plains).
  - e. Extensive rangelands that have been used by nomadic pastoral people for thousands of years.
2. To achieve a harmonious relationship between the protected area and the people living within and surrounding the area – including ensuring access to and use of resources, and sacred and spiritual sites in such a way that the natural values are not eroded.
3. To ensure that the universally important cultural values of the area remain protected.
4. To facilitate meaningful, experiential, and enriching visitation to the area based on the integration of natural heritage (biodiversity, geology, and aesthetics) with cultural (tangible, intangible, and living) heritage.



### Shared objective:

The integrated protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage with focus on the shared areas between Al-Faw and Uruq Bani Ma'arid sites encompassing cultural values and attributes which are universally outstanding and their associated natural assets, alongside locally valued intangible heritage and living cultural practices.

Drawing on the strategic objectives for Al-Faw and UBM, and international best practice and guidance, the following principles are proposed and elaborated as follows.

## **2) Principles**

The Management Charter Principles are based on a shared purpose to deliver an integrated approach to the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the natural and cultural significance of the two sites and to secure their sustainable development.

The five principles are overarching and relate to agreed targets, the bullet points outline the conditions that need to be secured to meet the objective of each principle in the context of the site.

### **Principle 1: Safeguarding the ecological integrity and the regenerative landscape**

This principle concerns safeguarding natural and cultural landscapes, with a focus on conserving and restoring natural ecosystems.

- The outstanding natural values and attributes as defined by the OUV adopted by UNESCO WHC (under criteria vii: exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance, and x: globally significant natural habitats and threaten species) are safeguarded under the management of the National Center for Wildlife. Under this aegis:
  - The natural environment, ecosystems and ecological processes, biodiversity (including flora and fauna) and environments identified as sensitive are protected.
  - All species threatened with extinction (as listed in the IUCN Red List) are protected and populations are recovering.
  - Natural phenomena, geological processes, and aesthetic attributes are conserved and enhanced through a landscape-based approach.
- Environmental risks are identified and monitored using international adopted best practice guidelines related to Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) and the protected areas Green List Standard. The ecosystem services associated with the globally and nationally significant biodiversity are sustainably utilised and maintained, with particular emphasis on cultural, provisioning, and supporting services.
- The access, use and utilization of natural resources are fully compatible with the conservation of the OUV/nationally significant biodiversity.
- The UBM and its buffer zone are excluded from all large scale and intensive resource use activities especially those associated with extractive industries, mining, infrastructure development, human settlements, mass tourism development, intensive agriculture, and wildlife hunting.
- Systems are in place to address identified environmental risks.
- All conservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and development activities are subject to a rigorous impact assessment (IA) processes following the newly adopted IA framework by UNESCO/IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM.
- Purchasing policies for local environmentally friendly products for building materials, capital goods, food, and consumables are in place.
- Energy needs are met through renewable energy resources wherever possible.



## **Principle 2: Ensuring and enabling cultural Heritage protection and conservation**

This principle relates to the protection and conservation of historic fabric and artefacts, research, cultural experiences, arts integration, events and festivals organization.

- The historical, archaeological, and culturally important features, areas and artefacts of the site are fully protected.
- The unmonitored excavation, collection, sale, trading or private displays of historical and archaeological artefacts is prohibited.
- Exposed archaeological findings are protected, conserved or consolidated in-situ to avoid further damage or degradation.
- The various structures and areas of archaeological significance are identified and mapped (georeferenced) and monitored to ensure they are protected.
- The intangible heritage of the area is recognized, protected and promoted.
- All conservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and development activities are subject to a rigorous heritage impact assessment (HIA) processes following the newly adopted IA framework by UNESCO/IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM.

## **Principle 3: Achieving unique and high-quality visitation experiences**

This principle guides policies related to tourism infrastructure, visitor experiences, settlement strategies with the aim of combining light-touch (minimal-impact) tourism with revitalisation and conservation.

- A tourism development strategy that adheres to the common vision and shared values is in place (prepared and agreed by all parties), and is coordinated with national tourism plans, and any strategic master plans that connect natural and cultural sites in the wider region.
- All tourism developments comply with eco-tourism and Leave No Trace, and green building principles and standards<sup>1</sup>. Specifically, the application of the IUCN adopted Recreation Spectrum Opportunities (ROS) and Limited of Acceptable Change (LAC) tools as necessary.
- The safety of visitors is secured through risk mitigation and preparedness measures that respond to regular risk assessments.
- Marketing and interpretation of the sites includes a combined and shared narrative linking natural and cultural values, and conveys the UNESCO message as well as the national, and local identity messages.
- A code of conduct for visitor activities within the site is in place and is communicated to visitors.
- Visitors with disabilities and impairments have access to site services and are able to meaningfully experience the site, and the content and format of interpretation and information for visitors on and at the sites is inclusive and accessible.
- Meaningful interactions between local people and visitors are encouraged and facilitated, and a local sense of pride in the cultural and natural environment is engendered and celebrated.
- Local art, architecture, or cultural heritage and the natural features and values of the area are incorporated into operations, design, decoration, food provision or shops.
- A system is in place to systematically monitor visitor impacts and adapt site management practices to respond to and reduce impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of eco-tourism by the International Eco Tourism Society: "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education" (TIES, 2015).



