

State of Libya
Old Town of Ghadames (C-362)
World Heritage Site
Annual report (2023)

Property Data:

- Name of World Heritage Property; Old Town of Ghadamès
- State Party; Libya
- Identification Number; C 362
- Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage; 1986
- Type of Property; Cultural
- Geographic Information (Lat/Long); 30° 08' 00.44" N, 09° 29' 50.30" E
- Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in danger; 2016
- Property Area; 287.590 ha.
- Government Institutions Responsible for the Property; Ghadames City Promotion and Development Authority (GCPDA)
- Criteria; (V)
- Previous Committee Decisions; Decisions 40 COM 7A.40, Decision 41 COM 8C.2 adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), Decision: 42 COM 7A.25 adopted at its 42st session (Manama, 2018). Decision 43 com 7A.26 adopted at its 43st session (Backu, Azerbaijan, 2019), Decision 44 COM 7A.14, adopted at its 44th session (Fuzhou (China)/Online meeting, 2021), and Decision 45 COM 7A.36, adopted at its 45th session (Extended forty-fifth session Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 10-25 September 2023)



January 2024

2. Executive Summary:

The State of Party, (Libya) would like to express its gratitude to the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and its advisory bodies for the efforts and endeavor's they have undertaken to monitor the status of the Old Town of Ghadamès (the Property) in order to remove it from the list of endangered sites.

This report has been prepared, in accordance with Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and compiled in response to WH Committee Decisions;

The World Heritage Committee held its 45 sessions, (Extended forty-fifth session Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 10-25 September 2023), Discussion 45 COM 7A.36, in which the committee:

1. ***Commends the important efforts made by the State Party to mobilize partners and undertake activities for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly those directed towards the implementation of corrective measures for the achievement of the (DSOCR), as adopted by the Committee at its previous session, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard;***
 - We assure that this effort is ongoing
2. ***Encourages the State Party to finalize the development of a management plan for the property, including a risk preparedness plan, taking into account the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical review;***
 - Both, the management plan, and the Preparedness plan was finalized and submitted to the world heritage center.
3. ***Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed about the progress in ongoing capacity-building activities, including the implementation of the Visitor Centre project at the Alaally building;***
 - Five training courses have been implemented during 2023, and the Alaally building (Visitors Center) was completed. The attached video (00:15:30 min.) shows the deferent stages of the project.
4. ***Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and more, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session;***
5. ***The green Scale insect spread in Ghadames***

At the end of the fruit harvesting season in Ghadames, the presence of the green scale insect was noticed on the palm leaves, and immediate action was taken to coordinate between the competent authorities such as the municipality, the agriculture office, and others. We communicated with the National Centre for Prevention and Agricultural Quarantine at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Tripoli.

The GCPDA will continue to make the WHC aware of the evolving status of the property, of any new measures taken to ensure its protection and preservation and provide detailed information on the work accomplished;
6. ***The state party recommend that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission, requested by the Committee at its previous sessions and previously invited by the State Party, be undertaken as the conditions permits, in order to evaluate the state of conservation of the property.***
7. ***Here we mention again that since 2011 the people of Ghadamès have shown unflinching commitment to the protection of The Old Town of Ghadames; "the Pearl of the Desert" their cultural heritage, demonstrating that such irreplaceable heritage cannot be held hostage to the conflict in the area. Libya would like to assure the WHC that there have been no security violations in the area of Ghadamès since 2011 and that the site is not in any danger and therefore should be taken off the endangered list;***
8. ***GCPDA intends to call on the international community to provide more financial and technical support, including from the Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO;***
9. ***The attached report addresses all the corrective measures required in accordance with World Heritage Committee Decision No. 45***