

# Annex I

## Management Plan

Nomination of

### THE MINOAN PALATIAL CENTRES

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for inscription on the **World Heritage List**

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## Brief Historical Outline of the Property

Crete, prominently and strategically located in the East Mediterranean Basin, formed the bridge between the peoples and cultures of three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia, and was the cradle of a splendid prehistoric civilization that flourished in the land of Greece, the Minoan Civilization.

One of the most emblematic elements of this civilization is the establishment of eminent Palatial Centres, which functioned as seat of the ruling class that constituted and exercised authority and administrative control. It has been suggested by several scholars, including the excavator of Knossos, Arthur Evans, that the concept of the Minoan Palaces was based upon earlier palatial and administrative models applied in Egypt and Anatolia. However, the process from the formation of the first communities in Crete to the establishment of the Palatial Centres was much more complex and multilayered. Long-term social ferments gradually led from the organization of small settlements to the urban planning and designing of well organized cities centered around the palatial complexes, each of which covering a large populated area of Crete.

The Minoan Palatial Centres stand out for their unique monumental architecture, with its complex internal organization which passed into ancient Greek memory as the “Labyrinth”, as well as the various and multi-leveled aspects of this palatial civilization that flourished in the 2nd millennium BC. They constituted the administrative, economic and religious centres of a wider geographical area and housed multiple activities. They consist of a large, rectangular central court, around which are set multi-storey wings (sometimes reaching four storeys) housing various activities: residential apartments, reception areas, palatial workshops, archives, treasuries, shrines, large storerooms, kitchens, workshops, theatral areas, all providing a picture of a small, vibrant city.

The wings were furnished with *propyla* (porticoes), verandas and colonnades that opened onto light wells and inner courtyards, ensuring that the inner rooms were well lit and aired. The walls were faced with marble *orthostats* and brilliant frescoes. In the workshops, the palatial artisans produced masterpieces in gold and ivory, bronze and faience, precious and semi-precious stones, many of which were destined for export to other regions of the Aegean and the East Mediterranean.

The archaeological excavations carried out on Crete from the 19th century onwards continue to reveal this age-old civilization in all its glory. Its elements have been identified even outside its geographical boundaries, since the maritime superiority of the Cretan seafarers and their expansion across the Mediterranean brought them to prominence, at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, as a leading power. From their contact with the peoples of the Mediterranean coast through the flourishing transit trade, they absorbed elements of contemporary civilizations, shaping a unique culture that exercised a tremendous influence on the Mycenaean and, through it, the later Greek Civilization.

The nomination comprises six notable Palatial Centres of the Minoan period, namely Knossos, Phaistos, Malia, Zakros, Zominthos and Kydonia, which are distributed in different geographical units, from the eastern to the western end of Crete. These six components share many attributes in common, but at the same time each one demonstrates individual features, thus contributing to the complete

presentation of the Minoan Civilization, its architecture and essential characteristics and covering all its different phases from its dawn till the end of Prehistory.

#### *Palatial Centre of Knossos*

The Palace of Knossos, the most important centre of the Minoan Civilization, is located in the Regional Unit of Heraklion. It stands on the “Kephala” hill, west of the River Kairatos, and covers an area of approximately 20,000 sq.m. Originally excavated by Minos Kalokairinos in 1878, the palace was further explored by Sir Arthur Evans at the beginning of the 20th century, and is still being investigated by the British School of Archaeology.

The palace was founded ca. 2000 BC (Protopalatial period) and, following many destructions, was rebuilt on the same site and flourished in the Neopalatial period (1750-1430 BC). In the Postpalatial period (1400-1100 BC) it continued to function as administrative centre, whereas the other component centres were abandoned, except Kydonia.

The palace of Knossos consists of wings set around a rectangular paved court, while the West Court was an important point of reference in the whole architectural complex. The West Wing housed the storerooms, the sanctuaries and the Throne Room, while the East Wing contained the private apartments and the workshops.

#### *Palatial Centre of Phaistos*

The palace of Phaistos is one of the largest palaces in Crete and is located in the Regional Unit of Heraklion. It came to light during the excavations carried out by the Italian archaeologist F. Halbherr in the last two decades of the 19th century, while the Italian School of Archaeology continues investigations in the area today.

In the Minoan period, Phaistos was the control centre of the south coast of Crete, and is mentioned by Homer as the kingdom of Minos' brother Rhadamanthys, son of Zeus and Europa, who took part in the Trojan War and later became one of the three judges of the dead in Hades. The palace was originally built ca. 1900 BC, at the western end of the Messara, the largest plain in Crete. In the later Greek world, Phaistos was known as the home of the great sage Epimenides.

The first palace was built in the Protopalatial period (1900 BC), covered an area of approximately 8,000 sq.m. and extended over the three stepped terraces of the hill. It was destroyed by an earthquake circa 1700 BC. On the ruins of the old palace was constructed the new palace, which survived until 1450 BC, when it was destroyed and never rebuilt.

#### *Palatial Centre of Malia*

The palace of Malia is located on the north coast of Crete, in the Regional Unit of Heraklion. It is the third-largest Minoan palace and was, according to tradition, the seat of Sarpedon, the youngest brother of Minos. The first excavations were carried out in the early 20th century by the archaeologist Iosif Hatzidakis, but the systematic excavation of both the palace itself and the Minoan city was continued by the French School of Archaeology.

The palace was originally built ca. 2000-1900 BC. It was destroyed at the end of the Protopalatial period (1700 BC) and rebuilt ca. 1650 BC on the same site,



following the basic layout of the old palace. Some alterations were made in later periods. The palace was totally destroyed at the same time as the other Palatial Centres, around 1450 BC, while there was a brief period of re-occupation in the 14th to 13th c. BC.

The palace of Malia covers an area of approximately 7,500 sq.m. and its layout is similar to that of the palace of Knossos. Various quarters and individual town houses of the town have been excavated, the most important being Quarter Zeta, Houses E, Da, Db and the major Quartier Mu. Surviving port installations on the coast indicate that the palace of Malia was a gateway to the Aegean Sea during the Minoan period.

#### *Palatial Centre of Zakros*

Zakros is located at the southeast end of the Regional Unit of Lassithi, on a natural bay. In 1961, the Greek archaeologist, N. Platon, began the archaeological excavation of the site, bringing to light a palace with impressive finds, as it had remained unlooted after its destruction.

The Palace of Zakros, covering an area of approximately 8,000 sq.m., was founded in the Neopalatial period (ca. 1600 BC). Like all the palaces known to date, it consists of four wings set around a rectangular central court.

The West and East Wings were housing religious, social and administrative activities, whereas the South and North Wings consisted mainly of artisans' workshops, storage and cooking areas, as well as auxiliary rooms to the royal quarters. Around the palace, extended the town deployed on two hills. Approximately 35 buildings have been excavated, considered to be annexes to the palace.

The palace and the town were suddenly destroyed in 1450 BC, at the same time as most of the settlements of Crete, marking the end of the Neopalatial period.

#### *Palatial Centre of Zominthos*

The Minoan Palatial Centre of Zominthos is considered unique for its location and it is the sole mountainous Minoan Palatial Centre, given the fact that the Minoans used to build their palaces on extended coastal areas and lowlands. It is built in an altitude of approximately 1,200 m., in the foothills of Mount Psiloritis, near Ideon Andron Cave, the mythical birthplace of Zeus.

The palace complex was established ca. 1700 BC (Neopalatial period), around the same time with the other palatial centres, and included an extensive settlement and a monumental building complex, known as "Central Building" that covers an area of approximately 1,600 sq.m. Labyrinthine and complex with a carefully planned configuration of the spaces, this complex was wisely designed and built with great workmanship. It bears most of the typical features of a Minoan palace: orientation from North to South with a slight deviation, serrations on the external western wall, a central and an eastern courtyard, monumental staircases, walls decorated with frescoes and many others.

The overall architecture highlights the importance of this "mountain palace" and its function as the headquarters of an eminent class, probably the priesthood, that controlled the wealth of the mountain and the nearby cave Ideon Andron. Equally captivating is the natural environment of the Palatial Centre, preserving the idyllic landscape of Mount Psiloritis (also known as Mount Ida) with its rich native flora and fauna.

### *Palatial Centre of Kydonia*

The Minoan Palace of Kydonia, discovered by Greek, Danish and Swedish archaeologists, is located in the modern city of Chania in northwest Crete. The low Kastelli hill, rising above the natural harbor and the plain of Chania, was selected during the Prepalatial period (ca. 3500-2000 BC) as the most convenient site for the establishment of the first organized Minoan settlement in the Chania area.

The Palatial Centre of Kydonia, dating to the Neopalatial (ca. 1700-1450 BC) and Mycenaean (1450-1200 BC) periods features building complexes and structures of administrative and religious character reflecting the existence of a centralized authority and bureaucratic organization.

### **Draft Statement of OUV**

#### *Brief Synthesis*

Crete, prominently and strategically located in the East Mediterranean Basin, formed the bridge between the people and cultures of three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia, and was the cradle of a splendid prehistoric civilization that flourished in the land of Greece, the Minoan Civilization.

The archaeological excavations carried out on Crete from the 19th century onwards continue to reveal, from one end of the island to the other, from east to west and north to south, this age-old civilization in all its glory. Its elements have been identified even outside its geographical boundaries, since the maritime superiority of the Cretan seafarers and their expansion across the Mediterranean brought them to prominence, at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, as a leading power. From their contact with the peoples of the Mediterranean coast through the flourishing transit trade, they absorbed elements of contemporary civilizations, shaping a singular and special culture that exercised a tremendous influence on the Mycenaean and, through it, the later Greek Civilization.

The Minoan Civilization that developed over the course of two millennia (2800-1100 BC) culminated in a high peak for its time, boasting marvellous buildings, a ground-breaking water and drainage system, equal participation of men and women in religious and social life, and masterpieces of art. The major earthquakes that hit Crete shortly before the end of the Middle Bronze Age resulted in the destruction of many Minoan centres, but also led to the rebuilding of even more splendid palaces in the immediately ensuing period.

The Palatial Centres played a vital role in the evolution, development and propagation of the Minoan Civilization and marked the social transformation from the proto-urban communities of the Early Bronze Age to a multifaceted and hierarchical society. The political, social, economic and religious reorganization and the unprecedented cultural development that emerged from the gradual centralization of power and the accumulation of wealth, were focussed on the palatial centres, each of which covering a large populated area of Crete.

The Minoan Palatial Centres stand out for their unique monumental architecture, with its complex internal organization, which passed into ancient Greek memory as the “Labyrinth”. They constituted the administrative, economic and religious centres of a wider geographical area and housed multiple activities. They not only contained the residences of the rulers, but were home to a multitude of people: artisans, metalworkers, potters, weavers, merchants, scribes, etc.

Most of the palatial centres share common architectural features. They consist of a large, rectangular central court, around which are set multi-storey wings (sometimes reaching four storeys), housing the various activities: residential apartments, reception areas, archives (which have produced tablets incised with the famous Linear A and Linear B scripts, the oldest forms of writing in Greece), treasuries, shrines, large storerooms, kitchens, workshops, “theatral” gathering areas, all providing a picture of a small, vibrant city.

The wings were furnished with propyla (porticoes), verandas and colonnades that opened onto light wells and inner courtyards, ensuring that the inner rooms were well lit and aired. The walls were faced with marble orthostats and brilliant frescoes. In the workshops, the palace artisans produced masterpieces in gold and ivory, bronze and faience, sealstones, figurines, clay and stone vessels, many of which were destined for export to the countries of the Aegean and the East Mediterranean.

The nomination comprises six notable Palatial Centres of the Minoan period, namely Knossos, Phaistos, Malia, Zakros, Zominthos and Kydonia, which are distributed in different geographical units, from the eastern to the western end of Crete. These six components share many attributes in common, but at the same time each one demonstrates individual features, thus contributing to the complete presentation of the Minoan Civilization, its architecture and essential characteristics and covering all its different phases from its dawn till the end of Prehistory.

The civilization was named “Minoan” by the British archaeologist Arthur Evans, since his large excavation campaign at Knossos, a city which, according to myths preserved by ancient writers, was the seat of King Minos. The Minoan Civilization is connected to many chapters of the Greek mythology: the abduction of Europa by Zeus in the form of a bull, the adventures ingenious Daedalus and his son Icarus, the Minotaur and the Labyrinth, the story of the seven youths and seven maidens sent from Athens as tribute to Minos, the Athenian hero Theseus – who, with the assistance of Ariadne, escaped from the Labyrinth and discharged Athens from the staggering taxes imposed by the Minoan king – the bronze giant Talus and the Argonauts, are all inextricably linked with the civilization of Crete and its palaces, and have been a source of inspiration not only for ancient Greek culture but also for world art, music and literature diachronically and up to our days.

### *Justification of Criteria*

**Criterion (i):** The Minoan Palatial Centres are considered the most authentic and representative expression of the Minoan Civilization, often described as “the first advanced urban-civilization on the European continent”. All the main features and attributes that place the Minoan Civilization among the great civilizations of the ancient world are displayed at the Minoan Palatial Centers: Monumental architecture of unique design and sophisticated construction, featuring peculiarities that reflect the needs of a hierarchical and centralized society, advanced urban planning for the purpose of legitimizing and constituting authority based on formality and monumentality, unique works of art of particularly high aesthetic quality and technical excellence, articulated worship system and the establishment of the first writing systems in Europe.

**Criterion (ii):** The Minoan Palaces bear witness to a very early form of a developed urban society with complex economic systems, functionally and structurally organized around a centralized and hierarchical administrative and social system, which developed in Crete during the Middle and Late Bronze Age (2nd millennium BC). They constitute an important archaeological testimony to the

organization of towns and cities, and to the development of the monumental architecture, technology and high level of art attained by the Minoan Civilization.

*Criterion (iii):* The Minoan Palatial Centres constitute an important point of reference in the history of Mankind, since they provide material testimonies regarding the organization and administration of a prehistoric civilization that based its economy on agriculture, animal husbandry and transit sea-trade. They also form a valuable documentation source on the two earliest writing systems in Europe – the Cretan Hieroglyphic and the Linear A Script, which were invented in Crete, as early as the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC. Based on the evidence provided by both archaeobotanical research and Linear B tablets, the process and use of olive oil, wine, aromatic and medicinal plants was widely known in the Minoan Palaces and continues up to this day.

*Criterion (iv):* The sophistication of Minoan architecture is eloquently demonstrated in the concept of the palaces and is further reflected by their layouts, featuring spacious courtyards, grand halls and a complex arrangement of rooms spanning over several levels, inspiring the myth of labyrinth. The repeated use of specific modules, assemblies, components, interfaces, methods or processes in the Minoan Palatial Centres indicate a standardization of architectural rules that led to the formulation of a distinct architectural style, already developed as early as the 2nd millennium BC.

*Criterion (v):* The Minoans had a special relationship with their natural environment, that was a source of inspiration for artistic creation and seems to have contributed decisively to the formation of the Minoans worldview (spiritual life, religion, social organization and economy). The close interaction between man and his environment is also expressed in the architectural form of the Minoan Palatial Complexes which is fully adapted to the natural setting. At the same time, the most frequently attested in the Minoan landscape raw materials (stone, wood, clay) are dynamically involved in the building of the Minoan Palatial Centres.