#### **Principle 4: Supporting local community and their economy:**

This principle emphasizes empowering and engaging local communities and supporting a balanced economy and sustainable value creation in line with the findings of socio-economic studies conducted for Al-Faw and UBM.

- Local communities, local cultures and traditions, and any traditional/tribal land use rights are respected; local communities are not denied access to sacred, spiritual, cultural and natural sites.
- A participative governance mechanism is adopted, including advisory and consultative platforms with adequate local community representation in the decision-making processes of planning, development, management and monitoring.
- An effective communication mechanism on knowledge and information sharing with local communities is in place using language, form, and tools which facilitate access and understanding of adopted strategies and programs.
- Traditional and local knowledge is captured and utilized in the sites' planning, management, learning, interpretation, and presentation.
- Local employment is prioritised at the sites and linked to operations.
- Local economic development is supported through fair trade practices, support to local entrepreneurship and generation of investment opportunities that prioritise local private sector/ SMEs.
- Local communities are primary beneficiaries (direct and indirect) of joint (HC-NCW) capacity building programs in terms of local institutions, entrepreneur support, conservation work (including traditional building techniques), site management, guiding and tourism service provision.
- Best international standards of social safeguards are adhered to and implemented to ensure local communities are not exploited.
- Community development is supported across the different community groups.
- Equitable access to resources (within an environmentally sustainable framework) and development benefits is supported across all stakeholder groups (Leave no one behind).
- Tourism awareness and training is provided to local communities.
- Site linked activities do not jeopardize the provision of basic services, such as water, energy, or sanitation to neighbouring communities.
- A transparent mechanism for grievances accessible to all local groups including women and youth is in place.

#### **Principle 5: Sustainable planning and management**

This principle guides policies for the planning of infrastructure and development projects and the management of facilities and utilities within the shared zones.

- Zoning, spatial strategies, and infrastructure planning are respectful of cultural heritage and supportive of biodiversity conservation and regenerative landscape creation.
- Development guidelines are developed jointly for identified development zones, and ensure a homogeneous and complementary development across both sites:
- The natural and cultural environment is considered through careful attention to form, landscaping and colour, as well as the use of local and traditional materials.
- Landscape design uses native species only in compliance with NCW's guidelines on landscaping, rehabilitation, and afforestation.
- Planning and development impacts on the natural environment and cultural attributes are assessed using the new global framework on Impact Assessment (IA) and are controlled and monitored to be of minimal impact and will adhere to a mitigation hierarchy.
- Effective solid waste management systems are in place and are monitored.



- A sustainable transportation strategy will be implemented, to limit and control vehicle access through the site area, and prioritising sustainable and low impact transportation across the site area.
- Joint planning mechanisms to be established to support sustainable development, including restoration of affected areas, solid waste and wastewater management, water security, light and noise pollution (the site will be nominated as a Dark Sky site).
- Studies on resilience and risk management such as climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and disaster risk management plans are shared and in place for future planning and management.





## **Annex 4: Preliminary Research Strategy**

### **Al-Faw Archaeological Area Research Strategy**

*A working document*

**January 2024**

**v.1**

Note: This is a working document that will be presented for review and approval to the Scientific Committee (First Meeting planned for March 2024). It will also be presented to the scholars participating in the Al-Faw Archaeological Area Symposium, planned to take place in October 2024, thus ensuring consultation and engagement to encourage participation in research activities.

#### **1. Introduction**

The Research Strategy for Al-Faw Archaeological Area is the latest stage of research following 36 years (1972-2008) of research led by King Saud University (KSU) and a 2-year mission (2021-2023) led by the Heritage Commission (HC) also involving KSU. This strategy builds on the current knowledge of the site (Annex 5: Bibliography).

The ancient abundance of water at Al-Faw Archaeological Area underpins its value over the course of human occupation. The relict landscape today evokes extreme conditions for human survival. It has also witnessed climatic changes in the interior of Arabia across several millennia, from being significantly wetter than today, to a drier region, and finally to one of the driest deserts in the world. The oldest human traces on the landscape date back to the Prehistoric period (Paleolithic and Neolithic), followed by many remains associated with the Protohistoric period (Bronze Age stone structures and tumuli). It was the home of an antique caravan city dating from 4th C BCE to 4th C CE, showcasing a rich urban and architectural legacy, and a vast irrigation network sustaining an area of impressive dimensions.

