

Comparative Assessment of Monitoring of World Heritage Sites in the Arab Region

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to identify the challenges faced by the monitoring system at the World Heritage Sites in the Arab Region. This paper studies the process of monitoring the inscribed properties of the Arab States. More particularly, the study will review the State of Conservation Reports as well as periodic and mission reports related to the scope of the research. The paper will focus on three case studies: the site of Tyre in Lebanon, the site of Petra in Jordan and the Land of Olives and Vine—the cultural landscape of southern Jerusalem, Battir in Palestine. One main question to be answered in this study is why decisions resulting from State of Conservation Reports (SOC) concerning the management plan structure are not fully implemented.

The study concludes that State of Conservation Reports are procedural and not operational by nature. The non-dynamic and outdated administrative system, as a blockage to the proper management of the WHS is considered a major challenge in achieving effective management. In addition, a lack of cooperation and coordination between various departments at the local and regional levels was identified as being of great importance.

Keywords: world heritage sites, monitoring, management plan, Arab Region, Cultural heritage

Introduction

Since its 8th session in 1984, the World Heritage Committee (WHC) has been discussing the necessity of having a management structural system that will ensure the protection of the outstanding universal values of the inscribed properties. This concern has been brought up repeatedly in most of the revised versions of the operational guidelines, [1] More focus was given on the need to have monitoring system through State of Conservation Reports (SOC) and Periodic Reporting.

Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention affirmed that States Parties are always encouraged to provide information and documentation on many issues related to the management plan. It recognized that the duty of the state party to ensure the identification, protection, conservation of its properties.

“Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain”. [2]

Article 5 of the convention added that the State Party should adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive management system.

The World Heritage Committee (WHC) defined the observation of the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties as one of its main functions. In its meeting 1992, the World Heritage Committee emphasis on the need for establishment of systematic monitoring, the day to day observation of the site by the state parties, in close collaboration with the site managers.

At its 18th session 1994, the world heritage committee considered the scientific and technical problems raised by the state of conservation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage as defined in paragraph 2 and article 11 of the WH

convention. The committee decided to include principles of monitoring and reporting in the operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (chapter 2, paragraph 69-76)

the World heritage Committee invite the state parties to the convention concerning the Protection of World Heritage Cultural and Natural Heritage , to inform the committee, through UNESCO Secretariat , of their intention to undertake or authorize in an area protected under the Convention, a major restoration or a new construction which may affect the World Heritage Value of the property and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions,[3] .

The State of Conservation Report as procedure was adopted in 1979 after 12 years of inscribing the first site and adequately function 5 year after adopting the template for preparing the report. [4] Starting for the year 1979, the state of conservation was expected to offer a reliable data on the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties and the threats they have faced in the past, or are currently facing. Through this tool, one can get access to thousands of reports and decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee, as part of one of the most comprehensive monitoring system of any international convention

Globally and according to the State of Conservation Website, a total of 4051 SOC reports were prepared and provided insights on the state of conservation of 693 properties, located in 147 States Parties. Over 3 properties out of 4 are negatively impacted by a management or institutional factor.

Although the monitoring system is considered a tool to update knowledge about original nominations and how they are being managed and expected to be effective on follow up with changes happening to the sites , the World Heritage Committee has faced difficulties in monitoring with early inscribed properties. The reason for this is the unclear or absent information concerning the statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) or defined boundaries. And as result it become very difficult to follow up on any changes or threats affecting the authenticity or integrity or the OUV of the inscribed site. Not to forget also that continuous development of approaches of the management systems adopted by UNESCO as a response to new rising challenges facing our heritage.

The main purpose of this paper is to investigate how efficient are the State of Conservation reports as a tool for management of World Heritage properties. This management mechanism has been adopted by UNESCO to ensure the protection of OUV of its listed sites.

Literature review:

commitment to monitoring has been slow to arrive in the World Heritage community. In his paper 1994, [4] as a president of ICOMOS Canada attempt to define the purpose and benefits of monitoring with in the evolutionary perspective. for herb Stovel, reporting has many advantages among them is to have the chance to mobilize national and international ICOMOS committee member. Monitoring as an approach would appear to offer to site managers, to responsible authorities, to conservation professionals, and to the conservation field alike,.

Developing criteria for monitoring started in 1982 and was implemented by advisory group to the world Heritage convention. In 1983, The advisory groups to the Convention (ICOMOS for cultural heritage, IUCN for natural heritage) were asked to propose suitable monitoring systems. IUCN began to present reports of threats to natural sites to the Committee in 1983, based on input from its extensive global network [5].