*Criterion (vi):* Legends associated with the Minoan Civilization, thus also related with the Minoan Palatial Centres, have had a strong influence both on arts and mythology during antiquity, whereas they continue to inspire intellectual and artistic creation worldwide in various fields such as painting, literature, music, poetry, theatre and cinema. Furthermore, the so called "Pax Minoica" (Minoan Peace), a concept formulated by Sir Arthur Evans, reflects a strong, peaceful and prosperous society. This concept constitutes a preeminent paradigm of the Minoan Civilization, which has adopted timeless ideals also attested in modern times, such as eunomy without despotism, optimism, happiness and living in harmony. Regarding the social context, the women, as represented in the palatial art, had a prominent position in the Minoan society. They enjoyed a higher social status than other women in later civilizations and played an active role in all aspects of social, religious and probably administrative activities.

#### *Statement of Integrity*

The Minoan Palatial Centres maintain their integrity to a large extent which allows for the reconstruction of their form and function, elements attesting their Outstanding Universal Value. Public and private buildings decorated with frescoes of exquisite artistry and craftsmanship, structured squares and streets permit the reconstruction of the urban planning, the dimensions, the morphological characteristics and the function of the structures of the Palatial Centres. The wealth, variety and state of preservation of all kinds of architectural remains are truly exceptional.

These emblematic monuments of the Minoan Civilization are subject to a special protection framework (designations and protection zones), while they are also under the constant care and observation of the competent local authorities of the Ministry of Culture, namely the Ephorates of Antiquities.

Situated in different parts of Crete, they face common threats (such as earthquakes and wild fires) but also others, related to the location and surroundings of each component, as well as the man-made conditions, such as construction and commercial activities. In all cases, risks are monitored by the competent authorities on a systematic basis and preventive or protective measures are taken in order to ensure their integrity.

#### *Statement of Authenticity*

The serial nomination of the Palatial Minoan Centres demonstrates a high degree of authenticity. The long-term excavations have brought to light a multitude of architectural remains of the Minoan Palaces, which largely preserve to this day their original form, structural materials, construction techniques and architectural design, highlighting the authenticity of these monuments and their uniqueness in a world level. The authenticity is further enhanced by extensive scientific documentation, grounded on many years of archaeological research and studies. Consequently, a vast amount of information has been produced on the form, function, activity, as well as the way Palace Centers were constructed, flourished and finally abandoned. Today, the Minoan Civilization is among the best studied civilizations, internationally. The Minoan Palatial Centres, with the exception of Knossos, have not undergone extensive restorations and the maintenance works that have been carried out over time to this day have the sole purpose of protecting the monuments. The image that the visitor obtains today is largely authentic. In the case of Knossos, restorations were undertaken as early as the first part of the 20th century using modern materials and, in some cases, not fully documented, yet the current situation largely reflects the original form of the palatial monument at the peak of its development. Furthermore, the problematic points of the old interventions have been fully identified and recorded. This early restoration formed the current image of the archaeological site as it is known and represented worldwide and, nowadays, it is deemed as part of the history of the monument.

#### *Requirements for Protection and Management*

The six Minoan Palatial Centres are designated archaeological sites and therefore fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture, through its Central and Regional Services. A number of local bodies also contribute – according to their competence – to the management and promotion of the sites, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, with the Region of Crete being a primary one. The serial nomination components are situated within the boundaries of six different Municipalities which also participate, within their competence in the planning and implementation of projects aiming at the protection and promotion of the nominated sites: Municipality of Heraklion (Knossos), Municipality of Phaistos (Phaistos), Municipality of Hersonissos (Malia), Municipality of Anogeia (Zominthos), Municipality of Sitia (Zakros) and Municipality of Chania (Kydonia).

The nominated property is covered by extensive legal protection, substantially through national legislation and through municipal planning which also extends to buffer zones, together with other national and international designations in certain

cases. The main legal text for the protection of the property is Law 4858/2021 “Sanction of the Code of Legislation for the Protection of Antiquities and the Cultural Heritage in general” (Government Gazette 220/A/19-11-2021). Further to the archaeological legislation, there is a number of urban planning laws and regulations pertaining to building activity near archaeological sites (General Building Regulation, Law 2508/1997, and New Building Regulation, Law 4067/2012). These fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment and Energy. However, all private and public activity must be in agreement with the Archaeological Law (4858/2021).

Further to the existing management system, the nominated property has a Management Plan, consolidated throughout the nomination process and tailored to the characteristics and needs of the property and to its cultural and landscape values. The fundamental objective of the Management Plan is to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the six components that constitute the nominated property, to preserve their physical and cultural attributes, to ensure their integrity and authenticity and to strengthen their social use and interaction with the community through the implementation of comprehensive, sustainable and effective approaches and strategies.

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) that has been signed in May 2023 between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete places special emphasis on upgrading the infrastructure of the six Minoan Palaces, as well as on facilitating the connection among them so that they form a single cultural itinerary which highlights all aspects of the Minoan Civilization. Great importance has been also attached to risk preparedness and natural disasters issues, and therefore a systematic collaboration with a number of co-competent state agencies has been established, such as the Ministry of Civil Protection and Climate Crisis, the Fire Service, etc.

#### *Area of nominated property, proposed buffer zone and maps*

The property proposed for inscription is a serial property consisting of six components: the Minoan Palatial Centre of Knossos, the Minoan Palatial Centre of Phaistos, the Minoan Palatial Centre of Malia, the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zakros, the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zominthos and the Minoan Palatial Centre of Kydonia.

Id no.	Name of the component part	Region(s) / District(s)	Coordinates of the central point	Area of nominated component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer Zone (ha)	Map No.
001	Knossos	Heraklion	N 35°17'50" E 25°9'45"	8.821	647.690	1
002	Phaistos	Heraklion	N 35°3'4" E 24°48'51"	2.147	91.970	2
003	Malia	Heraklion	N 35°17'36" E 25°29'33"	6.736	226.165	3
004	Zakros	Lasithi	N 35°5'54" E 26°15'39"	5.519	296.696	4
005	Zominthos	Rethymno	N 35°14'55" E 24°53'14"	1.019	260.400	5
006	Kydonia	Chania	N 35°31'2" E 24°1'11"	5.270	46.002	6
Total area (in hectares)				29.512 ha	1,586.923 ha	

## Component 1: Knossos Palatial Centre

### Nominated Property Centre:

N 35°17'50" E 25°9'45"

Nominated Property North (max):

N 35°17'57" E 25°9'43"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°17'51" E 25°9'52"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°17'44" E 25°9'49"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°17'48" E 25°9'38"

### Buffer Zone:

Buffer Zone North (max):

N 35°18'37" E 25°10'34"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°18'10" E 25°10'49"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°16'46" E 25°10'7"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°17' 7" E 25° 8'40"

## Component 2: Phaistos Palatial Centre

### Nominated Property Centre:

N 35° 3'4" E 24°48'51"

Nominated Property North (max):

N 35°3'7" E 24°48'51"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°3'6" E 24°48'6"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°3'1" E 24°48'51"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°3'3" E 24°48'48"

### Buffer Zone:

Buffer Zone North (max):

N 35°3'28" E 24°48'38"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°3'10" E 24°49'5"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°2'52" E 24°48'44"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°3'8" E 24°48'19"

**Component 3: Malia Palatial Centre**Nominated Property Centre:

N 35°17'36" E 25°29'33"

Nominated Property North (max):

N 35°17'41" E 25°29'30"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°17'33" E 25°29'40"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°17'32" E 25°29'39"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°17'39" E 25°29'24"

Buffer Zone:

Buffer Zone North (max):

N 35°18'13" E 25°30'18"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°18'5" E 25°30'23"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°17'2" E 25°29'38"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°17'31" E 25°28'51"

**Component 4: Zakros Palatial Centre**Nominated Property Centre:

N 35°5'54" E 26°15'39"

Nominated Property North (max):

N 35°5'60" E 26°15'37"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°5'53" E 26°15'45"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°5'49" E 26°15'38"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°5'53" E 26°15'34"

Buffer Zone:

Buffer Zone North (max):

N 35°6'58" E 26°14'24"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°6'15" E 26°16'24"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°5'27" E 26°15'51"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°6'27" E 26°13'53"



#### Component 5: Zominthos Palatial Centre

Nominated Property Centre:

N 35°14'55" E 24°53'14"

Nominated Property North (max):

N 35°14'58" E 24°53'15"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°14'57" E 24°53'16"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°14'54" E 24°53'14"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°14'56" E 24°53'11"

Buffer Zone:

Buffer Zone North (max):

N 35°15'19" E 24°53'14"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°14'35" E 24°53'47"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°14'26" E 24°53'36"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°15'7" E 24°52'10"

#### Component 6: Kydonia Palatial Centre

Nominated Property Centre:

N 35°31'2" E 24°1'11"

Nominated Property North (max):

N 35°31'6" E 24°1'10"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°30'60" E 24°1'17"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°30'58" E 24°1'7"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°30'58" E 24°1'5"

Buffer Zone:

Buffer Zone North (max):

N 35°31'11" E 24°1'26"

Nominated Property East (max):

N 35°30'52" E 24°1'32"

Nominated Property South (max):

N 35°30'48" E 24°0'56"

Nominated Property West (max):

N 35°31'4" E 24°0'49"

Map 1. Boundaries and Buffer Zone of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Knossos.



**BUFFER ZONE COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	606774.934	3907807.308	North	35°18'37.29473356"	25°10'34.22350888"
East	607154.752	3906972.917	East	35°18'10.06875552"	25°10'48.8682834"
South	606115.849	3904356.761	South	35°16'45.56253454"	25°10'6.51841226"
West	603925.885	3904999.650	West	35°17' 7.25589761"	25° 8'40.13718761"

**NOMINATED PROPERTY COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	605493.337	3906546.6	North	35°17'56.86985269"	25°9'42.89605905"
East	605728.737	3906368.556	East	35°17'51.00191503"	25°9'52.13221686"
South	605646.226	3906136.831	South	35°17'43.51285832"	25°9'48.75821737"
West	605383.437	3906260.649	West	35°17'47.63125624"	25°9'38.41285347"

Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage  
Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

"Archaeological Site of KNOSSOS"

boundaries of the  
nominated property

buffer zone

primary coordinates grid (EGSA'87)

size of the nominated property: 8.821 ha

size of the buffer zone: 647.690 ha

MAP : 1

SCALE 1:5 000

DECEMBER 2023



Map 2. Boundaries and Buffer Zone of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Phaistos.



**BUFFER ZONE COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	573761.5	3879474.1	North	35°3'28.39497039"	24°48'37.87599475"
East	574454.8	3878899.7	East	35°3'9.56675181"	24°49'5.05809637"
South	573918.2	3878350.7	South	35°2'51.88898628"	24°48'43.70072295"
West	573288.6	3878854.4	West	35°3'8.40433783"	24°48'19.01072697"

**NOMINATED PROPERTY COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	574108.7	3878820.1	North	35°3'7.07491416"	24°48'51.37100731"
East	574224.8	3878772.6	East	35°3'5.50232265"	24°48'55.93840309"
South	574103.0	3878645.5	South	35°3'1.40905776"	24°48'51.08977045"
West	574010.8	3878685.7	West	35°3'2.73832423"	24°48'47.46343511"

Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage  
Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

"Archaeological Site of PHAISTOS"

boundaries of the  
nominated property

buffer zone

primary coordinates grid (EGSA'87)

size of the nominated property: 2.147 ha

size of the buffer zone: 91.97 ha

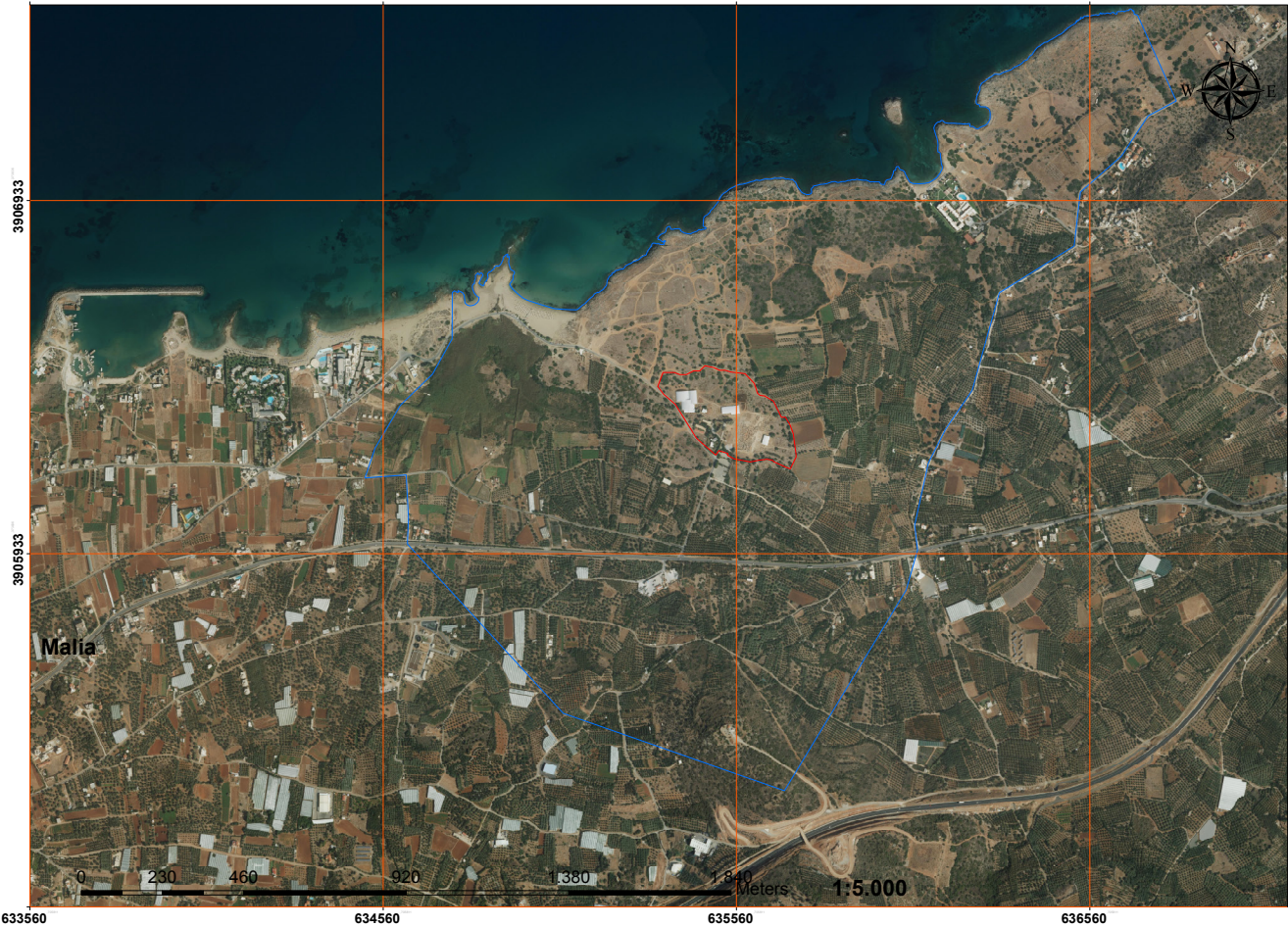
MAP : 2

SCALE 1:5 000

DECEMBER 2023



Map 3. Boundaries and Buffer Zone of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Malia.