This Research Strategy aims to increase the understanding and knowledge about the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) under criteria (ii), (iv) and (v), and to build a more comprehensive narrative of the occupation of the site. The key themes to explore further are:

- a. (ii) The testimony to the cultural interchange and the exchange of values between the resident desert tribes and other groups, including merchants and traders that frequented the region over time.
- b. (iv) The exceptionally well-preserved Protohistoric landscape that exhibits monumental, urban and rural creations: dwellings, administrative and religious buildings, caravanserais and a merchant quarter, various necropolises, and a vast agricultural area with a sophisticated water management system.
- c. (v) The ecological evolution experienced by human communities (including hunting and domestication) since Prehistoric times reflected in the rock carvings and petroglyphs.

#### **2. Framework of the Research Strategy**

##### **Scientific Committee**

The Scientific Committee is composed of professionals, academics, and researchers from different fields who come together to oversee the development and implementation of Al-Faw's research and conservation programmes. It is comprised of two sub-teams: Research and Conservation. The Committee members are scheduled to meet quarterly, and more often should the need arise. The roles of the Scientific Committee are as follows:



- Deepen knowledge of the resources and attributes of the Al-Faw Archaeological Area, including its archaeological, architectural, artistic, landscape and scientific values.
- Provide new multidisciplinary perspectives on the values of the Nominated Property.
- Provide guidelines and criteria relative to the conservation and development of the exceptionality, authenticity, and integrity of the Nominated Property.
- Identify new research priorities and review specialized studies and reports about the Nominated Property.
- Promote active international scientific cooperation focused on Al-Faw Archaeological Area, and on comparable sites in the country and beyond.

### Implementation Teams

The Research and Conservation Teams are set up to implement the research activities outlined in this strategy. The main research focus will be on archaeology and site conservation methods, and will extend to also include interpretation planning, site documentation and data management. Both teams are managed by expert leads and the Archaeology Director at Al-Faw, ensuring synergy between the teams, additionally this synergy is ensured through the supervision of the Committee.

| Scientific Committee                                       | Research Team  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Co-head:</b> Dr. Abdullah Alzahrani<br>(Archaeology GM) | <b>Research Team Co-Lead:</b> Dr. Abdullah Alzahrani (Archaeology GM)        |  |
| <b>Co-head:</b> Arc. Norah Alkhamis (WH GM)                | <b>Research Team Co-Lead:</b> Giorgia Cesaro (Archaeology Director- SMU)     |  |
| Research Prog. Leads                                       | World Heritage Expert  | Documentation & Data Management Expert |
| Conservation Prog. Leads                                   | Scientific Coordinator   | Natural Heritage Expert                |
| Scientific Coordinator                                     | General Coordinator  | Archaeology Expert (Prehistory)        |
| NCW Research Representative                                | Editorial Coordinator  | Archaeology Expert (Ancient history)   |
| Interpretation Expert                                      | Field Coordinator  | Archaeology Expert (Epigraphy)         |
| Conservation Advisor 1                                     | Heritage Interpretation Expert   |  |
| Conservation Advisor 2                                     | Intangible Heritage Expert   |  |
| Heritage Documentation Advisor                             | Conservation Team  |  |
| Archaeology Advisor (Prehistory)                           | <b>Conservation Team Co-Lead:</b> Benjamin Marcus (Conservation Prog. Lead)  |  |
| Archaeology Advisor (Ancient history)                      | <b>Conservation Team Co-Lead:</b> Giorgia Cesaro (Archaeology Director- SMU) |  |
| Archaeology Advisor (Epigraphy)                            | Scientific Coordinator   | Coordinating Conservation Architect    |
| Archaeology Advisor (Geology)                              | General Coordinator  | Structural Engineer                    |
|  | Conservation Architect   | Conservation Consultant (Research Lab) |
|  | Hydrologist  | Archaeologist                          |

Fig.1 Scientific Committee and Teams structure

## 3. Key Challenges

### 3.1 Current state

Research over the last decades has focused on understanding the general archaeological features of Al-Faw and their chronology. The excavations conducted by KSU from 1972 to 2008 uncovered archaeological, architectural, and epigraphic material of a capital city of tribal principalities that played a major regional political and commercial role in the Antiquity. However, rock art and Protohistoric vestiges in the area were less studied in this first phase, and the lack of detailed mapping made it difficult to understand the inner organization and environmental context of the wider archaeological landscape.



