



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

State of Conservation Report  
Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis, 2024



Arab Republic of Egypt  
Ministry of Antiquities

# STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

## Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis World Heritage Site

Cairo, Egypt  
Report 2024



## 1. Executive Summary of the Report

Referring to the decision of the World Heritage Committee on the site of Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis “45 COM 7B.136” at its 45<sup>th</sup> session (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2023), (document WHC/23/45.COM/7B, and Decision 44 COM 7B.126 adopted at its 44<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), as well as the recommendations of the UNESCO Advisory Mission to the site of Thebes with its Necropolis in 2021, and the Reactive Monitoring Mission of the World Heritage Centre and its Advisory Body “ICOMOS”, during its mission to the site in 2017.

The Arab Republic of Egypt - in compliance with the requests expressed by the Committee in its aforementioned decision and its relevant previous decisions, the recommendations of the missions associated with it, and the operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention - has taken some measures in the framework of its plan to implement the recommendations made with regards to the site, and its national strategy towards ensuring the protection of the property and its OUV, as follow:

- 1. Integrated Management Plan:** The Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) intends to prepare an integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage Site "Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis", in collaboration with the Korean Heritage Authority represented by the National University of Heritage within the framework of the project "The Capacity Enhancement for The Development of Sustainable Cultural Heritage Tourism Resources in Luxor, Egypt" funded by the Korean Development Assistance Program (ODA).
- 2. Heritage Impact Assessment Studies:** Within the framework of the Arab Republic of Egypt 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 directed all concerned and any 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.  
The Supreme Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites has created separate sub-meetings 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.



In this context, the Arab Republic of Egypt has submitted to the World Heritage Center a Heritage Impact Assessment study (HIA) for the proposed project “**The Second Line High Speed Railway Project (Blue Line, 6th of October - Abu Simbel)**” on the World Heritage Sites “Nubian Monuments” and “Thebes with its Necropolis”. The study was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2023.

3. **Excavation and restoration work:** The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) represented by the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) pays a great attention to excavation and archaeological research work along the property as one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt, in cooperation with many foreign missions and through the excavation missions of the SCA. **Annex (1) provides a list of discoveries and excavation works that took place during the years 2023-2024.** The SCA is also making many efforts to preserve the site by implementing restoration work and periodic follow-up of the site. **Annex (2) provides a list of restoration projects that were implemented at the site during the years 2023-2024.**
4. **Visitor Services:** The SCA is developing visitor services and providing all possible means to enhance the visitors experience to highlight the site’s significance and its OUV. **Annex (3) includes a list of activities that have been implemented to improve visitor services.**
5. **Capacity building programs:** In continuation to the efforts made by MoTA in cooperation with the UNESCO Cairo Office to build the Egyptian capacities in charge of World Heritage Sites, a number of training programs and workshops were organized in the fields of World Heritage Site Management and conservation work, with the aim of raising awareness and building the capacities of specialists responsible for World Heritage Sites. In this regard, the MoTA was keen to involve a number of officials representing the competent entities and stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) in the organized workshops and training programs to raise awareness of the importance of managing World Heritage Sites and protecting their OUV.