**BUFFER ZONE COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	636677.448	3907475.598	North	35°18'13.40605718"	25°30'17.85150487"
East	636805.72	3907215.38	East	35°18'4.89880479"	25°30'22.77255033"
South	635696.69	3905262.14	South	35°17'2.06067645"	25°29'37.70858454"
West	634509.224	3906148.224	West	35°17'31.39221858"	25°28'51.23815757"

**NOMINATED PROPERTY COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	635471.356	3906465.594	North	35°17'41.22294509"	25°29'29.50736477"
East	635729.677	3906206.994	East	35°17'32.70514034"	25°29'39.57751729"
South	635713.118	3906173.886	South	35°17'31.63888136"	25°29'38.90238116"
West	635337.901	3906406.874	West	35°17'39.38258994"	25°29'24.19024581"

Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage  
Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

"Archaeological Site of MALIA"

boundaries of the  
nominated property

buffer zone

primary coordinates grid (EGSA'87)

size of the nominated property: 6.736 ha

size of the buffer zone: 226.165 ha

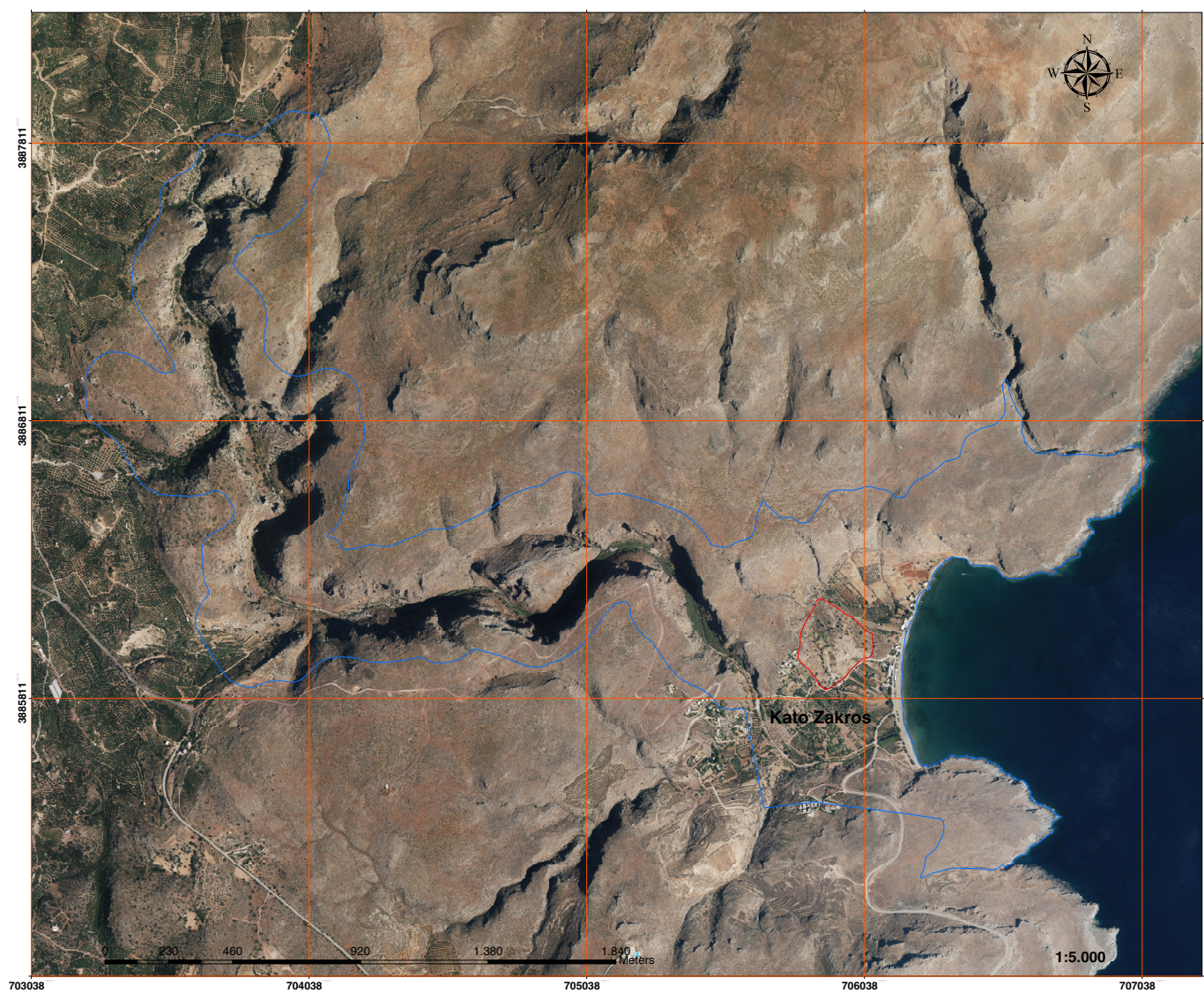
MAP : 3

SCALE 1:5 000

DECEMBER 2023



Map 4. Boundaries and Buffer Zone of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zakros.





**BUFFER ZONE COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	703972.971	3887927.089	North	35°6'58.02303068"	26°14'23.56424665"
East	707060.095	3886670.541	East	35°6'14.99514174"	26°16'24.29977889"
South	706243.992	3885165.775	South	35°5'26.78852429"	26°15'50.7378389"
West	703231.659	3886947.201	West	35°6'26.77800905"	26°13'53.43252986"

**NOMINATED PROPERTY COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	705879.064	3886170.555	North	35°5'59.64922032"	26°15'37.2361028"
East	706069.403	3885983.677	East	35°5'53.44731652"	26°15'44.58094865"
South	705896.494	3885842.908	South	35°5'49.00855569"	26°15'37.63055492"
West	705799.126	3885967.518	West	35°5'53.12217174"	26°15'33.89928457"

Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage  
Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

"Archaeological Site of ZAKROS"

boundaries of the  
nominated property

buffer zone

primary coordinates grid (EGSA'87)

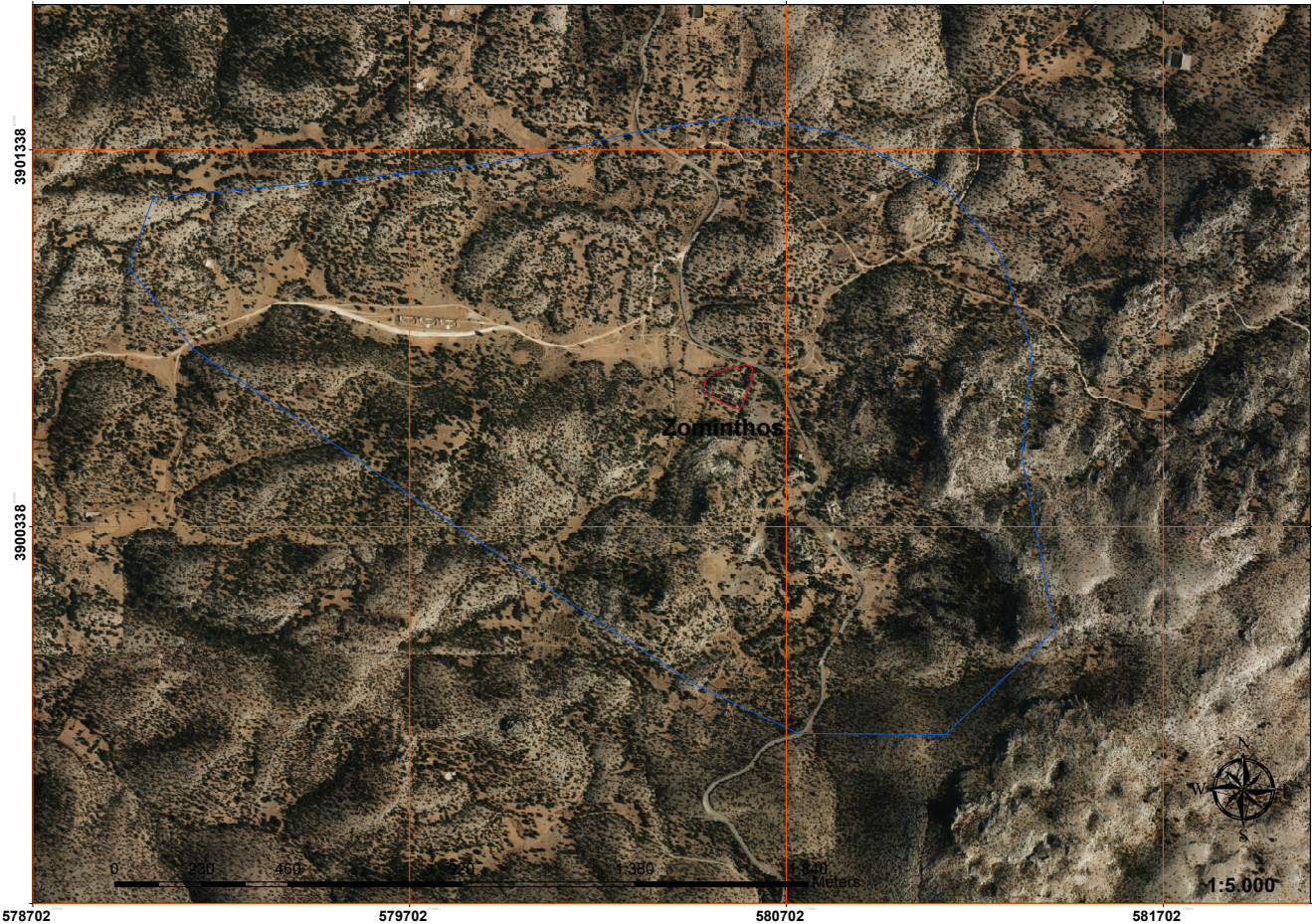
size of the nominated property: 5.519 ha

size of the buffer zone: 296.696 ha

MAP : 4

SCALE 1:5 000

Map 5. Boundaries and Buffer Zone of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zominthos.



**BUFFER ZONE COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	580570.415	3901427.918	North	35°15'19.09275168"	24°53'14.38321999"
East	581415.8	3900065.43	East	35°14'34.6233902"	24°53'47.34801051"
South	581124.573	3899786.869	South	35°14'25.66720518"	24°53'35.72684504"
West	578955.562	3901029.365	West	35°15'6.620549"	24°52'10.34548446"

**NOMINATED PROPERTY COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	580594.52	3900769.59	North	35°14'57.71811516"	24°53'15.10414227"
East	580613.766	3900734.44	East	35°14'56.57165024"	24°53'15.85321008"
South	580578.84	3900650.125	South	35°14'53.84513414"	24°53'14.44148377"
West	580482.124	3900701.00	West	35°14'55.52444919"	24°53'10.63275195"

Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage  
Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

"Archaeological Site of ZOMINTHOS"

boundaries of the  
nominated property

buffer zone

primary coordinates grid (EGSA'87)

size of the nominated property: 1.019 ha

size of the buffer zone: 260.4 ha

MAP : 5

SCALE 1:5 000

DECEMBER 2023



Map 6. Boundaries and Buffer Zone of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Kydonia



**BUFFER ZONE COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	502010.31	3930405.50	North	35°31'11.42558677"	24°1'25.72540559"
East	502159.21	3929804.74	East	35°30'51.92376374"	24°1'31.63116888"
South	501259.93	3929689.04	South	35°30'48.17421493"	24°0'55.92787069"
West	501073.56	3930190.85	West	35°31'4.46381757"	24°0'48.53155982"

**NOMINATED PROPERTY COORDINATES (max)**

coordinates (GRS80)	X (GGRS '87)	Y (GGRS '87)	coordinates (WGS84)	N	E
North	501604.14	3930244.50	North	35°31'6.20242658"	24°1'9.59759709"
East	501791.22	3930046.31	East	35°30'59.76794329"	24°1'17.02357244"
South	501531.59	3929998.90	South	35°30'58.23072447"	24°1'6.71529477"
West	501490.32	3930005.42	West	35°30'58.44261173"	24°1'5.07683444"

Hellenic Ministry of Culture  
General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage  
Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

"Archaeological Site of KYDONIA"

boundaries of the  
nominated property

buffer zone

primary coordinates grid (EGSA'87)

size of the nominated property: 5.27 ha

size of the buffer zone: 46.002 ha

MAP : 6

SCALE 1:5 000

DECEMBER 2023

## Contributors to the Management Plan

The Management Plan is the result of teamwork and collaboration among the agencies involved in the sites' management system. It was developed by the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Ephorates of Antiquities of Crete and with the contributions of Services of other Ministries and various national experts and upon consultation with institutional and civil society stakeholders at the local and national levels. The Management Plan includes specific information on the key values and attributes of property, and a set of actions addressing all aspects of management, including protection, conservation, restoration, research, promotion and risk preparedness.

For the specification of the proposed measures included in the Management Plan significant contribution was provided by the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection for drafting the requirements for risks assessment and preparedness plans in cases of wildfires at the surrounding area of the nominated properties, the Region of Crete and the municipalities involved (Heraklion, Phaistos, Hersonissos, Sitia, Anogeia, Chania) for providing consulting services and expertise for drafting an integrated approach for the planning of a sustainable and effective management system. Furthermore, the Municipality of Heraklion has contributed in the initiation of a project which aims at the sustainable regeneration and upgrading of the modern settlement near the archaeological site of Knossos and the regulation of traffic especially during the high touristic seasons, of the Kapodistrian University of Athens under the scientific supervision of Professor Constantinos Cartalis, Director of the Department of Environment Physics, for drafting climate-change related assessments and risk preparedness measures for the nominated property within the framework of Axis 4 "Protection against natural and man-made threats and adaptation to climate" of the Management Plan.

The Management Plan is based on studies and proposals already drafted within the Ministry of Culture with the valuable assistance of external experts who studied, according to their expertise, the site's requirements, recorded and systematized proposed actions, and specified necessary interventions. In terms of conservation, valuable input was received from the architect Nikos Chatzidakis who drafted an overall assessment for the state of conservation of the monuments of the property. The Enviroplan Consultants and Engineers company provided expertise, advises and proposals in the Environmental, Infrastructure and Research & Development sectors.

Several other authorities and stakeholders have been invited to provide suggestions and proposals for the Preventative Protection and Management of Risks and Hazards Associated with Factors Affecting the Minoan Palatial Centres. In particular, following the analysis and evaluation of the factors (environmental, climate, development, tourism, etc.) as demonstrated in Chapter 4 of the Nomination File a consultation round was held with a wide range of co-responsible bodies (71 participants) from the regional and local administration, municipal and inter-municipal authorities, universities and research institutions, chambers, agencies and cultural heritage institutions. The purpose of the consultation was, according to the relevance of each body in relation to the factors affecting the monuments and their spatial responsibilities (specific responsibilities in the geographical areas where each monument is located), to provide their opinion and

proposals for the preventive protection and management of risks and hazards associated with the factors affecting the Minoan Palatial Centres.

The bodies invited to the consultation following the stakeholder mapping, are presented in the Table below.