In view of this, the Heritage Commission inaugurated a broader archaeological approach in 2021 to fill in these scientific gaps. New studies were commissioned regarding the paleoenvironment and hydrology, the spatial distribution of remains, the dating of the main documented archaeological features, and to put into perspective the unique relevance and potential of Al-Faw among other Arabian settlements and oases. Four seasons of this new programme led by HC, yielded the first complete mapping of the landscape and refined the understanding and dating of the site by soundings and radiocarbon dating. Along with these studies, an ambitious conservation approach was adopted to consolidate some of the exposed architectural remains, in preparation for the future opening of the site to the public.

### **3.2 Research Gaps**

Thanks to the recent focused research, gaps have been identified highlighting the need for further investigations around the broad themes of the OUV, specifically on the following subjects:

- Human activities in the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods in the area
- Environmental evolution of the Al-Faw area (bioarchaeological approach)
- Collecting sufficient data to fill gaps in the chronology
- The land-use and territoriality of Protohistoric population through the study of funerary/pendant avenues
- The long-range connectivity of the Protohistoric population with the Dilmun civilization
- The birth of the settlement and its evolution into a full-grown city
- Ethnicity of the populations of Al-Faw based on epigraphy
- Long-distance contacts based on epigraphy and the circulation of artefacts.

## **4. Strategic Actions**

### **4.1 Integrated approach to implement the research strategy**

The formation of a Scientific Committee, comprising professionals with diverse expertise in archaeology and conservation, will facilitate close collaboration between the two fields at the Al-Faw Archaeological Area. This will bring several benefits to the research and conservation efforts:

1. Integrated Approach: conservators and archaeologists can combine their expertise to develop comprehensive strategies that consider both the conservation and study of archaeological structures. This ensures that research efforts undertaken are in line with conservation goals and vice versa.
2. Preservation of Context: conservators and archaeologists can work closely to identify the significance of findings, their original placement, and their relationship to the site. This contextual understanding is crucial for making informed decisions about conservation treatments and ensuring integrity.
3. Enhanced Documentation: conservators can provide valuable input on the documentation of structures, materials, and conservation treatments. This results in more accurate and detailed records, which are essential for future research, interpretation, and preservation efforts.

### **4.2 Dissemination and communication**

Updates on research will be communicated through scientific and general publications, public programming (e.g., public talks), and a periodic scientific symposium. A Dissemination and Communication Plan is being developed by the Research and Conservation Teams and will be presented for approval by the Scientific Committee by end of 2024.

HC has already planned several activities to extend its outreach to scholars and researchers. First, HC conducted online the 'Al-Faw Research Thematic Workshop' on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023,



bringing together archaeologists and scholars that had published works on Al-Faw or conducted studies in its vicinity. This resulted in the identification of relevant thematic research areas to be presented to the Scientific Committee (see section 5.5). Moreover, an international scientific symposium on Al-Faw is planned to take place in 2024 to present the results from the research seasons conducted in 2021-2023 and help map interested organizations and researchers in the field. International and Saudi experts and academics are invited to participate. The publication of the proceedings of the symposium will be done by the Research Team and revised by the Scientific Committee.

Periodic symposia to present recent findings will be a platform to also discuss the research strategy's actions and priorities through workshops and round table discussions. Where relevant, the recommendations made will be adopted by the Scientific Committee in their subsequent meeting.

#### **4.3 Connection with other research in the region**

Al-Faw Archaeological Area shares many similarities with other sites in the region in terms of four main axes: (i) historic caravan cities and sites, (ii) desert archaeological cities, (iii) cultural landscapes, and (iv) necropolises and tombs. Archaeological artefacts from the Antique city show that it hosted the same ancient regional civilizations of south and northwest Arabia, along with its caravan connection with remote regions. Meanwhile, Protohistoric tombs of the Al-Faw area exhibit a direct connection with north-eastern Arabia.

Firstly, a comparative study with other historic caravan cities in northern Arabia, characterized by an active oasis supporting the development of a settlement, such as Tayma and Dadan, is indispensable. The ongoing collaboration between the HC and the Royal Commission for AlUla will be expanded to cover this research. Secondly, the Al-Faw research program also aims to explore the connections with Dilmun civilizations in terms of burial architecture and practices fostered by a potentially existent Protohistoric trade corridor between the two regions during the Bronze Age. In consideration of the World Heritage status of Qal'at al-Bahrain, the Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun, the already ongoing scientific collaboration between Saudi and Danish scholars can be expanded under the auspices of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH).

#### **4.4 Developing collaborative research projects**

Collaboration between academic institutes in Saudi Arabia and international research institutes is integral to the success of this strategy. The key role of KSU in furthering understanding of the site will continue under a framework managed by the HC, in addition to KSU selected staff being already part of the Scientific Committee and the Research Team.

