

State of conservation report.2023

Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib

In compliance with paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines

Name of World Heritage property

Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (**Yemen**).

(State(s) Party(ies)) (**Yemen**). Identification number: ID 1700

Executive Summary of the report

The cities and landmarks of the ancient Kingdom of Saba are one of the World Heritage sites that were registered in the year 2023, and are also registered on the danger list, due to the conditions that Yemen has been going through recently.

- a. **Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee**

The Office of the Department of Antiquities in Marib, affiliated with the Antiquities and Museums Authority, operates in accordance with the Authority's law of 2013 and the tasks, powers, and regulations of the Authority in accordance with this law.

- **Projects:**

Since the sites and landmarks of the Kingdom of Saba were registered on the UNESCO list in January 2023, there are no projects related to the sites, as the area is still not well safe, especially in the ancient city of Sirwah, and the ancient Ma'rab Dam, whether field visits to inspect the archaeological sites, and work on fencing them. Proposals were submitted to several donors to fence the sites and take care of them, but no project was started in those sites.

Difficulties and challenges of project implementation:

1. One of the most prominent difficulties is the lack of confidence of donors in presenting projects on sites due to the current situation in the country (Yemen), and therefore we are still trying to request support and implementation through the local authority and the Antiquities Office in Marib.
2. There is no competency training from Ma'rib sites.

1. Projects of the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) in the city of Marib

The meeting was held at the Alef Organization Forum in March 2023, and proposals were presented to work and begin the protection plan for archaeological sites and monuments in Marib. It was suggested that the Arab Regional Center in Bahrain be the body with which coordination will be made to begin the projects, but we are still waiting for any communication from them.

World Monuments Fund- New York

Dr. Ali Tueaiman, Vice President of the Historic Cities Authority, visited the headquarters in New York to implement projects on the cities and landmarks of the Kingdom of Saba registered with UNESCO, but at the time of writing the report, we have not received any development or response in this aspect.

Recommendations:

Intensifying communication with international organizations and donors:

Due to the inability of the Yemeni government to submit projects and implement them due to the situation in the country (Yemen), communication was intensified, and channels of communication were opened with international organizations working in the field of cultural heritage with the need to intervene to protect the monuments of the ancient Kingdom of Saba.

1. The government recommends increasing the provision of financial technical support through the UNESCO Emergency Fund and implementing the emergency action plan to protect cultural heritage in Yemen, including financing capacity building, restoration of damaged monuments, and protection measures, especially in the city of Marib, the ancient Marib Dam, the city of Sirwah, and the temples of the Marib Oasis. It has exceptional value.

2. The State Party seeks to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value by implementing several possible measures in light of weak laws and legislation and weak funding.

3. Maintaining non-encroachment on the site by drawing modern plans for infrastructure in Marib

Governorate

4. Monitoring the site and protecting it from natural disasters, especially rainwater, humidity, heat, and drought.