No	Authority Title	Type	Level
1	Region of Crete / Directorate of Environment and Spatial Planning	Region	Regional
2	Region of Crete / Directorate of Tourism	Region	Regional
3	Region of Crete / Directorate of Culture and Sports	Region	Regional
4	Region of Crete / Directorate of Education, Employment and Trade	Region	Regional
5	Region of Crete / Autonomous Department of European, International Affairs and Cooperation Development	Region	Regional
6	Region of Crete / Autonomous Directorate of Civil Protection	Region	Regional
7	Region of Crete / Directorate of Technical Works	Region	Regional
8	Region of Crete / Departments of Environment and Water Economics of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania Regional Units	Region	Regional
9	Region of Crete / Departments of Tourism of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania Regional Units	Region	Regional
10	Region of Crete / Departments of Culture of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania Regional Units	Region	Regional
11	Region of Crete / Departments of Civil Protection of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania Regional Units	Region	Regional
12	Region of Crete / Departments of Technical Works of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania Regional Units	Region	Regional
13	Municipality of Heraklion (Knossos)	Municipality	Local
14	Phaistos Municipality (Phaistos)	Municipality	Local
15	Municipality of Hersonissos (Malia)	Municipality	Local
16	Municipality of Anogeia (Zominthos)	Municipality	Local
17	Municipality of Sitia (Zakros)	Municipality	Local
18	Municipality of Chania (Kydonia)	Municipality	Local
19	Mediterranean Agricultural Institute of Chania	Research Institute	Regional
20	Crete Development Organization	Private Law Legal Entity	Regional
21	Municipal Water Management Associations of Heraklion, Phaistos, Hersonissos, Anogeia, Sitia, and Chania	Municipal authorities	Local
22	Intermunicipal Waste Management Associations	Intermunicipal authorities	Regional
23	UNESCO Geoparks	UNESCO Geoparks	Regional
24	Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA)	Government agency	National
25	Environmental Education Centres of Crete	Research Institutes	Regional
26	Ephorates of Antiquities of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania	Government agencies	Regional
27	Technical Chamber of Greece - Regional Departments of Eastern Crete and Western Crete	Chambers	Regional
28	Geotechnical Chamber - Crete Branch	Chamber	Regional
29	Chamber of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania	Chambers	Regional
30	Economic Chamber of Eastern Crete and Western Crete	Chambers	Regional
31	Technical University of Crete	University	Regional
32	University of Crete	University	Regional
33	Hellenic Mediterranean University	University	Regional
34	Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH)	Research Institute	Regional
35	Union of Hoteliers of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno, and Chania	Professional associations	Regional
36	Greek National Tourism Organization - Crete Branch	Government agency	Regional

All proposals and suggestions were combined with the scientific knowledge of the Ephorates of Antiquities of Crete and their experience in the protection of the archaeological sites with which the Ephorates has been entrusted now for decades. The final content and the editing of the Management Plan was elaborated by the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities.

### Purpose and Scope of the Management Plan

The fundamental objective of the Management Plan is to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the six components that constitute the nominated property, to preserve their physical and cultural attributes, to ensure their integrity and authenticity and to strengthen their social use and interaction with the community through the implementation of comprehensive, sustainable and effective approaches and strategies.

The Management Plan and System meet the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and is consistent with the policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee in respect of management plans and systems, including the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties (2007), the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties (2007), the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building (2011) and the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015).

The proposed actions and interventions included in the Management Plan unfold along four separate priority axes which include a wide range of proposed actions as described in the following chapters.

The protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement of the monuments is the most direct and tangible action aiming at upgrading the knowledge offered to the visitor, specialist or not. The presentation of the nominated property in a didactic manner is one of the principal issues of the whole planning. Moreover, the promotion of the special attributes of the property, as these are formulated through its many and various cultural values, aims at a better recognition and understanding of the site by the visitors as well. As regards the promotion of the site, actions are already underway by the Ephorates of Antiquities of Crete as well as by other bodies, as already described in Chapter 5. It is anticipated that these actions will be expanded, and site visits will be enhanced and combined with visits to other places of cultural interest in the area.

All the above issues are to an extent already dealt with by the existing site management system, implemented by the competent Services of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture in collaboration with other involved – per case – authorities and bodies (see Chapter 5). This Management Plan aims at further developing the enhancement and protection of the property, prioritizes necessary actions, organizes future interventions and determines the desired time-frame for their execution.



## AXIS 1. INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH

## A. Introduction

The Minoan Palatial Centres have been the focus of scientific research for decades, yet they continue to be a dynamic field of study involving many different scientific disciplines. Ongoing systematic research projects at the Minoan palaces of Crete by Greek and foreign institutions (Services of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Universities and researchers from both Greece and abroad and Foreign Archaeological Schools and Institutes) advance archaeological programmes of excavation, surface survey, geophysical survey, and various study programmes. At the same time, numerous individual scholars and professionals from Greece and abroad study and publish the related archaeological material.

The scope of the Management Plan within the framework of this Axis is to establish, among others, a management and monitoring system, aiming at:

- better organizing the archaeological surveys, site investigations, structural and material research and analysis;
- identifying potential areas for future excavations based on the results of surface survey reports;
- effectively co-ordinate collaboration projects and synergies between different parties regarding research, study and excavation projects.

## B. Research Entities

The Management Plan will contribute to the planning, organizing and promoting the multi-level research and documentation activities in all six components of the property, which is continually producing knowledge in many and various scientific fields. The principal agency carrying out scientific and scholarly research and documentation of the nominated property is the Ministry of Culture through the competent Ephorates of Antiquities of Crete. Other entities with an important research contribution at the serial property include the Archaeological Society at Athens, the French School at Athens, the Italian Archaeological School, the British School at Athens, the Danish Institute at Athens, the Swedish Institute at Athens, as well as the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS) and the Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Centre for East Crete (INSTAP SCEC).

### *Ministry of Culture*

#### *Ephorates of Antiquities of Heraklion, Lasithi, Rethymno and Chania*

The Ephorates of Antiquities of Crete are responsible, inter alia, for the investigation and study of the nominated properties as well as for the publication and promotion of the scientific results and outcomes of the research projects. They also keep records of all field projects (excavations, surveys and various studies) and archaeological finds and they maintain a systematic archive of all information related to the properties within their jurisdiction. They are also authorized by Ministerial Decision to grant permission upon request to special scientists and scholars to access archaeological sites and collections for the purpose of photography, study, design and publication, as long as the legal provisions set by the Archaeological Law are met.

Furthermore, the Ephorates are undertaking initiatives and programmes aiming at the dissemination of all available research results in order to assist in understanding the unique values of the monuments.

### *The Archaeological Society at Athens*

The Archaeological Society at Athens has been carrying out, since 2006, the excavation at the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zominthos, which currently is taking place under the direction of Dr Efi Sapouna-Sakellari.

The Archaeological Society at Athens has also a long tradition in the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zakros. A large scale excavation project was undertaken from the early 1960's to 1991 under the direction of Nikolaos Platon, and since 1992 a systematic programme of conservation, study and publication of the abundant material is in process.

All excavation reports for both Zominthos and Zakros are published in the annual journals "*Proceedings of the Archaeological Society at Athens*" and "*The Work of the Archaeological Society at Athens*", which are also uploaded at the website of the Archaeological Society at Athens providing free access to all.

### *The French School at Athens*

The French School at Athens was founded in Athens in 1846 with the goal of cultivating the study of Greek language, history and antiquities. The School's research involvement in Crete antiquities goes back to the early 20th century. Following the discovery of the Minoan Palace of Malia by Iossif Hatzidakis in 1915, the site has been excavated since by the French School at Athens. Several generations of archaeologists successively led by Fernand Chapouthier, Pierre Demargne and Olivier Pelon explored the monumental palatial centre, the scale of which matched that of the Palaces at Knossos and Phaistos.

The French School's exceptional and varied scholarly interest in Malia is also apparent in the series of research programmes, publications and educational activities and seminars of the School. Publications and studies related to the excavations of Malia have been published in the *Études Crétoises* series since 1928, while comprehensive publications were made by H. Van Effenterre and O. Pelon. The most significant finds of the excavations are exhibited in the Heraklion and the Agios Nikolaos Museums.

### *The Italian School of Archaeology*

The excavation project of Phaistos was initiated in 1884 by the Italian archaeological mission led by Luigi Pernier and Federico Halbherr and, after the establishment of the Italian School of Archaeology in Athens (1901), it was conducted under the direction by Doro Levi (1950-1971).

Research and excavation programmes undertaken by the School continue up to today, whereas seminars, educational programmes, scientific conference and publications are included in the Schools activities.

### *The British School at Athens*

Since the pioneering work of Sir Arthur Evans began in Crete in 1900, Knossos has been a major focus of the BSA's activity in Greece. The BSA's most recent projects at Knossos are the Knossos Urban Landscape Project (KULP), the Gypsades Project, the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum Curation Project and the Roman Knossos Geophysics Project.

A range of smaller projects, mostly UK-based, involve the study of the South Polychrome Deposit, of zooarchaeological material from the Unexplored Mansion, of specific categories of material, such as weaving tools, Minoan potting skills and plasters (Polly Westlake, BSA), and the extensive human bone collection from the BSA excavations at Knossos.

#### *The Swedish and the Danish Institutes at Athens*

In 1969, the Ministry of Culture initiated a joint study and research project at the Minoan Kydonia in collaboration with the Swedish Institute founded in 1946 at Athens. In 2010, the Danish Institute, founded in 1992 at Athens, joined the excavations until the last season of active fieldwork in 2014. During these years, work was executed under the general direction of Yannis Tzedakis with Ann-Louise Schallin (The Swedish Institute) and Erik Hallager (The Danish Institute) as co-directors.

#### *Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Centre for East Crete (INSTAP SCEC)*

The Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Centre for East Crete (INSTAP SCEC) is dedicated to the investigation of Cretan prehistory from the earliest times through the Early Iron Age, with an emphasis on Minoan Civilization. The institution continues a 100-year tradition of archaeology on the island and annually provides unique and vital support to more than 50 projects, many of which are related to the Minoan Palatial Centres.

#### *Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS)*

The Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS) – based in Rethymno, Crete – was founded in 1985 and is one of the 10 Institutes of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH), the leading research institution in Greece. The IMS research programmes focus on the history and culture of Greece and other countries of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in various historical periods, from prehistory to modern times, and includes programmes referring to the Minoan Culture.

### **C. Existing / Ongoing Actions**

- All six components are included in the Archaeological Cadastre platform of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, an integrated information system that records and documents Greece's immovable monuments, archaeological and historical sites and their protection zones (<https://www.arxaiologikoktimatologio.gov.gr/en>).
- Findings from the six component sites are included in the Digital Collections platform of the National Archive of Monuments (<https://nationalarchive.culture.gr/en#/>).
- Photogrammetric documentation of the monuments has been conducted (in 2021) within the framework of preparing the nomination file.
- Papers, volumes, monographs, documentation and work reports are continuously being published by the scientific personnel of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Crete and by scholars from Greek and foreign universities and

institutes. The Archaeological Society at Athens, the Foreign Archaeological Schools and the Universities that are or have been active in Excavation Projects at the Minoan Palatial Centres provide a full digital registry of related publications on their websites as well as in their libraries, which are open to all interested scholars or professionals. Specialized online platforms have been also developed illustrating the results of the research programmes, such as the “Phaistos Project” platform (<https://uniroma1.academia.edu/Phaistosproject>), the “Knossos Research Centre” (<https://www.bsa.ac.uk/about-us/knossos-research-centre/>), etc.

- A five-year planning for excavation and research projects is submitted by the interested agencies and institution.
- Collaboration with universities through training of students in archaeological investigation and interpretation, participation in field activities, post graduate dissertations and publications.

#### D. Proposed Short / Medium / Long Term Actions (Table 1.1)

##### *Short/Medium Term Actions*

- Digitization of excavation diaries, excavation photographs and records and establishment of a digital repository that ensures long-term preservation and effective management of those inventories.
- Development of a website platform providing access to bibliography, studies, works and actions related to the excavation projects carried out in the Palatial Centres.

##### *Long Term Actions*

- Digital three-dimensional documentation of all the monuments of the nominated property and interlink with the “Hellenic Archaeological Cadastre” of the Ministry of Culture.
- Enrichment of museum collections with artifacts from recent excavations.

The above mentioned actions are illustrated in Table 1.1 below.

TABLE 1.1. Excavation - Scientific Research and Documentation

	ALL MINOAN PALATIAL CENTRES
Category	Actions
Promotion of Scientific Research	<p><u>Existing/Ongoing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Papers, dissertations, volumes and monographs touching on the history, documentation and works undertaken at the sites are continuously being published by the scientific personnel of the Ephorate of Antiquities and by scholars from Greek and foreign universities and institutes. Hundreds of permits for publication of material from the six components are granted each year by the Ministry of Culture. Currently, research and study projects outnumber excavation programmes. The Archaeological Society at Athens, the Foreign Archaeological Schools and Universities that are or have been active in Excavation Projects at the Minoan Palatial Centres provide a full digital registry of related publications on their websites as well as in their libraries, which are open to all interested scholars or professionals.</li> <li>Identify the research needs and requests and set up a five year planning for the implementation of excavation and research projects related to the components of the nomination.</li> <li>The ongoing enrichment of the archaeological data provided by the archaeological excavations and research will be accompanied by publications and dissemination activities (lectures, conferences, proceeding volumes, etc.).</li> <li>Collaboration with universities by training students in archaeological investigation and interpretation, participation in field activities, post graduate dissertations and publications.</li> </ul> <p><u>Long Term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrichment of museum collections with artifacts from recent excavations.</li> </ul>
Use of new technologies	<p><u>Existing/Ongoing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All six components are included in the Archaeological Cadastre platform of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, an integrated information system that records and documents Greece's immovable monuments, archaeological and historical sites and their protection zones. (<a href="https://www.arxaiologikotimatologio.gov.gr/en">https://www.arxaiologikotimatologio.gov.gr/en</a>)</li> <li>Movable finds from the six components are included in the Digital Collections platform of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. (<a href="https://nationalarchive.culture.gr/en#/">https://nationalarchive.culture.gr/en#/</a>)</li> <li>Photogrammetric documentation of the monuments.</li> <li>List of publications of all Foreign Archaeological Schools involved in research and excavations projects within the nomination properties is posted on line at their website.</li> </ul> <p><u>Short/Medium Term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digitization of excavation diaries, excavation photographs and records and establishment of a digital repository that ensures long-term preservation and effective management of those inventories.</li> <li>Development of a website platform providing access to bibliography, studies, works and actions related to the property as well as to the available documentation data for the property in terms of legislation, management, publications, research, and excavation programmes, funding and visitation, operation and information infrastructures.</li> <li>Digital three-dimensional documentation of the sites and monuments and interlink with the "Hellenic Archaeological Cadastre" of the Ministry of Culture.</li> </ul>

## AXIS 2. PROTECTION, RESTORATION, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE PROPERTY

Systematic programmes for the conservation, protection and enhancement of the monuments have been implemented at the Minoan Palatial Centres for several decades now. Nevertheless, progress in archaeological and scientific research, new developments in means and materials as well as technological advances, and the new demands generated by visitors and other contemporary challenges create the need for constant attention to the preservation and sustainability of these archaeological sites. To this end, the appropriate Services of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture have already initiated or have scheduled a series of actions which constitute a significant parameter of the present Management Plan.

In addition to the programmes already in progress, a series of studies are in preparation which in the medium term will ensure the maturity of the planned extensive protection and enhancement works to be carried out. The scope of these studies is to specify the proposed actions of the Management Plan and to organize the interventions which will be implemented. Their articulation incorporates the following axes:

- Analysis of the current state of conservation
- Objectives and priorities
- Proposed action plans
- Monitoring progress
- Economic study for the budget of the proposed actions

The analysis of the current state of conservation (**Figs. 1-6**) as well as the proposed conservation, consolidation and restoration actions and measures has been the object of a specialized architectural study, conducted by the architect Dr. Nikolaos Chatzidakis.