Interested organizations are to be approached through a Call for Research Proposals, whose thematic priorities will be defined by the Scientific Committee. Researchers should propose a topic that builds upon previous research and aligns with this Strategy and its research priorities, HC policies, guidelines, and standards.

#### **4.5 Capacity building**

Emphasis is to be placed on ensuring on-the-job training for Saudi and international students on all missions and projects. A key initiative to relaunch is the involvement of KSU students in research and conservation activities as part of the overarching MOU that was signed between the Ministry of Culture (MOC) and KSU in December 2021. Additionally, PhDs on Al-Faw will be encouraged to fill in identified gaps.

Moreover, on the ground research and conservation activities must engage the local community groups through training in key skills that include conservation monitoring and maintenance. Local groups identified involve the earthen building craftsmen, young scouts, and heritage enthusiasts including local private heritage museum owners. These groups'



members have wide ranging skills that can be of benefit to the research activities. They can also act as mediators with the local community for the Research and Conservation Teams.

#### 4.6 Documentation and data management

Documentation is the first step towards the understanding of the site. Systematic documentation will support all the research stages and further site monitoring. The documentation strategy has three areas of focus: 1) Archival Research, 2) Site Data Collection, and 3) Dissemination and Data Storage.

##### 4.6.1 Archival research:

Legacy data of previous excavations and surveys will be collated and inventoried. The existing GIS of Al-Faw will be organized and made accessible to the working teams. Moreover, a project for digitizing existing archives will be implemented (2024-2027), as there is a wealth of data in hard copies from previous excavations and missions that needs to be available to support research efforts. The archive at KSU includes photography, cine films, maps, illustrations and field notes. Using this data, an artefact mapping project will be launched to identify the locations of each found object in the site on the GIS.

##### 4.6.2 Site data collection:

The documentation survey conducted during 2021 gathered baseline information essential for the Archaeological Research and Conservation Management Plan (CMP) of 2022. This included 3D scanning of key areas ("souk", city, and tombs), and aerial photogrammetry to produce an orthophoto of the site. Additionally, a GIS database was compiled, consisting of approximately 12,000 archaeological features.

As part of the present Strategy, additional documentation efforts will include two levels of scale: A) landscape and B) structures/features.

A) **Landscape:** Aims to explore and map at a large scale the proposed Nominated Property (World Heritage boundaries), its Buffer Zone and other identified areas of research in the wider setting. It will support not only archaeological research, but other fields such as hydrological, structural studies, geomorphology, archaeobotany, archaeozoology (see 5.4).

**Methods:** Remote sensing techniques, i.e. satellite images and aerial photogrammetry (taken by drone) to identify new areas of research and map the existing landscape, conduct archaeological and environmental survey, and probing in the different environmental contexts of the area (plateau, foothill, plan).

**Expected Deliverables:** Baseline site orthophoto, Digital Elevation Model (DEM), 3D model, and new findings mapped.

B) **Structures:** Focuses on documenting specific structures, i.e. pilot case studies for conservation, rock art, excavation or material testing areas. Areas to be fully recorded should be the Centre, "souk", tapered structures, burial mounds, caravanserai, hydraulic structures, the ancient cemetery the variety of tombs, and other attributes contributing to the OUV e.g. rock art (see 5.4).

**Methods:** Aerial and terrestrial photogrammetry, rock art monitoring and condition assessment forms (baseline for future monitoring), excavation, archaeometric analysis, radiometric dating, and isotopic analysis.

**Expected Deliverables:** 3D models and set of drawings (floor plan, elevations, and sections) of the selected structures; completed rock art monitoring forms (long term); database of structures and artefacts.

##### 4.6.3 Dissemination and data management:

The results of the research and surveys conducted could also be used towards the interpretation of the site and storytelling to the broader public (see 4.7).





The legacy data and the new data collected and processed will be centralized and stored on the MoC online server (MoC established system) in a systematic way. The data of the site should follow MoC and HC protocols, including folder structure and folder naming. It will be made available through an online GIS or a Content Management System, and data can be extracted in other formats such as CSV files. It will have a dedicated data manager responsible to follow and control the process.

#### **4.7 Interpretation**

A long-term interpretation plan is to be developed based on the past and current research, ensuring the site is presented with key messages and tools to communicate these messages in the most effective manner. Different audience groups will be targeted, such as local communities, families, school children, young adults, national and foreign tourists. Interpretative content will also consider the heritage enthusiasts and historians who make a smaller percentage of visitors.

