



إيسيسكو  
ICESCO

المركز الإقليمي العربي  
للتراث العالمي

Arab Regional Centre for  
World Heritage (ARC-WH)



# Workshop

*on Supporting the Removal of  
Properties from the List of World  
Heritage in Danger in the Arab region*

*In partnership with :*

**ICOMOS**  
international council on monuments and sites



*Organised by: ICESCO and ARC-WH  
17-21 February 2025*

*Concept Note*





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# *Rationale*

The Arab States Region includes 18 States Parties and 96 properties. Due to recent, ongoing, and recently outbroken conflicts, 24 properties were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, distributed across seven States Parties. Desired States of Conservation for the Removal from the World Heritage List in Danger (DSOCR) have been prepared and approved for only six of these properties. The adoption by the World Heritage Committee of the DSOCR and related corrective measures represents the first step in the roadmap towards the removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger; hence, it is crucial that a DSOCR is developed for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The primary objective of corrective measures should be to remove identified substantial threats to the OUV of each property listed as in danger, including efforts to restore deteriorated/ compromised attributes, reestablish protection and management of the property and, subsequently, its empowerment to prevent additional risks to form a threat.

In this context, the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) plays a vital role through its international program dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage. ICESCO conducted a comprehensive study on endangered heritage in the Islamic world, identifying key challenges and proposing strategies for safeguarding these invaluable assets. By fostering collaboration among member states and providing technical support, ICESCO aims to enhance awareness and mobilize efforts towards the protection of heritage sites at risk, reinforcing the importance of cultural identity and history in the region.

In line with the Action Plans for World Heritage for the Arab States (2022-2027) regions resulting from the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reports, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) are organizing a workshop to support the removal of cultural and natural properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger in Arab States, in partnership with ICOMOS and ICCROM. The workshop on Supporting the Removal of Properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the Arab region will take place between 17-21 February 2025 in Rabat, Morocco. ICOMOS, ICCROM, and the World Heritage Centre will contribute to the workshop and online sessions by providing a group of experts and valuable resources

# Workshop objectives

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- ◆ Strengthen the capacities of participants regarding the process of developing the desired state of conservation with a view to removing a property from the endangered list.



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- ◆ Support participants in establishing a roadmap either for the development or finalization of the DSCOR and the implementation of corrective measures.



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- ◆ Help participants to formulate effective, comprehensive, and sound corrective measures. The training will address participants' knowledge gaps by introducing key concepts towards enhancing World Heritage site s management and preservation, as well as providing them with resources and toolkits developed by UNESCO and advisory bodies, including such as definition of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), attributes, and boundary, effective management, conservation principles and international standards, risk management, first aid and recovery, and impact assessment.



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- ◆ Train participants on the methodology for identifying and/or revising indicators with a view to removing a property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.



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- ◆ Support participants in developing corrective measures and transforming them into practical projects, while considering both technical and financial partners to ensure successful implementation and achieve the Desired State of Conservation for Removal (DSOCR).



# *Learning outcomes*

- ◆ Participants will understand the requirements to inscribe the properties in the danger list.
- ◆ Participants will understand the synergies between the World Heritage Convention and other conventions and programs, particularly with regards to sites under threat, and those experiencing loss of intangible cultural heritage practices.
- ◆ Participants will understand the potential or ascertained danger affecting on the world heritage properties in danger list and analyse the factors that lead to the potential or ascertained danger.
- ◆ Participants will use the OUV statement to identify attributes represents the property values, check the adequacy of boundary, management system , and assess the impacts of dangers on each attributes.
- ◆ Participants will understand the process of developing Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and the documentation baseline needed to develop and adopt it.
- ◆ Participants will understand the be able to develop the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).
- ◆ Participants will also be capable to develop a set of corrective measures by with efficient, applicable solutions.
- ◆ Participants will be able to implement the DSCOCR and corrective measure by developing a sound timeframe, and definition of financial, technical resources.
- ◆ Participants will understand the main principles of conservation, risk management, first aid techniques and process of planning for recovery stage, the impact assessment process.



# Workshop target

- ◆ The main target audience of this workshop includes the site managers and representatives from management entities of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger for which a DSOGR has not been prepared or adopted or yet implemented due to capacity constraints.

N°	World Heritage Property	Country	Year
1.	<i>Abu Mena</i>	Egypt	2001
2.	<i>Samarra Archaeological City</i>	Iraq	2007
3.	<i>Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)</i>	Iraq	2003
4.	<i>Hatra</i>	Iraq	1985
5.	<i>Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town</i>	State of Palestine	2017
6.	<i>Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls</i>	State of Palestine	1982
7.	<i>Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer</i>	State of Palestine	2024
8.	<i>Ancient City of Aleppo</i>	Syrian Arab Republic	2013
9.	<i>Ancient Villages of Northern Syria</i>	Syrian Arab Republic	2013
10.	<i>Ancient City of Bosra</i>	Syrian Arab Republic	2013
11.	<i>Ancient City of Damascus</i>	Syrian Arab Republic	2013
12.	<i>Site of Palmyra</i>	Syrian Arab Republic	2013
13.	<i>Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din</i>	Syrian Arab Republic	2013
14.	<i>Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib</i>	Yemen	2023
15.	<i>Old City of Sana'a</i>	Yemen	2015
16.	<i>Old Walled City of Shibam</i>	Yemen	2015
17.	<i>Historic Town of Zabid</i>	Yemen	2000
18.	<i>Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe</i>	Sudan	2011
19.	<i>Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region</i>	Sudan	2003
20.	<i>Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus</i>	Libya	1992
21.	<i>Archaeological Site of Cyrene</i>	Libya	2016
22.	<i>Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna</i>	Libya	2016
23.	<i>Archaeological Site of Sabratha</i>	Libya	2016
24.	<i>Old Town of Ghadamès</i>	Libya	2016

- ◆ Focal points from countries without World Heritage sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger will be invited to ensure preparedness and the application of best practices for these sites in the event of conflict or any issues that may arise and potentially lead to their inclusion on the Danger List.