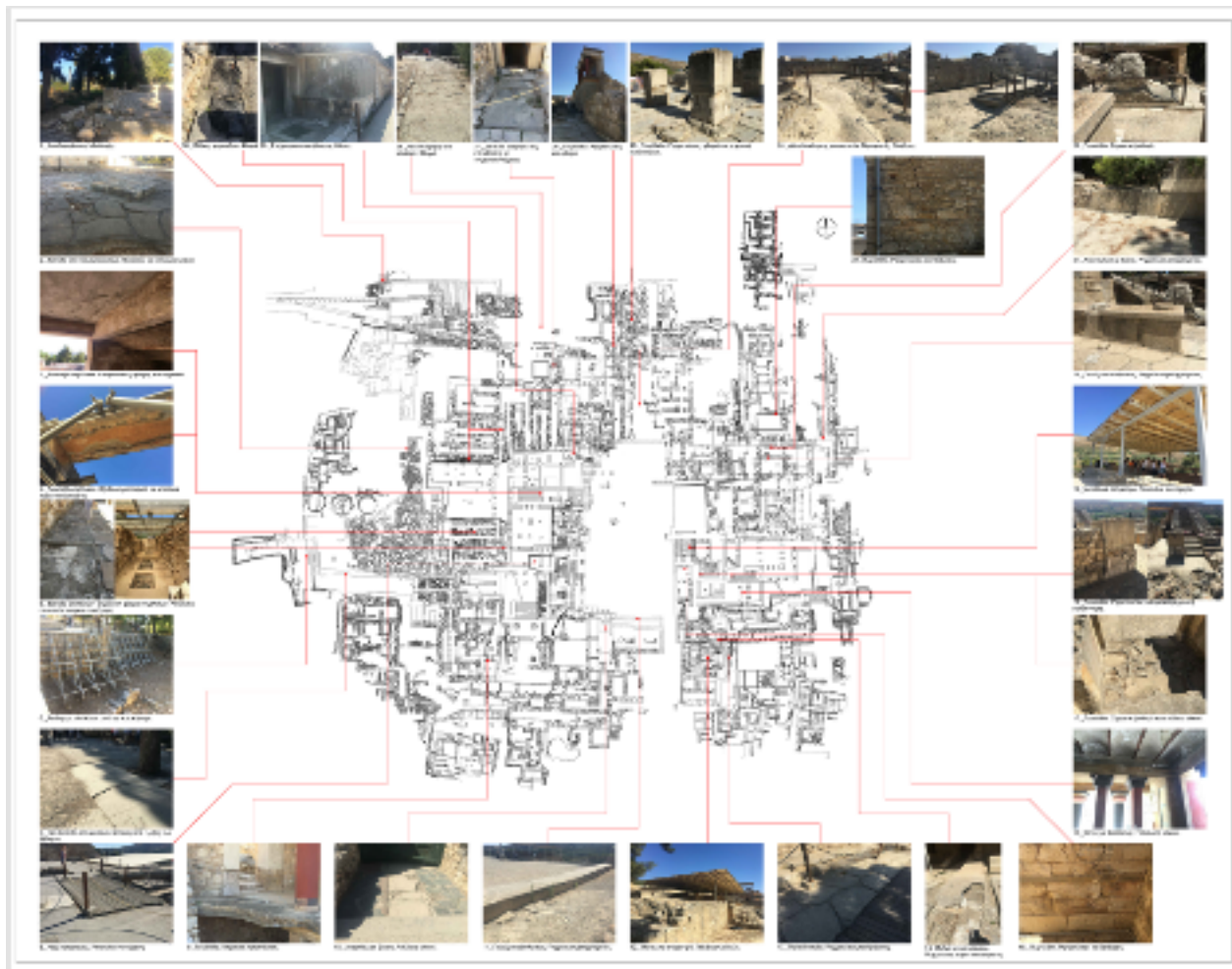


Fig. 1. Palatial Centre of Knossos. Current state of pathology.

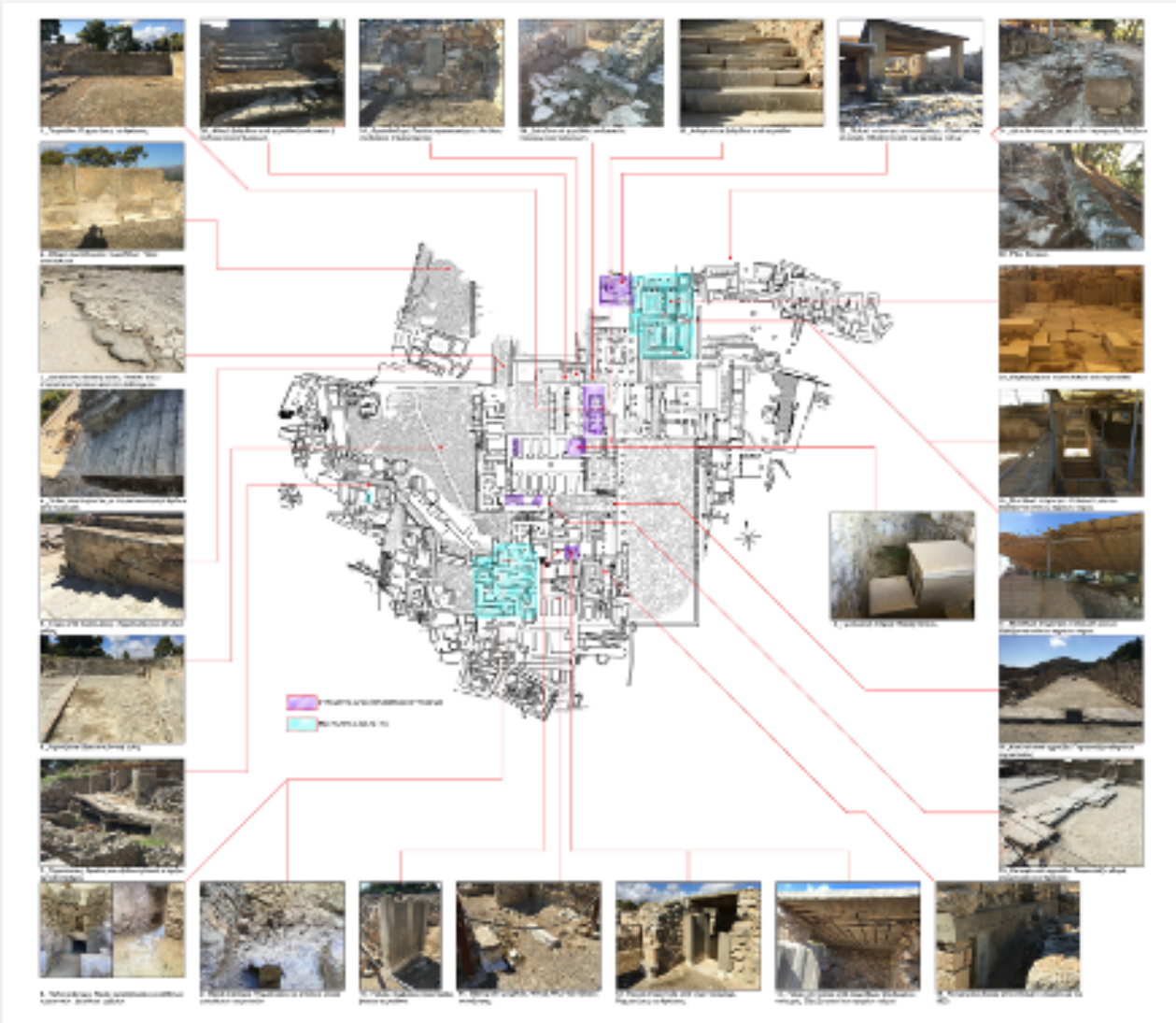


Fig. 2. Palatial Centre of Phaistos. Current state of pathology.

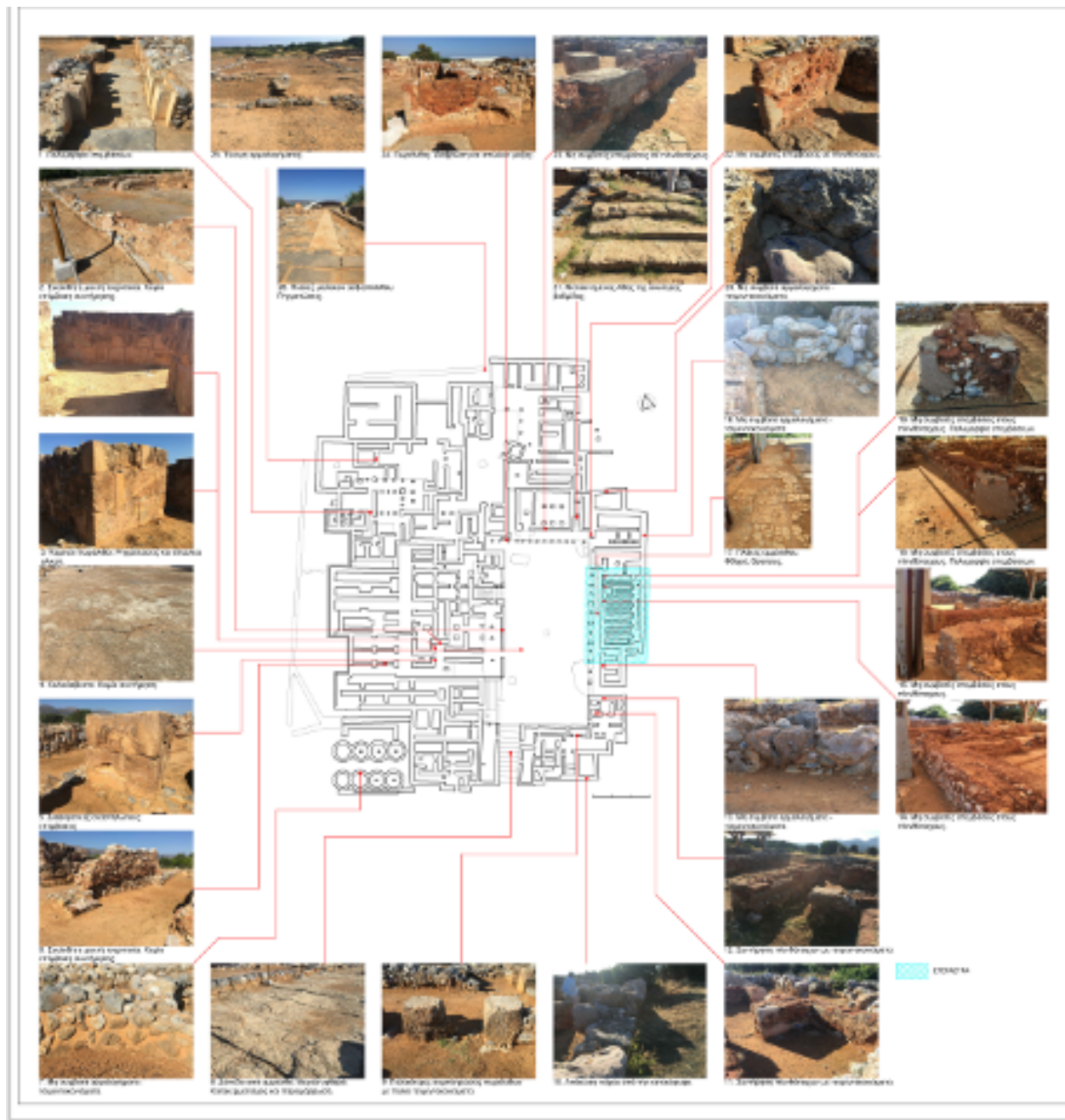


Fig. 3. Palatial Centre of Malia. Current state of pathology.



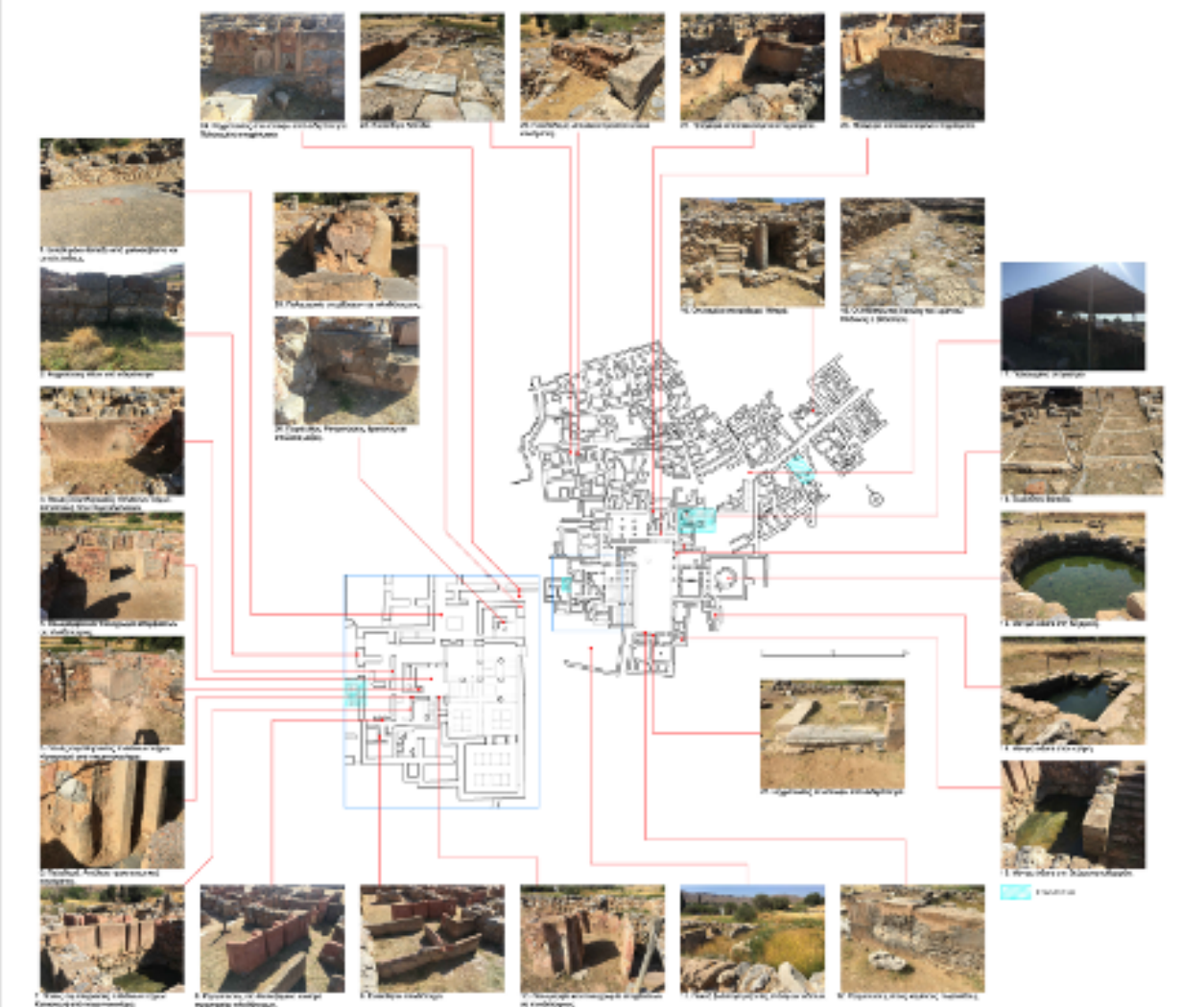


Fig. 4. Palatial Centre of Zakros. Current state of pathology.