This long-term plan must take into consideration the intangible heritage of the area, the tribal history, trade routes that cross Al-Faw, and way of life that has evidence in the site and is still practiced today by the local community. The plan is to be completed and presented to the Scientific Committee for approval by late 2025 to inform the design of future interpretative infrastructure, tools, and programs. A short-term interpretation plan is prepared for the temporary opening in early 2025, this too will be reviewed by the Committee for approval.

#### **4.8 Delivery and monitoring**

This Research Strategy will require regular review of progress, on an annual basis, by the Scientific Committee. Revisions can be made during the review stage to be approved by the Chairs of the Committee.

### **5. Research priorities**

The following are priorities for the Research and Conservation Teams to implement and/or commission and direct.

#### **5.1 Oral testimonies (2024-2027)**

A 3-year oral history project is to be developed to capture stories of the area through in-depth interviews by the site team with the community living around the site, members who have contributed to the research missions (as guards, assistants, etc.), and with the KSU researchers who have worked on Al-Faw since the 1970s.

#### **5.2 Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Inventory (2023-2024)**

The mapping of ICH elements practiced by the local communities around Al-Faw is a key initiative to understand the communities and their heritage, and also to identify the opportunities to link this heritage to the site (e.g. *bakhūr* [incense] making tradition that is still practiced today in Wadi ad-Dawasir is reminiscent to the incense burners found in the site). This would also support the practices' transmission to new generations and a positive socio-economic impact. This mapping project and future safeguarding measures development are led by the Intangible Heritage sector of the HC, which is working closely with the site team and key NGOs.

#### **5.3 Climate risk assessment and development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies**

Climate change has become one of the most significant threats to heritage sites, including Al-Faw Archaeological Area. It can have an adverse impact on the proposed OUV, including its integrity and authenticity. The aim of this risk assessment (2024-2026) is to prepare the site management team to respond to the potential impact of climate change on Al-Faw site, by assessing risks and proposing mitigation strategies.





This study will also feed into the conservation strategy as it will record long-term climate data at the site and assess the direct risk to archaeological structures from, for example, flash flooding and extreme precipitation. Moreover, the adaptation actions will inform the visitor management plan and propose solutions that can enhance visitor experience in the harsh desert climate.

#### **5.4 Conservation research**

The conservation research aims to provide scientific rationale and practical methodologies for the conservation and maintenance of the site. The conservation research plan is carried out in phases including conditions assessment, testing and evaluation of conservation treatments and materials, and implementation of treatments. In detail, these phases include:

##### Phase 1- Condition assessment (2024):

Assessments at Al-Faw have been underway since 2022 including material sampling and characterization and evaluation of potential treatment measures. As outlined in 4.6, complete baseline documentation is planned to be completed by end of 2024, followed by the detailed condition assessment phase.

This phase will include an assessment of all deterioration factors affecting the site including structural evaluation to determine the stability of building elements, such as the tower-tombs and “souk” walls, with plans for emergency shoring of critical areas as necessary. Simultaneously, hydrological assessment aims to improve site drainage and prevent the considerable water-related damage that impacts the site. As part of this research, environmental monitoring via an on-site weather station will provide real-time data on a range of weather parameters to inform conservation efforts.

Graphic documentation will complement these assessments, utilizing a glossary of deterioration patterns to map and quantify building material types and the deterioration conditions affecting them. Inspection and monitoring forms have been developed for recording the condition of archaeological features outside the central zone including rock art, tapered structures and Bronze Age tombs. Finally, data management is critical for this and all subsequent phases including maintaining a central repository of reports, images and research related to conservation and archaeological research.

##### Phase 2 - Develop & test conservation treatments for central area (2024-2025):

This phase involves the development and testing of conservation treatment methods and materials for the central area, which has the most critical deterioration. Initial steps already completed include sampling and material characterization, focusing research on the chemical, petrographic, and physical-mechanical properties of Al-Faw’s building materials. Also, underway is the research and testing of consolidation and stabilization measures, along with work in the laboratory to develop mortars, grouts, and capping materials.

Subsequent phases include on-site testing of repair mortars, accelerated aging testing of these treatment methods in the laboratory, and the development of post-treatment monitoring protocols. Under consideration is the potential sheltering of selected areas of the site, which will require a feasibility study including microclimate data monitoring and interpretation, geotechnical evaluation, design concepts, and input from archaeological research regarding potential impact of excavation for foundations, drainage, etc.

##### Phase 3 - Pilot conservation works in central area (2024- Q1 2025):

Pilot conservation works will test within real parameters the efficacy of conservation treatments on representative building typologies including the residential structure, the “souk”, tower tombs, and a stone tomb. Collaboration with archaeological teams is essential to deep clean areas of windblown sand and document the uncovered features. Preparation includes

selecting trial areas, establishing depots for tools and materials, and ensuring shelter for works as needed.

