



St. Catherine Area State of Conservation Report 2024



The Arab Republic of Egypt
The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

Executive Summary

In response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 45th extended session held in Riyadh (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) from 10 to 25 September 2023, and in compliance with the recommendations of the mentioned Committee, the Arab Republic of Egypt has adopted a set of procedures and measures aimed at protecting the OUV of the Site in accordance with the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the UNESCO Convention of 1972. This State of Conservation Report presents the efforts made by the State at all governmental levels, in partnership with non-governmental organizations and international partners, to protect the OUV of the property, as well as responding to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee regarding the Site. In compliance with the requests expressed by the Committee in its aforementioned decision following the guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the government of Arab Republic of Egypt has taken some measures in the framework of its plan to implement the recommendations made with regards to the site, and its strategy towards ensuring the protection of the property and its OUV, as follow:

1. **Excavation work:** The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities represented by Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) pays great attention to excavation and archaeological research work in cooperation with many foreign missions and through the excavation missions of the SCA. **Annex (1) provides a list of discoveries and excavation work that took place during the years 2020-2023.**
2. **Urgent needs for consolidation and preservation of the historic buildings inside St. Catherine's Monastery:** Engineers and Conservators from the projects sector of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) prepared an inventory of urgent conservation needs for the archaeological buildings inside Saint Catherine's Monastery, **Annex (2) provides a preliminary inventory of urgent needs.**
3. **Integrated Management Plan and Conservation plan:** In this frame work, a workshop was organized in cooperation with the UNESCO Cairo Office and ICOMOS to enhance national capacities, with regards to preparing management plans for World Heritage sites in Egypt, applying the World Heritage Site of "Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis" as a case study, the St. Catherine Site Manager participated in this workshop to train on how to prepare a management plan and implement it in the St. Catherine area. In addition, a group of engineers and Conservators from the projects sector of the Supreme Council of Antiquities participated in preparing the conservation plan for the Abu Mena site, in order to train them on preparing conservation plans and implementing them in the St. Catherine area as well.



The Arab Republic of Egypt
The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

4. **Heritage Impact Assessment Studies:** Within the framework of the Arab Republic of Egypt's keenness to apply the operational guidelines for implementing the UNESCO Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites (formed by Presidential Decree No. 550 of 2018) has lately recommended the following:

- The Supreme Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites has created separate sub-committees to review the executive status of the projects being proposed or/and to be implemented within or near to the boundaries of the Egyptian World Heritage Sites, in addition to defining the mechanisms for dealing with the challenges facing these sites, taking into consideration the guidelines of UNESCO.
- Directing the concerned entities not to start the implementation of any proposed project that is potentially located within or surrounding the boundaries of the World Heritage Sites prior to finalizing the needed Heritage Impact Studies and presenting it to the Supreme Committee in preparation for notifying the World Heritage Center.
- In this context, the Arab Republic of Egypt has submitted to the World Heritage Center Heritage Impact Assessment study (HIA) for "Great Revelation Initiative – the Land". The study was presented to the World Heritage Centre in December 2023, and reviewed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in June 2024. ICOMOS recommendations on the study are to be included.