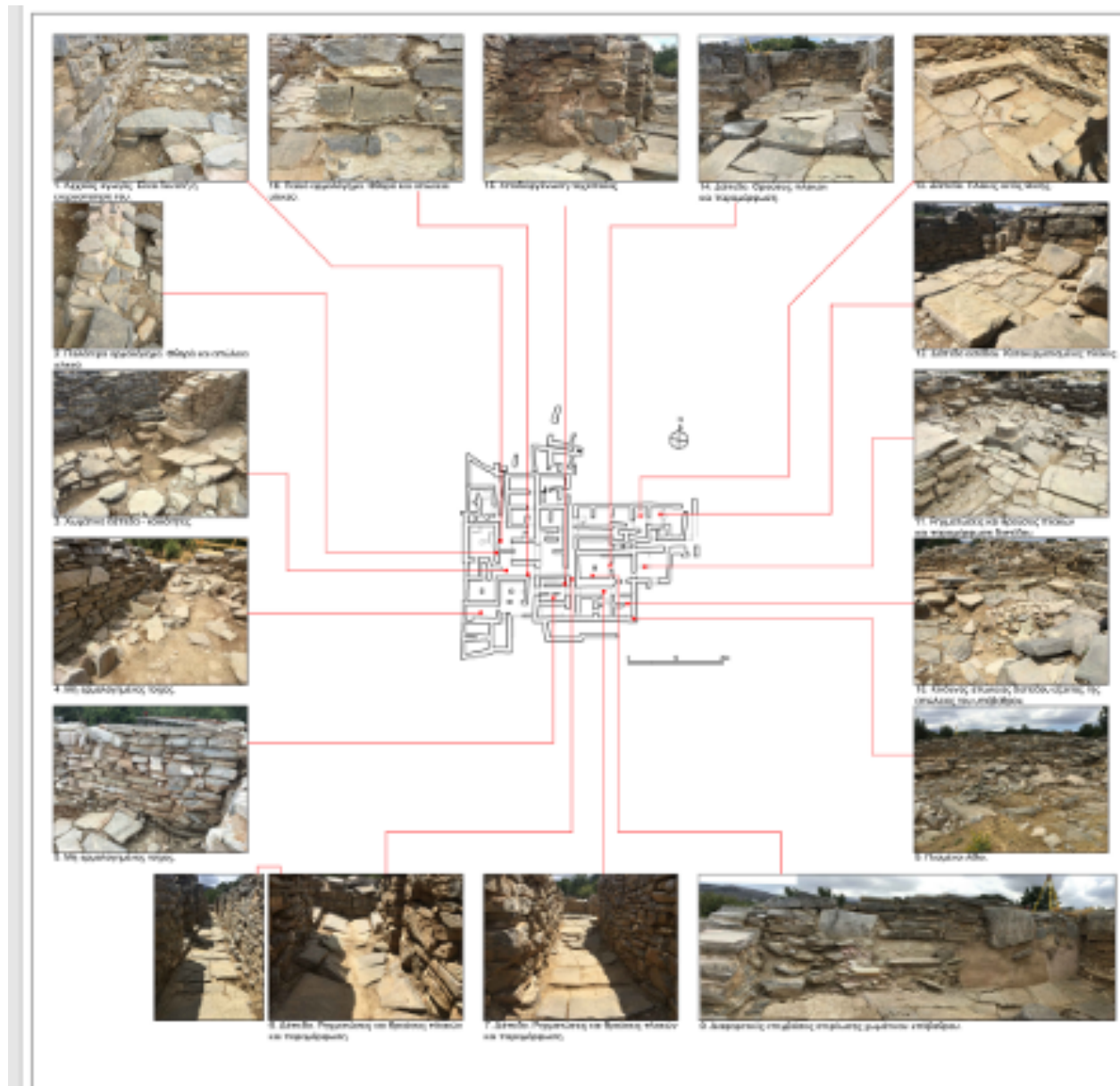


Fig. 5. Palatial Centre of Zominthos. Current state of pathology.



Fig. 6. Palatial Centre of Kydonia. Current state of pathology

Listed in the tables below are the ongoing and proposed studies and projects for each component:

TABLE 2.1. EXISTING / ONGOING STUDIES



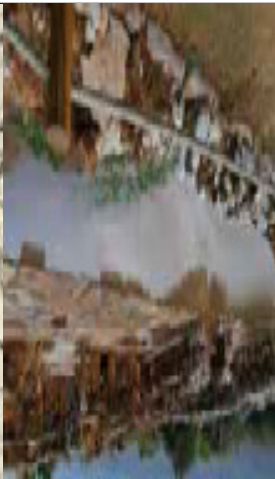
	Knossos	Phaistos	Malia	Zakros	Zominthos	Kydonia
Strategic Framework / Master Plan	There is a strategic plan setting guidelines, priorities and timelines regarding the restoration and enhancement of the site. Currently, Phase D is under implementation	A series of studies on the protection and conservation of the site are under completion	A series of studies on flood protection works are under compilation	A master plan for the protection and enhancement of the site has been drafted and is gradually implemented	A study on the protection and enhancement of the site and its surrounding area has been completed and is gradually implemented	Within the ongoing excavation projects a five year planning exists on conservation and consolidation works
Topographic Survey	Orthophoto maps 3D visualization models	Orthophoto maps 3D visualization models	Orthophoto maps 3D visualization models	Orthophoto maps 3D visualization models	Orthophoto maps 3D visualization models	Orthophoto maps 3D visualization models
Architectural restoration and stabilization studies	Study for the restoration of the retaining wall along the Royal Road Study for testing and restoring concrete members from Evans' reconstruction in the King's Megaron	Architectural study for improving and expanding visitor walkways and disabled access ramps, signage and information Architectural study for visitor services infrastructure Study for the restoration and enhancement of the palace's collapsing storage complex Study for the stabilization of three successive road surfaces in the Minoan quarter to the S/SW of the West Court Study for the architectural lighting of the monument	Ongoing architectural study (by the French School of Athens) on the restoration and stabilization of the Pillar Crypt and Quartier Mu			








	Knossos	Phaistos	Malia	Zakros	Zominthos	Kydonia
Structural studies	<p>Static adequacy study for the Queen's Megaron complex</p> <p>Static adequacy study for the SW corner of the West Court and the Stairs of the Central Staircase leading to the Piano Nobile</p> <p>Static and architectural study for a new visitor path and access ramp from the West Court and the Theatral Area to the Central Court, and within the King and Queen's Megaron</p> <p>Static adequacy study for the Staircase and Lustral Basin of the Little Palace</p>	Static study for visitor services infrastructure				
			Ongoing conservation study (by the French School of Athens) on the restoration and stabilization of the Pillar Crypt and Quartier Mu	Updated study for the conservation of the archaeological site of Kato Zakros		
Conservation studies	Study for the conservation of stones and mortars in the Queen's Megaron and Little Palace					
Enhancement studies	Study for interventions to the grounds around the Villa Ariadne	Horticultural study		<p>1. Framework of protection and enhancement of the archaeological site of Kato Zakros</p> <p>2. Study for replacing the shelters in the archaeological site of Kato Zakros</p>	Study for the enhancement of the region: "Study for the Archaeological Forest of Zominthos – Idaion Antron in the Anogeia Municipality"	



	Knossos	Phaistos	Malia	Zakros	Zominthos	Kydonia
Geotechnical studies	Geotechnical investigation and recommendations for the restoration of the palace			Preliminary geotechnical investigation – study for the drainage of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Zakros		
Hydraulic studies	Study for the management of rainwater in the Little Palace and surrounding area Study for waterproofing and coating the shelter over the lower East-West Corridor		Ongoing study for flood prevention works Damage restoration study, drafted in 2021, for the protection of the site from rainwater and sand dunes at Potamos beach	Study for flood prevention in the archaeological site		
Electromechanical studies		Electromechanical studies for the implementation of infrastructure buildings for visitor services and site operation				
Shelter construction studies				Study for the construction of new shelters to protect vulnerable antiquities		Study under compilation for the installation of protective shelters in selected plots of the city where parts of the palace have come to light.
Other studies						Ongoing geophysical surveys undertaken by the Technical School of Crete

TABLE 2.2. ONGOING / PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION, RESTORATION, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT


	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
1	Immediate measures for protection and repairs	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Short Term	Repair floors and bases of walls in the Pillar Crypt and Quartier Mu damaged by flooding	
2	Immediate measures for protection and repairs	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Short Term	Repair damage (cracks, breaks and loss of original material, incompatible modern materials) to the poros-stone floors of the courts and outdoor spaces.	
3	Immediate measures for protection and repairs	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Studies and Works for Museums and Cultural Buildings	Ongoing	Ongoing flood prevention project to protect the palatial Centre of Malia, funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund (completion in 2025)	

THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
4	Knossos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Long Term	Continue and complete the conservation of gypsum material	
5	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation of gypsum material and replacement of degraded gypsum parts of the buildings (staircases, floors).	
6	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation of limestone ashlar blocks and other stones in the walls and floors	
7	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Lassithi Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation of limestone ashlar blocks and other stones in the walls and floors	




	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
8	Conservation / Restoration	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation and repair floor paving of schist and gypsum slabs	
9	Conservation and restoration	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Restore rubble masonry walls and conserve the ruins in unroofed quarters	
10	Conservation and restoration	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Short Term	Conservation and restoration of rubble masonry structures outside the visiting area	

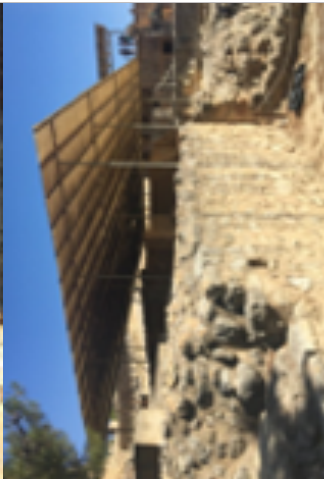
	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
11	Conservation and restoration	Zominthos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Rethymno Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation and restoration of stone wall masonry	
12	Conservation and restoration	Kydonia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Chania Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation and restoration of stone wall masonry	
13	Conservation	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Long Term	Conservation and restoration of mudbrick and mixed masonry walls	






	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
	Conservation	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Long Term	Conservation and restoration of mudbrick and mixed masonry structures	
14	Conservation and restoration	Zominthos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Rethymno Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Medium Term	Conservation and restoration of paved floors	
15	Repair – maintenance of shelters and modern structures	Knossos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Ongoing / Short Term	Conservation of old concrete shelters and structures, and of vaulted ceilings	





	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
16	Repair – conservation – replacement of shelters and modern structures	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Long Term	Conservation or replacement of old shelters and modern structures	
17	Conservation of restorations	Knossos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Ongoing / Short Term	Conservation of older restorations	
18	Conservation of restorations	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Long Term	Conservation of older restorations	

	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
19	Conservation of restorations	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Short Term	Conservation of older restorations. Remove or repair older interventions	
20	Protective shelters	Knossos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Replace degraded shelters in the SE section of the palatial complex	
21	Protective shelters	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Short Term	Replacement of degraded shelters	

	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
22	Protective shelters	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Improve drainage of existing shelters. Replace covering material	
23	Protective shelters	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Lassithi Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Replace degraded shelters	
24	Site maintenance	Knossos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Remove and organize scattered stones. Lay earthen floors in the north sector of the palace	

	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
25	Site maintenance	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Lay earthen floors in the north sector of the palace. Upgrade visitor infrastructure	
26	Site maintenance	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Remove piles of stones and debris from earlier excavations, and remove old signs	
27	Site maintenance	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Lassithi Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Systematic vegetation control. Remove old guard post	


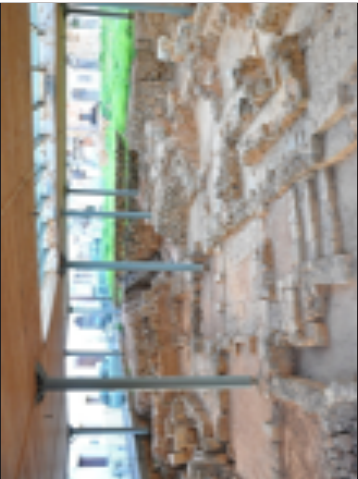


	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
28	Site maintenance	Zominthos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Rethymno Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments	Medium Term	Works and arrangements to make the site easily legible for visitors to navigate and understand	
29	Site maintenance	Kydonia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Chania Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Works and arrangements to make the site easily legible for visitors to navigate and understand	
30	Slope stabilization	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Stabilize the slopes and protect the SE flank of the palace hill from collapse	



	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
31	Water management and drainage systems	Knossos Zakros Zominthos Kydonia	Ministry of Culture	Long Term	Draft and implementation of projects for water management and drainage systems	
32	Water management and drainage systems	Malia Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for Studies and Works of Museums and Cultural Buildings	Ongoing	Project "Flood prevention at the Minoan Palace of Malia on Crete", Recovery and Resilience Facility	
33	Restoration – reconstruction	Knossos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion	Ongoing	Project "Restoration – enhancement of the palace and archaeological site of Knossos: Phase 4" (NSRF 2014-2020, Operational Programme "Crete 2014-2020") Conservation – enhancement of the Hall of the Double Axes Restoration of the Little Palace Restoration of the retaining wall of the Royal Road	Upon completion of the project, the Hall of the Double Axes (King's Megaron), the NW edge of the Royal Road and the grounds around the Villa Ariadne will be delivered in a conserved and restored state, with infrastructure for site operation and visitor services, including for disabled visitors.

THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
34	Phaistos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Short Term	Works to restore monuments in the SW and north sectors of the palace	
35	Malia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Works to restore the palace and the surrounding monuments	
36	Zakros	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Medium Term	Works to restore the palace and the surrounding monuments	

	THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	STAKEHOLDERS	TIME SCHEDULE	PROPOSED ACTION AND OBJECTIVE	
35	Restoration – reconstruction	Zominthos	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Rethymno Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Short Term	Restoration of the Central Building	
36	Restoration – reconstruction	Kydonia	Ministry of Culture Ephorate of Antiquities of Chania Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments	Short Term	Consolidation and restoration works on building remains	

### AXIS 3. UPGRADING THE USE OF THE SITES AND RISK PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

Safeguarding and promoting the cultural heritage of the Minoan Palatial Centres extend far beyond the conservation and restoration of the monuments. It also entails actions and measures aiming at the upgrading or development of infrastructures and services inside and around each component of the property which can improve the protection of the sites, the overall experience provided to the visitors, and at the same time to ensure social cohesion and the future use of the site in sustainable ways.

A series of projects are already implemented or under study which focus on the following objectives: to maintain the integrity of the sites and to improve the visibility of the property's landscape, to retain the diversity of cultural, built and natural features of each component, so as to reflect the significance of their overall value, to facilitate site visitation and to establish or upgrade transportation, signage and touristic amenities.

Proposals for upgrading the use of the nominated component have been included in studies and strategic plans of both the Ministry of Culture and the local administrative authorities. In particular, the ongoing and proposed actions listed in the tables below (Table 3.1) are scheduled to be applied, depending on the maturity of each project, within a short, medium and long term time frame.

Towards this direction, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) has been signed (May 2023) within the framework of the Integrated Urban Intervention Plan of Crete between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete. The scope of the Memorandum is to support and promote all actions required for the planning, compilation and implementation of studies and projects with a view to promote and upgrade the use of the nominated components in a holistic, effective and sustainable manner and create a cultural route connecting the Minoan Palatial Centres, and to fulfill the needs of other stakeholders and interested parties (local community, visitors, scholars, touristic industries, etc.). A short description of the Memorandum's planned projects is provided in Annex IV.

Within the framework of drafting the Management Plan of the nomination, a thorough multi-risk analysis of the occurrence and potential impacts of natural hazards has been undertaken by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens - Division of Environmental Physics and Meteorology under the supervision of Dr Constantinos Cartalis with reference to the region of Crete and in particular the areas of the archaeological sites of Knossos, Malia, Phaistos, Zakros, Zominthos and Kydonia. The aim of the study is the assessment and prioritization of natural hazards and climatic risks – as they apply today and as they are expected to take shape in the period 2046-2065 due to climate change – recorded in the wider spatial units in which the six archaeological areas are located. The study refers to:

- the assessment and prioritization of flood and mudslide risk and vulnerability using flood models and statistical tools running in a Geographic Information Systems environment,
- the assessment and prioritization of the wildfire danger and make proposals for forest fire prevention and control measures and early warning systems to protect these sites from the adverse impacts of wildfires,
- the assessment of landslide risk through the analysis of the activity and the type of landslide activity,



- the assessment of expected climate risks for the period 2046-2065 using climate models data and calculating relevant climate indicators.