Conservation methods will be tested on earthen and stone walls, with a focus on stabilization, repairs, and structural interventions. Preventive measures, including drainage improvements and partial reburial techniques, will also be tested and monitored and this work would be carried out by both conservators and archaeologists. Training and capacity-building initiatives are also planned to coincide with on-site phases of these works.

**Phase 4 - Evaluation of pilot conservation interventions in central area (Q2-Q3 2025):**

An evaluation period will assess the long-term, in situ efficacy of treated walls and surfaces. Based on the results, detailed specifications and protocols will be developed to guide future conservation efforts for the entire site, including the role of archaeology in clarifying the site. During this period, temporary site visitation amenities, including pathways, signage, and viewing platforms would be in place. Preliminary designs have already been developed for this visitor experience and are undergoing impact assessment.

**Phase 5 - Central area conservation implementation (2026-2029):**

This phase involves establishing on-site workshops, contracting qualified technicians, and implementing long-term conservation protocols throughout the site. Training will be provided to technicians to carry out the work, project team members and local stakeholders, with comprehensive reporting on completed work and recommendations for monitoring and maintenance. The collaboration of the archaeology team will be critical in this work to expose walls long covered in debris and wind-blown sand, document the revealed portions, and record information related to the morphology and significance of the zones.

**5.5 Archaeology Research**

The archaeological research within Al-Faw Archaeological Area comprises a preliminary proposal of the short-term (2024-2025) and long-term (2025-2029) programs. Both programs must be guided by the conservation priorities (aligned with 5.4), especially where the structures exhibit a sensitive state of conservation. The research areas that will be prioritized in each program are as follows:

**The short-term program (2024-2025)**

The short-term program serves as a transitional phase connecting previous research to a forthcoming long-term program. Regarding the Protohistoric period, the excavation conducted in the previous season in a tomb (QF00697) will be finalised, and new excavations will start on some selected tombs (autumn 2025). These excavations are expected to further clarify the area's connection with the Dilmun civilization. Meanwhile, the research plan for the ancient city includes soundings to clarify the function and chronology of the fort/caravanserai, and the cleaning of a tomb located to the north of the town for assessment (autumn 2025). Prior to these, ground surveys are scheduled to uncover connections within different regions of the ancient site (winter 2024).

|   | Research area                      | Historical period | Type of work | Work period | Objectives   |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | Northern and Southern Necropolises | Protohistory      | Excavation   | Q3 2025     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalizing excavation of cruciform tomb QF00697.</li> <li>- Excavations of tombs to further clarify the connection with the Dilmun civilization.</li> </ul> |
| 2 | Fort/caravanserai QF3587           | Antiquity         | Sounding     | Q3 2025     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifying the function and date of the structure.</li> </ul>   |



|   |                                   |           |   |         |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|---------|---|
| 3 | A grave north of the ancient city | Antiquity | Cleaning  | Q3 2025 | - Assessment of the potential of QF03352.   |
| 4 | Connectivity within Al-Faw        | Antiquity | Ground survey (visual observations) and digital mapping (GIS) | Q4 2024 | - Identifying paths between different areas (residential area, farms, tombs, "souk", fort/caravanserai etc.). |

#### The long-term program (2025-2029)

The long-term program is a five-year plan implemented based on the results of the short-term program. Therefore, there may be some modifications to its details explained below. The schedule entails conducting distribution surveys from 2025 to 2027, commencing excavations from 2026 onwards, and focusing on analytical research from 2028.

Regarding the Prehistoric and Protohistoric periods, distribution surveys will be carried out between 2025 and 2027 in the Jabal Tuwayq plateau and escarpment to map the archaeological vestiges and collect lithics. Excavations and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating of the "avenues" of tapered structures will begin in 2026, aiming to reveal their function and chronology. The survey and excavations also aim to clarify human mobility patterns across Prehistoric and Protohistoric periods. Excavation surveys of tumuli, cairns and cruciform tombs will start in 2026 to clarify architectural features, with radiocarbon dating, OSL, and isotope analysis utilized to establish a chronological framework and the site's long-distance connectivity, especially with the Dilmun civilization.

In the ancient context, excavations of the settlement on the outskirts of the ancient city will start in 2026, followed by bioarchaeological and geomorphological studies of faunal remains in the wadi from 2028 onwards. These efforts aim to reveal the formation of the city and the environmental factors that supported urban life. In addition, excavations of Tall al-Fukhar, which served as the dump site of the ancient city, will begin in 2026 to examine the material culture. The cleaning and excavations of monumental tombs, residential quarters, and the "souk" access gate will start in 2026, and will help understand architectural structures, while the data gathered will also contribute to the restoration processes. A large quantity of pottery is expected to be collected through these excavations. From 2028 onwards, the pottery's typological classification and archaeometry analyses will be conducted to determine their origins and production techniques to construct a systematic chronological framework.