# Workshop Structure

The workshop will consist of four main activities: a **preparatory online session**, and **onsite workshop, site visits** and **follow-up online workshop** focusing focused on developing participants' DSOCR for their sites and a group of corrective measures, and, where applicable, a RSOUV.

**The preparatory online session** will introduce (January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

- ◆ The outline of the workshop, team and presenters.
- ◆ Introduce the list of documents needed for the workshop tasks.

**The on-site workshop** will be articulated into 5 days (Feb 17 – 21, 2025), this onsite workshop will address the following themes:

- ◆ An introduction to the List of World Heritage in Danger in the context of the World Heritage Convention.
- ◆ Understanding the Importance of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value: Identify key attributes, values, and conditions of integrity and authenticity, the boundaries and buffer zone, as well as long-term management objectives.
- ◆ Understanding the potential or ascertained danger and address factors that lead to the potential or ascertained danger for which properties were included on the List in Danger.

- ◆ Preparing DSOCR and corrective measures, how to develop effective and achievable DSOCR and implementable corrective measures with useful indicators, related timeline and define necessary resources to achieve implementation.
- ◆ Supporting sessions on conservation, World Heritage management, risk management, first aid and post-conflict recovery, monitoring and impact assessments. The supporting sessions will help fill knowledge gaps and introduce key principles, relevant charters, techniques, toolkits, and resources, while presenting best practices. These sessions will equip participants to develop sound corrective measures and turn them into actionable projects with specific budgets and timeframes. They will also enhance the management of World Heritage sites, mitigating any threats that could potentially place these sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- ◆ Site visits: To expand participants' knowledge and strengthen their workshop outcomes, ICESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Morocco, will organize two site visits to World Heritage sites. The first visit will be to Rabat, which was registered in 2012, and the second visit will be on the last day to Fes or Marrakech. These visits will focus on best practices in key areas such as conservation, risk management, site management, security, development control, and conflict resolution.



# *Follow-up Online Session*

Following the on-site workshop, participants will be asked to prepare a proposed Desired State of Conservation (DSOCR) and corresponding corrective measures that align with the knowledge they gained during the onsite training. Experts and presenters will offer recommendations and guidance regarding the prepared DSOCR and the Relevant Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV). Participants from countries or management entities of properties not on the Danger List are also encouraged to provide an analysis of the main factors affecting their sites, along with a proposed set of measures to enhance the state of conservation of these sites.



## *Human resources*

- ◆ One ICOMOS Arab-speaking representative from the Region.
- ◆ One representative from the World Heritage Centre - Arab States Unit.
- ◆ One representative of ICCROM.
- ◆ Representatives of ICESCO.
- ◆ Representatives from the ARC-WH.



# Coordination & partners

The workshop will be coordinated by ARC-WH in collaboration with ICESCO. The workshop will be held in Rabat, Morocco and hosted by ICESCO. Key partners are ICOMOS, ICCROM, and the World heritage Center. The following are the role of each partner in this workshop:

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## **Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)**

- ◆ Co-finance the implementation of the workshop.
- ◆ Prepare and send official letters of invitation and logistical information to participants in collaboration with ARC-WH.
- ◆ Identify participants to attend the workshop in cooperation with ARC-WH.
- ◆ Manage logistics and arrangements for the workshop in the host country (Morocco), including technical requirements (workshop hall, arrangements for online sessions).
- ◆ Prepare and print the workshop material, booklet and other resources for participants.
- ◆ Co-write the final report of the workshop.
- ◆ Arrange all logistics for site visits, including official letters, entry fees, and tour guides.

- ◆ Contribute to the dissemination of the workshop through national media involvement.
- ◆ Co-write the final report of the workshop.

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## **ARC-WH**

- ◆ Co-finance the implementation of the workshop.
- ◆ Identify experts/representers who will contribute to the workshop in cooperation with ICESCO.
- ◆ Prepare the workshop material, booklet and other resources for participants.
- ◆ Co-write the final report of the workshop.
- ◆ Prepare and finance participants traveling plans.
- ◆ Contribute to the dissemination of the workshop through national media involvement.
- ◆ Co-write the final report of the workshop.

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## **Ministry of Culture of Morocco**

- ◆ Contribute to the logistical organization of the workshop and the logistics of visiting the two world heritage sites.
- ◆ Contribute to Organize logistics for the opening and closing ceremonies of the workshop.
- ◆ Contribute towards the dissemination of the workshop through the involvement of the national media.



## ICOMOS

- ◆ Support the training with experts/representers who will contribute to the workshop
  - ◆ Prepare the workshop programme, materials and other resources for participants.
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## UNESCO

- ◆ Support the training experts/representers who will contribute to the workshop.
- ◆ Prepare the workshop programme, materials and other resources for participants.





        
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