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Convention du
patrimoine mondial

46 COM

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**CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU
PATRIMOINE CULTUREL ET NATUREL MONDIAL**

**COMITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTAL DE LA PROTECTION
DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**Quarante-sixième session
New Delhi, Inde
21-31 juillet 2024**

**Point 8 de l'ordre du jour provisoire : Établissement de la Liste du patrimoine mondial
et de la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

8E. Adoption des déclarations rétrospectives de valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Résumé

Ce document présente pour adoption une déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle soumise par un État partie pour un bien n'ayant pas de déclaration de valeur universelle exceptionnelle adoptée au moment de son inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

L'annexe du document contient le texte intégral de la déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle dans la langue dans laquelle elle a été soumise au Secrétariat.

Projet de décision : 46 COM 8E, voir point II.

I. HISTORIQUE

1. La déclaration de valeur universelle exceptionnelle est un élément essentiel, requis pour l'inscription d'un bien sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, qui a été introduit dans les Orientations devant guider la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial en 2005. Tous les biens inscrits depuis 2007 présentent une telle déclaration.
2. En 2007, le Comité du patrimoine mondial, dans sa décision **31 COM 11D.1**, a demandé que les déclarations de valeur universelle exceptionnelle soient rétrospectivement élaborées et adoptées pour tous les biens du patrimoine mondial inscrits entre 1978 et 2006.
3. Par conséquent, les États parties ont rédigé, pour les biens du patrimoine mondial situés sur leur territoire, des projets de déclarations rétrospectives de valeur universelle exceptionnelle qui sont ensuite révisés par le Secrétariat et l'(les) Organisation(s) consultative(s) concernée(s) strictement en rapport avec les informations pertinentes fournies dans les documents officiels et examinées au moment de l'inscription.
4. Ce document présente un projet de déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle, pour laquelle le processus de révision a été finalisé depuis la 45^e session élargie du Comité du patrimoine mondial (Riyad, 2023), pour adoption par le Comité du patrimoine mondial.
5. Le texte du projet de déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle est inclus dans l'annexe de ce document et est présenté dans la langue dans laquelle ils ont été soumis au Secrétariat. Une fois adoptée, la déclaration sera traduite dans l'autre langue de travail du Comité et publiée sur le site internet du Centre du patrimoine mondial.
6. Depuis 2009, le Comité du patrimoine mondial a adopté 771 déclarations rétrospectives. 37 déclarations doivent encore être finalisées et présentées au Comité : 2 en Afrique, 2 en Amérique latine et Caraïbes, 9 en Asie et Pacifique, 4 dans les États arabes, et 20 en Europe et Amérique du Nord.
7. En conformité avec le paragraphe 155 des Orientations, le Centre du patrimoine mondial continuera automatiquement les mises à jour des déclarations de valeur universelle exceptionnelle à la suite de décisions qui seront prises par le Comité concernant un changement de nom du bien et des changements de la superficie à la suite de modifications mineures des limites. Le Centre corrigera également les erreurs factuelles, en accord avec les Organisations consultatives pertinentes.

II. PROJET DE DÉCISION

Projet de décision : 46 COM 8E

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial,

1. *Ayant examiné le document WHC/24/46.COM/8E,*
2. *Félicite l'État partie pour le travail accompli dans l'élaboration de la déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle ;*
3. *Adopte la déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle, telle que présentée dans l'annexe du document WHC/24/46.COM/8E, pour le bien du patrimoine mondial suivant :*

ÉTATS ARABES

- *Libye, Site archéologique de Leptis Magna ;*
4. *Note que les déclarations rétrospectives de valeur universelle exceptionnelle des biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril seront examinées par les Organisations consultatives en priorité ;*
 5. *Demande au Centre du patrimoine mondial de publier la déclaration rétrospective de valeur universelle exceptionnelle susmentionnée dans les deux langues sur son site internet.*

ÉTATS ARABES

Libye

Site archéologique de Leptis Magna

Brief synthesis

The ancient city of Leptis Magna was founded as a temporary trading port by the Phoenicians in the 7th century B.C.E. and expanded under the Roman Empire. It was significantly embellished by the Severan emperors in the 3rd century C.E., transforming it into one of the most splendid cities of Roman North Africa. The surviving and excavated remains of the city reflect a unique artistic realisation in the domain of urban planning and in its application of monumental display. The city demonstrates a high level of engineering skill achieved in the creation of its infrastructure with the antique port of the city, situated at the mouth of Wadi Lebda, with its artificial basin, barrage dam and canal designed to regulate the course of the Wadi Lebda, being one of the outstanding works of Roman technology.