As for rock art and inscriptions, the survey and mapping on Jabal Tuwayq escarpment is scheduled from 2025 to 2026. The pXRF analyses will also be conducted to obtain the absolute date of rock art and inscriptions. Furthermore, a systematic inventory of all inscriptions found in the entire area will start in 2027. This inventory will facilitate comparative studies of elements such as personal names, scripts, and languages, shedding light on the ethnicity of the inhabitants and travellers in this region.



| Research area |   | Historical period        | Type of work   | Work period | Objectives  |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| 1             | Jabal Tuwayq plateau and escarpment                     | Prehistory/ Protohistory | Survey (mapping, ground sampling)  | 2025-2027   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delving deeper into the region's historical context from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age.</li> <li>- Locating and mapping ancient settlements, stone structures and lithics.</li> <li>- Classifying lithics, assessing their density, and identifying sites of flintknapping workshops.</li> <li>- Tracing the inhabitants' movement from the Palaeolithic to Bronze Age to better understand the factors that contributed to the later development of the area.</li> </ul> |
| 2             | "Avenues" of tapered structures                         | Protohistory             | Excavations (soundings / OSL)  | 2026-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifying function of tapered structures and establishing chronology.</li> </ul>  |
| 3             | Tumuli and cairns<br>Cruciform tombs: Dilmun connection | Protohistory             | Excavations (soundings, C14 dating, OSL, isotopic analysis [diet, mobility]) | 2026-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifying architectural styles and techniques.</li> <li>- Investigating the site's long-distance connectivity, especially with the Dilmun civilization.</li> <li>- Establishing the chronology of burial structures of Al-Faw.</li> </ul>   |
| 4             | Settlement on the outskirts of the ancient city         | Antiquity                | Excavations  | 2026-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifying the origin and formation of the ancient city.</li> </ul>  |
| 5             | The environment of Al-Faw Oasis                         | Antiquity                | Bioarchaeological and geomorphological analyses, OSL                         | 2028-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study of faunal remains to assess the animal-related economy (archaeozoology).</li> <li>- Study of botanical remains to assess the economy and plant cover (archaeobotany).</li> <li>- Study of the land cover, irrigation system and its dating (geomorphology).</li> </ul>   |
| 6             | Tall al-Fukhar (the dump site of the ancient city)      | Antiquity                | Excavations  | 2026-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing insights into the waste management practices, material culture, and the daily life of the inhabitants.</li> </ul>  |
| 7             | Monumental tombs of Qaryat Al-Faw                       | Antiquity                | Cleaning and Excavations, C14 dating, isotopic analysis (diet)               | 2026-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removing spoils around the monumental tombs to be sieved to collect any bones and pottery sherds that may be present (cleaning).</li> <li>- Typological studies and dating of the tomb structures (excavations).</li> <li>- Clarifying religious beliefs, economic activities, and social dynamics of the community.</li> <li>- Clarifying the architectural structure of tombs to contribute to the restoration process.</li> </ul>   |
| 8             | Residential area excavation                             | Antiquity                | Excavation   | 2026-2029   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensively uncovering the remnants of the residential area and other interconnected architectural units.</li> </ul>   |



|    |   |                        |  |           |   |
|----|---|------------------------|--|-----------|---|
| 9  | The "souk" access gate                  | Antiquity              | Spot excavation  | 2026-2027 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifying design, function, and significance of the gate within the overall urban layout of Qaryat Al-Faw.</li> <li>- Accompanying the restoration process</li> </ul>                 |
| 10 | Pottery – all areas                     | Antiquity              | Typology and archaeometry (residue analyses, composition analyses)                   | 2028-2029 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarifying the pottery technology and provenance.</li> <li>- Establishing pottery chronology.</li> </ul>   |
| 11 | Rock art on the Jabal Tuwayq escarpment | Prehistory – antiquity | Survey and documentation with image enhancement; Archaeometry (pXRF experimentation) | 2025-2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive documentation, mapping, and study of the rock art between al-Nugrah to the north of Fardat Al-Faw.</li> <li>- Testing a portable Raman dating protocol (pXRF)</li> </ul> |
| 12 | Rock inscriptions – all areas           | Antiquity              | Systematic inventory   | 2027-2029 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding the ethnicity of the population of the area through the analyses of the theophoric names, scripts, and languages.</li> </ul>   |



## **Annex 5:** **Bibliography for Al-Faw Archaeological Area Preliminary Research Strategy**

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