#### Proposed actions per component

##### *Palatial Centre of Knossos*

- Compilation of technical studies within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete, followed by the implementation of the relevant works for: a) the re-location and adjustments to the existing entrances to the archaeological site with the view to improve the visitors flow management, b) the upgrade and extension of the existing fire protection infrastructures.
- Compilation of technical studies (studies for traffic circulation, improving the parking lot facilities, enhancing the building's appearance in the nearby modern settlement, connection of the nominated site with the archaeological site of Archanes and other nearby sites of cultural interest including the city of Heraklion) within the framework of a Programme Agreement signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Heraklion followed by the construction of the relevant infrastructure.
- Compilation of a specialized water-management and drainage study for the area of the Little Palace, aiming at protecting the architectural remains from the impacts of flood events, followed by the implementation of the project.
- Assessment of the storm water drainage (site and surrounding area) and a specifying modelling assessment of Kairatos and Vlychia floodwaters is necessary.
- Construction of new pathways inside the archaeological site, based on technical studies, already drafted and approved, in order to facilitate the access of visitors with disabilities to specific parts of the Palatial Centre ("Theatre", Central Court, "King's and Queen's quarters").
- Upgrade and extension of the permanent fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting) and installation of wildfire early detection and monitoring system.

##### *Palatial Centre of Phaistos*

- Compilation of study followed by the implementation of the relevant works for improving and expanding visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities, as well as for upgrading signage and visitor services infrastructure (ticket booths, gift shops, etc.).
- Compilation and implementation of technical studies within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete regarding the following issues: a) upgrading the parking facilities, b) new lighting infrastructure of the site, c) implementation of phytotechnical study.
- Upgrade and extension of the permanent fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting) and installation of wildfire early detection and monitoring system.

- Compilation of a high-resolution hydraulics study for Geropotamos River in the vicinity of the Phaistos Palatial Centres in order to assess flood risks and to determine canalization and flood prevention measures.
- Compilation of a geotechnical study to assess and identify the locations and the size of possible rockfalls, slides or flows for Phaistos in order to provide accurate proposals to address them. The use of modern techniques, such as UAV-aided photogrammetry, will effectively assist in the detection and delineation of such cases.

#### *Palatial Centre of Malia*

- There is an ongoing project implemented by the Ministry of Culture and funded by the European Recovery and Resilience Facility regarding the construction of anti-flood works in order to alleviate the chronic issue of excess rain water.
- Compilation and implementation of technical studies within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete regarding the following issues: a) upgrading the parking facilities, b) improving and expanding visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities, as well as for upgrading signage and visitor services infrastructure, c) upgrading the building facilities used by the French School at Athens for the storage and study of the archaeological material of Malia.
- Upgrade of the fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting).

#### *Palatial Centre of Zakros*

- Compilation of technical studies within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete followed by the construction of related infrastructure for: a) anti-flood protection, b) improvement and expansion of visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities, c) upgrading the parking facilities, d) installation of lighting system for the enhancement of the site.
- Upgrade of the fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting).
- Compilation of a study to assess flash flooding risks caused by heavy precipitation and groundwater flooding.
- Compilation of a detailed Landslide Hazard and Risk mapping analysis alongside the inspection of monument status in relation to slope stability.
- Study and implementation of non invasive interventions to the Gorge should be considered in order to minimize the risk of rockfalls.

#### *Palatial Centre of Zominthos*

- There is an ongoing project implemented by the Ministry of Culture regarding the construction of visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors

with disabilities, as well as for upgrading signage and visitor services infrastructure.

- Compilation of technical studies within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete followed by the implementation of works for the installation of a permanent fire fighting system.
- Installation of a camera surveillance/security system connected with the central hub of the Ministry of Culture.
- Renovation of traditional structures and buildings in close proximity to the site in order to accommodate activities and functions related with the promotion of the Palatial Centre of Zominthos.
- Construction of perimeter trenches for the collection and drainage of surface water into adjacent hydrological networks, away from the archaeological site.
- Compilation of a geotechnical study for the western part of the archaeological site which will assess and identify the locations and the size of possible rockfalls, making proposals to address them, such as the removal of dangerous rocks to slide.

#### *Palatial Centre of Kydonia*

- Compilation of technical studies within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Crete followed by the implementation of works related to: a) the upgrade of building facilities (offices, storage rooms, etc.) for the needs of study, protection and enhancement of the sites, b) the installation of appropriate signage for the visitors to understand and appreciate the importance and association of the scattered ruins of the Palatial Centre within the modern city of Chania.
- Compilation of study on ways to link and unify the core excavation plots that document the existence of the Minoan Palatial Centre of Kydonia.

THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	PROPOSED ACTION
Visitors services	Knossos	<p><u>Ongoing / Short Term</u> Compilation of study followed by the implementation of the relevant works for the creation of a new visitor and disabled visitor pathway from the West Court to the Theatral Area and the Central Court of the palace.</p> <p><u>Medium Term</u> Relocation and adjustments to the existing entrances to the archaeological site with the view to improve the visitors flow management. Improving the parking lot facilities. Construction of new pathways inside the archaeological site.</p> <p><u>Long Term</u> Connection of the nominated site with the archaeological site of Archanes and other nearby sites of cultural interest including the city of Heraklion.</p>
	Phaistos	<p><u>Ongoing / Short Term</u> Compilation of study followed by the implementation of the relevant works for improving and expanding visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities, as well as for upgrading signage and visitor services infrastructure (ticket booths, gift shops, etc.). Upgrading the parking facilities.</p>
	Malia	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Upgrading the parking facilities. Improving and expanding visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities, as well as for upgrading signage and visitor services infrastructure.</p>
	Zakros	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Improvement and expansion of visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities. Upgrading the parking facilities.</p>
	Zominthos	<p><u>Short Term</u> Construction of visitor walkways and accesses, with provisions for visitors with disabilities, as well as for upgrading signage and visitor services infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Long Term</u> Renovation of traditional structures and buildings in close proximity to the site in order to accommodate activities and functions related with the promotion of the Palatial Centre of Zominthos.</p>
	Kydonia	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Installation of appropriate signage for the visitors to understand and appreciate the importance and association of the scattered ruins of the Palatial Centre within the modern city of Chania. Compilation of study on ways to link and unify the core excavation plots that document the existence of the Palatial Centre of Kydonia.</p>

THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	PROPOSED ACTION
Site operation infrastructure	Knossos	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Traffic circulation arrangements around the archaeological site. Assessment of the storm water drainage (site and surrounding area) and a specializing modelling assessment of Kairatos and Vlychia floodwaters is necessary.</p> <p><u>Long Term</u> Construction of a water-management and drainage system for the area of the Little Palace aiming at protecting the architectural remains from the impacts of flood events. Enhancing the building's appearance in the nearby modern settlement. Implementation of phytotechnical study.</p>
	Phaistos	<p><u>Medium Term</u> New lighting infrastructure of the site.</p>
	Malia	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Upgrading the building facilities used by the French School at Athens for the storage and study of the archaeological material of Malia.</p>
	Zakros	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Installation of lighting system for the enhancement of the site.</p>
	Zominthos	<p><u>Ongoing / Short Term</u> Construction of visitors facilities (ticket booths, gift shops, WC, etc.).</p>
	Kydonia	<p><u>Medium Term</u> Upgrade of building facilities (offices, storage rooms, etc.) for the needs of study, protection and enhancement of the sites.</p>



THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	PROPOSED ACTION
Safety infrastructure	Knossos	<u>Medium Term</u> Upgrade the lightning protection system. Upgrade and extension of the permanent fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting) and installation of wildfire early detection and monitoring system.
	Phaistos	<u>Medium Term</u> Upgrade and extension of the permanent fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting) and installation of wildfire early detection and monitoring system. Compilation of a high-resolution hydraulics study for Geropotamos River in the vicinity of the Phaistos Palatial Centre in order to assess flood risks and to determine canalization and flood prevention measures. Compilation of a geotechnical study to assess and identify the locations and the size of possible rockfalls, slides or flows for Phaistos in order to provide accurate proposals to address them. The use of modern techniques, such as UAV-aided photogrammetry, will effectively assist in the detection and delineation of such cases.
	Malia	<u>Short Term</u> Construction of anti-flood works in order to alleviate the chronic issue of excess rain water. <u>Medium Term</u> Upgrade of the fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting).
	Zakros	<u>Medium Term</u> Construction of anti-flood protection works. Upgrade of the fire fighting system of the site (upgrade of the fire prevention, exit and emergency signage, installation of Voice Alarm System, emergency and escape lighting). Compilation of a study to assess flash flooding risks caused by heavy precipitation and groundwater flooding. Compilation of a detailed Landslide Hazard and Risk mapping analysis alongside the inspection of monument status in relation to slope stability.
	Zominthos	<u>Medium Term</u> Implementation of works for the installation of a permanent fire fighting system. Installation of a camera surveillance/security system connected with the central hub of the Ministry of Culture. <u>Long Term</u> Construction of perimeter trenches for the collection and drainage of surface water into adjacent hydrological networks, away from the archaeological site. Compilation of a geotechnical study for the western part of the archaeological site which will assess and identify the locations and the size of possible rockfalls, making proposals to address them, such as the removal of dangerous rocks to slide.
	Kydonia	

## AXIS 4. AWARENESS RAISING – EDUCATION – PROMOTION

One of the main objectives of the Management Plan is to sustain and broaden all activities aiming at awareness raising, education and promotion of the property's values. At the same time, it sets the basis for planning new tools for maintaining and endorsing the cultural attributes of the nominated property, for providing access and inclusion of local communities, scientific and academic groups and for generating educational benefits for the visitors and all interested parties.

These objectives can be accomplished by:

- Undertaking soft initiatives like workshops, lecture series and guided tours, thereby ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education.
- Training the onsite guides on the World Heritage status of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value.
- Introducing new technologies and tools for the dissemination of information about the property.
- Continuation - enrichment of existing educational programmes carried out at the site by the responsible Ephorates of Antiquities and promoting the active participation of school-age children in projects involving the protection, documentation, and conservation of finds.
- Update the printed and digital archaeological guides with the inclusion of recent information about the excavation and restoration projects related to the nominated property.

### Awareness Raising Activities

#### *Cultural events*

Organization of cultural events reflecting the cultural significance of the nominated property and the Minoan Civilization. The wider area of the property's components may be used as an outdoor stage for music and performing arts shows, festivals and social activities. Such activities are expected to highlight the significance of each site, to promote community engagement and social cohesion and to raise awareness about the constant conservation and protection efforts. More specifically, within the framework of the Management Plan, various cultural events will continue to take place in collaboration with the competent stakeholders.

Annual events are going to be planned and implemented under the co-ordination of the involved stakeholders for the promotion of local traditions and products, traditional professions and craftsmanship which are inspired or connected with the Minoan Palatial Centres.

Furthermore, athletic events or activities inspired by the Minoan Past or following ancient routes, are expected to familiarize the participants both with the Cretan landscape and the Minoan antiquities located along the trails or routes. Towards this direction several initiatives have been already organized, such as the International Mountain Race "Psiloritis Race", that covers the distance that pilgrims of the sacred city of Minoan Knossos used to walk in order to climb Psiloritis mountain and honor their god and the "Minoan Feat" long-distance foot and cycle race from the archaeological site of Phaistos to the Minoan Palace of Knossos.

### *Education*

The Minoan Palatial Centres constitute a valuable educational resource for the understanding of the Minoan Civilization. The Ministry of Culture is constantly making efforts to disseminate the archaeological heritage values of the Minoan Palatial Centres by renewing the signage, improving the maintenance and legibility of the sites, organizing activities supporting science works.

Furthermore, a series of educational programmes, seminars and workshops are carried out both by the Ministry of Culture Services and other involved research and educational institutes and organizations. Such initiatives constitute a primary goal of the Management Plan and all involved stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in their planning and implementation in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. Furthermore, related educational programmes will be developed in combination with visits and workshops, per case adapted to specific age and social groups.

The production of documentaries discussing the history of excavations, conservation and restorations in the Palatial Centers, such as the recent documentary “Zakros”, (Production Year: 2023, Director: Filippos Koutsafis) are also contributing significantly to the promotion of the nominated property, as well as to the education of the wide public.

In order to highlight the timeless interconnection and harmonic co-existence of the Minoan Palaces with the Cretan landscape, cultural and environment-related activities will be promoted, thus continuing a series of already implemented projects with related thematic topics, such as the programmes “River - sea gods in the Minoan age”, “Depictions of natural landscape in the Minoan works” and “Plants and outdoor environment in the Minoan sanctuaries”.

In terms of raising awareness the following actions will be also examined within the framework of the Management Plan:

- To involve local secondary schools in UNESCO Associated Schools Network and UNESCO Clubs and Associations.
- To introduce the “World Heritage in Youth Hands” UNESCO programme to universities, local professional associations, etc.
- To organize a World Heritage Education special training programme among local communities aiming to raise the awareness on significance of nominated heritage property.
- To organize regular workshops and seminars, national and international conferences on management issues of the sites involving foreign and local researchers, experts, policymakers, relevant local governmental and non governmental organizations, private entities and individuals, including local people.

### *New Technologies and Tools for the Dissemination of Information*

Many digital tools have been implemented during the last years by the Ministry of Culture, as already mentioned in chapter 5 of the nomination file, aiming at providing direct and free access to information about the nominated property.

A variety of digital information about the Minoan Palatial Centres can be found on national and local official websites (see Chapter 5).

Within the framework of the Integrated Urban Intervention Plan (approved by the Official Gazette 494/B/19-02-2020), further innovative information and touristic services are going to be introduced through the development of digital applications and platforms, among which the development of a website about the cultural routes connecting the Palatial Centres of Crete and of mobile applications.

If inscribed, the nominated property of the Minoan Palatial Centres will be included in the innovative, educational website of the Ministry of Culture titled “Monumental Adventures at the Greek UNESCO Monuments” <https://www.greekunescomonuments.gr/en/>. This project aims to introduce people of all ages around the world to the Greek monuments of universal significance, which have been listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List and consists of digital books, podcasts, interactive games and videos and many other activities.