The city of Leptis Magna provides a vivid and full picture of life in a Roman provincial city during the early and middle periods of the Roman Empire, with some buildings deviating considerably in their organization or shape from those seen at other Roman sites. Not only have remains of prestigious monuments such as arches, gates, the Severan forum, temples, baths, theatre, fortifications and amphitheatre survived, but also evidence for the essential of everyday life such as the market, with its votive arch and colonnade of shops, as well as warehouse and ateliers that attest to commercial and industrial activity.

In the 17th and 18th centuries CE, the ruins of Leptis Magna were rediscovered by travellers and came to play a major role in the elaboration of the Neo-classical aesthetic.

Criterion (i): Leptis Magna is a unique artistic realisation in the domain of urban planning and in its application of monumental display; The urban fabric of the city represents a synthesis of progressive developments and enlargements which came to a height in the Severan period; incorporating major monumental elements of that period worthy of an imperial capital. The Severan forum, the basilica and the Severan arch rank among the finest monuments known from the Roman world and were strongly influenced by African and Eastern traditions. The sculpture and carvings, including that of the Severan basilica and the Severan arch are innovative in their linear definition of forms, the crispness of their contours and the angular delineation of their volumes. The port of Leptis is one of the outstanding works of Roman technology.

Criterion (ii): The large amount of sculptures and statues found in Leptis demonstrate clearly Punic, Roman, Greek and Hellenistic influences. Aegean craftsmanship can be seen in the magnificent marble decorations on the pillars in the Severan Basilica and those on the Arch of Severus. Leptis, which was rediscovered in the 17th and 18th centuries by travellers such as Durand and Lemaire, has played a major role in the movement back to Antiquity and in the elaboration of the Neo-classic aesthetic.

Criterion (iii): The number and the variety of the structures of Leptis Magna bear witness to a vanished civilization. The site provides a full picture of life in a large provincial city through the urban, architectural and decorative aspects that have been preserved. The monuments furnish a vivid impression of the lifestyle enjoyed in the city during the early and middle periods of the Roman Empire. The city still maintains the most important elements of its antique port, including vestiges of the former warehouses and the outline of its artificial basin of nearly 102,000 m² still discernible. The market, an essential element in the every-day life of a large commercial trading centre, with its votive arch, its colonnades and its shops, has been, for the most part, preserved. The prestigious monuments, arches, gates, old forum, Severan forum, temples, baths, theatre, circus and amphitheatre all attest to the commercial, industrial, and civic activity of the city.

Integrity

The architectural heritage of Leptis Magna is very extensive and most of its principal elements are largely intact. The urban area (ca. 400 ha) offers an authentic glimpse of a great provincial city. The monuments and archaeological finds of the ancient city represent all the attributes expressed in the Outstanding Universal Value within its designated area.

Authenticity

Leptis Magna has maintained a high level of authenticity and the city has deservedly earned a reputation of having the most complete and impressive Roman ruins in the entirety of North Africa. It is largely due to a cover of wind-blown sand from the interior that Leptis Magna is so well preserved and entirely protected for 800 years.

The authenticity of the individual components and the ancient urban fabric as a whole is very high. The structures brought to light by excavations carried out in the first half of the twentieth century have been the object of consolidation, restoration and maintenance operations and, to a lesser extent, reconstruction in full respect of the original morphology of the elements involved.

Protection and management requirements

At the time of inscription, the city including all of its individual monuments and archaeological sites, was legally protected and assured by the authority of the Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the local community of Lebda through the provisions of Law No. 40/1968 governing the administration of antiquities. This was later replaced by Law No. 3/1994 and its Executive regulations/1995 issued by the General People's Congress. Leptis Magna, at the time of inscription was managed by the superintendent of Lebda region/municipality. Since 2019 the DoA has established a local office overseeing the management and protection of the property as well as the museums which hold a significant collection of excavated material, including mosaics and frescoes.

Effective protection is guaranteed through collaboration between the local authority, the development partners and the Department of Antiquities, the Urban Planning Department, local City Council, civil society associations and the Tourist and Antiquities Police. The law cited has, so far, guaranteed the preservation of the entire area of the property which, in relation to its principal areas, has not been compromised or suffered the effects of illegal building activity. Vegetal encroachment is a factor that needs constant monitoring and intervention. A buffer-zone that will limit urban development in the vicinity of the site of Leptis Magna and ensure that the neighbouring area is also conserved has been outlined and is under preparation.