THEMATIC AXIS	COMPONENT	PROPOSED ACTION
Cultural Events	Knossos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cultural events reflecting the cultural significance of the nominated property and the Minoan Civilization</li> <li>■ Cultural events in collaboration with the involved stakeholders for the promotion of local traditions and products, traditional professions and craftsmanships, which are inspired or connected with the Minoan Civilizations</li> <li>■ Sports-related events inspired by the Minoan cultural routes and sites</li> </ul>
	Phaistos	
	Malia	
	Zakros	
	Zominthos	
	Kydonia	
Education	Knossos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Organization of regular workshops and seminars, national and international conferences on management issues of the sites</li> <li>■ Involvement of local secondary schools in UNESCO Associated Schools Network and UNESCO Clubs and Associations.</li> <li>■ Introducing the «World Heritage in Youth Hands» UNESCO program to universities and local professional associations.</li> <li>■ Development of World Heritage Education special training programs among local communities aiming to raise the awareness on significance of nominated heritage property.</li> <li>■ Organization of regular workshops and seminars, national and international conferences</li> </ul>
	Phaistos	
	Malia	
	Zakros	
	Zominthos	
	Kydonia	
New Technologies	Knossos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Development of a digital platform promoting the cultural routes connecting the Palatial Centres of Crete</li> <li>■ Development of mobile applications</li> <li>■ Inclusion of the Minoan Palatial Centres to the digital educational platform of the Ministry of Culture “Monumental Adventures at the Greek UNESCO Monuments”.</li> </ul>
	Phaistos	
	Malia	
	Zakros	
	Zominthos	
	Kydonia	



## ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM, IMPLEMENTATION BODIES

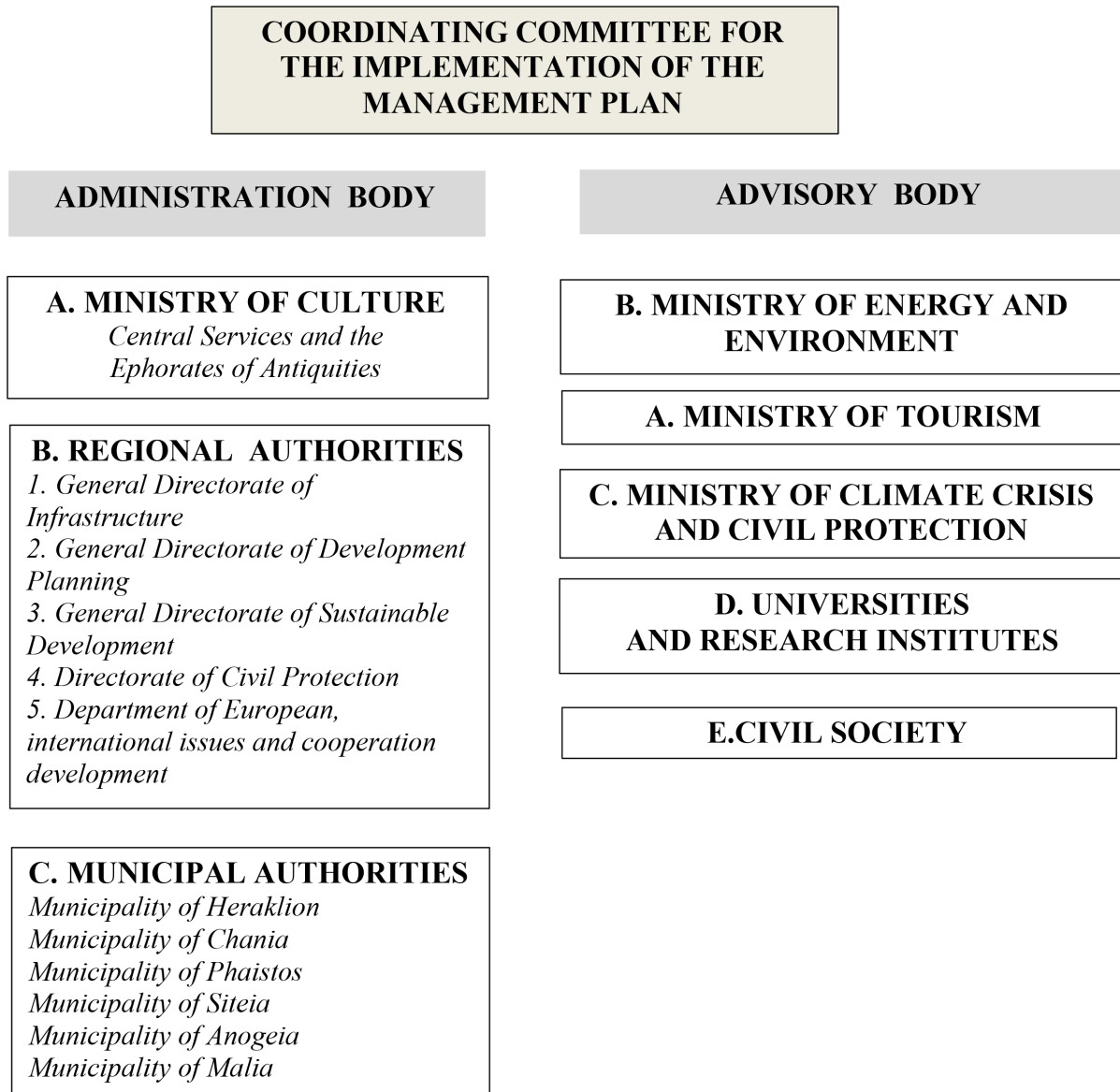
Taking into consideration the fact that all components of the nominated property are designated archaeological sites they fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture. For the implementation of the Management Plan, which incorporates actions involving various state authorities and stakeholders, an interactive framework will be set for collaborative governance.

More specifically, a special Committee will be set up which will include all the main stakeholders. Its operation will be divided into two levels:

- the administrative level, comprising all the state bodies which are responsible for the direct implementation of the plan. The Services of the Ministry of Culture, both central and regional, which will also have a coordinating role, the competent Services of the Region of Crete, as well as the six local Municipalities will participate in this level.
- the advisory level, which includes the state bodies or non-state agencies which will cooperate and assist, according to their competence, the administrative level organizations, with inter alia the necessary documentation for planning projects, the preparation of proposals, the drafting and evaluation of studies, etc.

The Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan will be established upon the inscription of the nominated property on the World Heritage List. It will also be responsible for any necessary adjustments and modifications of the management plan, as well as for its updating after the first implementation period.

Chart of the structure of the proposed Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan



FUNDING

As demonstrated in chapter 5, the nominated properties are funded on a regular annual basis by State resources, specifically through the Ministry of Culture budget. This funding covers operating expenses and the staff cost (for all categories of employees) working for the Ephorates of Antiquities, building and infrastructure maintenance, and the execution of necessary archaeological or other works required for the sites' operation and protection.

Part of the planned actions within the framework of the Management Plan will be funded by the above-mentioned resources. Other funding solutions include additional public funds or resources through European or international programmes, as well as private sponsorships and donations.

## 1. International and European Sources of Financing

Potential international and European sources of financing the proposed actions include:

### Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), a key funding instrument provided by the European Union, constitutes a significant resource revenue for the implementation of projects proposed in the Management Plan. In particular, the Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), named "Greece 2.0", has a separate key reform component for cultural heritage (Group 25) with culture-centred milestones and targets (e.g. "Culture as driver of growth", "Protection of cultural monuments and archaeological sites from climate change", "Cultural Routes at Emblematic Archaeological Sites and Monuments", "Upgrade of infrastructure, renewal of equipment and upgrade of quality of services", "Skill building for creative and cultural professionals"), already used by the Ministry of Culture for the implementation of projects in reference with green transition, digital transformation and sustainable and inclusive growth. This particular source of financing could be further utilized for the implementation of some of the proposed actions within the framework of the Management Plan.

### National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)

The NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework) constitutes the reference document for the programming of European Union Funds at national level. It has been elaborated within the framework of the new strategic approach to the Cohesion Policy of the European Union, according to which NSRF "... ensures that the assistance from the Funds is consistent with the Community strategic guidelines on cohesion and identifies the link between Community priorities, on the one hand, and the national reform programme, on the other". Within the Ministry of Culture many conservation, restoration and enhancement projects for archaeological sites and museums have been and are still implemented with NSRF funding.

Given the fact that the NSRF for the period 2021-2027 considers as eligible for funding various categories of activities (e.g. Environment and Climate Change, Digital Transformation, Human Resources and Social Cohesion) many of the proposed actions within the Management Plan may be included in this funding framework.



Cohesion Fund (CF)

The Cohesion Fund was set up in 1994 and provides funding for environmental and trans-European network projects in the Member States whose gross national income per capital is less than 90% of the EU average. It aims to reduce economic and social inequalities and promote sustainable development. It is subject to the same programming, management and monitoring rules as the ERDF through the Common Provisions Regulation.

While the Cohesion Fund does not specifically target cultural heritage, it may indirectly provide financing for cultural heritage preservation through its support for infrastructure and environmental projects.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is one of the main financial instruments of the EU's cohesion policy. Its purpose is to contribute to reducing disparities between the levels of development of European regions and to improve living standards in the least-favoured regions. Particular attention is paid to regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic disadvantages, such as the northernmost regions, which have very low population densities, and island, cross-border and mountain regions.

ERDF provides an important source of financing for cultural heritage preservation across the European Union. Its funding can support a range of initiatives that contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage sites and objects, as well as the development of local economies and communities. Key initiatives include infrastructure development, conservation and restoration, capacity building, tourism promotion, research and documentation.

Horizon 2000 Programme

Horizon 2020 is the EU's biggest research and innovation programme ever launched. It will lead to more achievements, discoveries and world firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. Horizon 2020 does not provide direct financing for cultural heritage preservation. However, it does provide opportunities for research and innovation that can contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage sites and objects.

The Ministry of Culture has a long experience in undertaking such projects and under this perspective Horizon 2000 can also be used for the funding of the proposed actions and studies for the Minoan Palatial Centres.

INTERREG Programme

The European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programme, known as INTERREG, is one of the two objectives of the cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and exchange of policies between National Regional and Local bodies from various Member States. The Region of Crete, due to its position, can participate in the cross-border - transnational programmes Interreg V-A "Greece - Cyprus 2014 - 2020", Interreg V-A "Greece - Italy 2014 - 2020", and Interreg V-B "Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020". It can also participate in the ENI - CBCMED cooperation programme "Mediterranean Sea Basin 2014 - 2020". Territorial cooperation programmes under Interreg also include the URBACT and ESPON cooperation networks.

While Interreg Programme does not specifically target cultural heritage, it may provide financing for projects related to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage through its support for projects that contribute to the sustainable development of Regions and their cultural heritage assets.

#### Foreign Archaeological Schools and Institutes established in Greece.

As demonstrated in previous chapters, several Foreign Archaeological Schools and Institutes are active in the Minoan Palatial Centres. Within the framework of their research projects, they support financially activities related with excavation, study and restoration as well as with training and capacity building, promotion and awareness raising about the cultural heritage of the Palatial Centres of Crete.

## **2. National Sources of Financing**

Potential National sources of financing include:

#### Public Investment Programme 2021 - 2027

The Public Investment Programme finances the country's development policy with projects that contribute to the increase of the private and public capital of the economy and support the modernization of the country on a long-term basis. The Public Investment Programme, divided into National and Co-financed Programme, is a study source of finance for the Ministry of Culture and will be further used for the implementation of the Management Plan.

#### Regular Budget of the Ministry of Culture

The Regular Budget of the Ministry of Culture is a steady source of finance and mainly covers expenses for the protection and promotion of the cultural stock, operational needs of the archaeological services and grants to the cultural institutions supervised by the Ministry.

#### Operational Programme Civil Protection 2021 - 2027

Strategy of the Programme "Civil Protection 2021-2027" is the creation of a modern and effective mechanism of civil protection that focuses on the prevention of risks and the readiness of response and intervention with the aim of protecting the life, health and property of citizens, the environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, wealth-producing sources, vital services, tangible and intangible goods from natural and technological disasters and other threats of related origin, which cause or may cause emergency situations.

Regarding cultural heritage, through the Programme are financed large-budget sectoral specialized studies to investigate the impacts of climate change on a sectoral, but also spatial level, drawing up specifications to increase the resilience of infrastructure, and targeted actions to adapt cultural heritage to climate change.

#### Operational Programme Competitiveness 2021 - 2027

The Programme is an integrated intervention of the NSRF 2021 – 2027 that will support the productive, competitive and extroverted sectors of the economy in their transition to a development model guided by the Knowledge Economy.

The goal of the Programme is the connection of research and development with innovation and entrepreneurship and the support of the National and Regional advantages in line with the EU policies for a green and digital transformation.

#### NGOs and private sector

Funding for the implementation of the Management Plan may be provided by cultural NGOs or the private sector in order to support the preservation and protection of the Minoan Palatial Centres cultural heritage. Usually support is provided by: a) direct grants for restoration and conservation projects, b) matching grants that encourage donors to support cultural heritage preservation by matching their contributions. This approach can help leverage additional resources to support preservation efforts, c) funding capacity-building initiatives with the aim to strengthen the skills and knowledge of cultural heritage professionals. These initiatives could include training programmes, mentor-ship opportunities, and scholarships, d) advocacy and awareness initiatives in order to promote the importance of cultural heritage preservation. This could include funding for public outreach campaigns, education programmes, or research studies.

### **3. Regional and Local Sources of Financing**

Potential Regional and Local sources of financing include:

#### Regional Operational Programme (Strategic Planning) 2020 - 2023

The four-year operational plan of the Region of Crete is drawn up on the basis of Law 3852/2010, defining that for the medium-term planning of the Regions, a Four-Year Operational Programme is drawn up, which is specialized every year into an Annual Action Programme. Within this framework, various actions and measures are eligible for funding, among which the following groups of actions, may incorporate the implementation of the Management Plan's proposed actions:

##### *"Environment and Quality of Life"*

Measure 1.1.2. Protection and promotion of historical cultural heritage: Actions for the promotion and protection of archaeological - historical sites and monuments / Actions for the functional upgrading and enhancement of the attractiveness of museums - archaeological, historical sites and monuments (21 activities with total budget 5,804,340 €).

Measure 1.1.3. Promotion - utilization of modern culture: Actions to strengthen and promote modern cultural creation / Organization of events that highlight the intangible cultural capital with the aim of creating institutions (3 activities with total budget 474,800 €).

Measure 1.1.4. Combined promotion of natural - cultural heritage - local development: Integrated Spatial Investments in areas of natural - cultural capital / Networks of natural, cultural, historical resources - special thematic routes (2 activities with total budget 543,402 €).

##### *"Economy and Employment"*

Measure 3.1.5. Actions of Smart Specialization in the Tourism - Culture Sector - RIS3 Crete: Highlighting culture as a competitive element of the tourism

product / Increasing the competitiveness and quality of tourism services / Differentiating the tourism product, strengthening the brand name / Strengthening the coherence of value chain of tourism and development of connections with other chains and clusters / Actions of revised RIS3 Crete (1 activity with total budget 140,000 €).

#### Operational Programme Crete 2021 - 2027

Crete Operational Programme 2021 - 2027 is currently under review and institutionalization (Concept Paper). The Programme contains twelve (12) Strategic Areas highlighting the strategic policy options in the upcoming Programming Period.

Strategic Area 9 is related to cultural heritage, titled: "Promotion of the cultural and touristic resources of the island with a view to sustainability and the diversification/enrichment of the tourism product of Crete".

#### Smart Specialization Platform (RIS3)

Region of Crete is implementing the Smart Specialization Platform (RIS3 Crete), through which it seeks to promote the transformation of the regional economy, with the revitalization of traditional and emerging sectors and the modernization of production capabilities.

The Smart Specialization Platform 2021-2027 focuses on 5 pillars: Sustainable Agri-Food, Smart Tourism-Culture, Sustainable Use of Resources, Digital Technologies and Effective Health and Wellness, and seeks immediate and effective allocation of resources from the Operational Programmes "Crete 2014-2020" and "Crete 2021-2027".

#### Local Funds

Regional Resources (Central Autonomous Resources - CAP): Central Autonomous Resources of Crete Region come from State Budget revenue sources. Such revenue sources are the Personal and Legal Income Tax at a rate of 2.40% on the total annual receipts of this tax and the Value Added Tax (VAT) at a rate of 4% on the total annual receipts of this tax.

Special Development Programme (SDP): a five-year single-fund programme. It is approved by the Regional Council of the Region of Crete following the submission of an SDP Plan, which is elaborated after processing the respective proposals from the Local Government (Regional Units and Municipalities), other bodies (e.g., chambers, labor Centres, associations of agricultural cooperatives, etc.) and individuals.