ICOMOS presented a number of monitoring schemes, developed by Jacques Dalibard and François LeBlanc for ICOMOS, for Committee approval **in 1985 and 1986**. [6] These were rejected by the Committee as unsuitable. they were seen by some at the time as representing a kind of external "policing", and an invasion of the sovereignty of States Parties to the Convention [4].

There was also a continuous effort toward improving information management within the monitoring system. One particular effort is the effort of Francis Golding, where he proposed in his report presented at the expert meeting of world heritage committee which is focused on approaches to the monitoring of World Heritage Properties. in his report he proposed changes to the nomination form used by the States Parties in bringing forth candidates for

admission to the World Heritage List. These changes have been proposed to provide a comprehensive reference framework useful during evaluation, but also later on in measuring change over time to inscribed properties [7].

John Ward in discussing the Periodic, Systematic and Comparative approach to monitoring, emphasizes the importance of inculcating professional methods into practice [8]. Walter Jamieson, with regard to necessary innovations, lists the selection of fewer monitoring indicators and a weighting system noting the large number of factors and parameters that exist in managing Cultural tourism [9]. Scott, builds upon Ward's indication of the need for professionalism by iterating that accountability of concerned individuals as well as of organizations is indispensable [10].

Parallel to this are other exploratory efforts for improving the monitoring system was opposed by Michel Bonnette and the World Heritage Cities Organization who were actively seeking ways to bring a more scientific basis to monitoring for historic cities on the World Heritage List, including first attempts to develop a World Heritage data-base. Also, John Ward debate that proactive, as opposed to reactive, in approach the goal of periodic site monitoring is to objectively identify, record and report changes and trends over time

Saptarshi argued for the need to have an adequately efficient monitoring approach for cultural resources [11]. By discussing real examples reflecting empirical knowledge and hindsight, some monitoring indicators are found by a process of exclusion, rather than collection of information [11]. For Ines, stress on the deep analysis of the concepts of visibility and ambience in order to monitor and assess more accurately the impact of the surroundings [12]and [13]. Krzysztof Jan noted that the complexity of the process strongly depends on the organization of a site's functional system and political relations between the key stakeholders [14]. The level of complexity affects monitoring methodology and the scope of monitoring indicators.

Recently, many of the scholar realized the complexity of current concept of integrity adopted by heritage field of knowledge. There is a tendency to define conservation as a regulation or control of change which might be a pyromellitic [15], [16], [17], [18] and [19]

Method and Comparative analysis for the three case studies

According to Assessment of State of Conservation Report in the Arab Region 2013, over 3 properties out of 4 of Arab States are negatively impacted by a management or institutional factors. This threat is the most encountered in the State of Conservation Reports (SOC) and is widely spread and not limited to any specific country. Over the years, there has been a clear increase in the percentage of properties reported as affected by the lack of governance and of legal framework as well as inappropriate management activities.

The three selected world heritage sites vary not only in the date of inscription but also in their size and complexity. Two of the three sites, Petra and Tyre, are archeological sites goes back to the prehistoric civilization and were inscribed almost in the early period of 1980s, while the third world heritage site, Battir, is a living heritage and was inscribed in 2014.

Although the selected sites varied in different way, but still they shared major common issues. They all came from the same Arab Region. A region defined by the World Heritage Center classification to deal with management and monitoring issues of listed sites in this area. all of these selected sites located in countries that underwent many changes rapid urban development unsettled political situation. conservation and management of cultural heritage systems are still in its way to be more defined and enforced [20] and [21].

This paper studies the process of monitoring in the inscribed properties of the Arab States through collecting information from the data base of the World Heritage Center. More particularly the study will review the State of Conservation Reports as well as periodic and mission reports related to the scope of the research. The paper will focus on three case studies: the site of Tyre in Lebanon, the site of Petra in Jordan and the Land of Olives and Vines –cultural landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir in Palestine. It will review decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee concerning the State of Conservation Reports, try to identify constrains and challenges in

achieving an effective management plan. Furthermore, a comparative analysis of efficiency of their management mechanism and monitoring system will be implemented.

Continuously observing the status of the world heritage sites and reporting on their state of conservation is known as systematic monitoring and reporting. The goals of systematic monitoring and reporting cover a wide range of management levels. Improving site management, achieving advanced planning, reducing ad hoc intervention, and cutting costs through preventive conservation are all goals for the world heritage site. The State Party's goal is to enhance world heritage policies, proactive planning, better site management, and preventative conservation. Additionally, regional monitoring can promote regional cooperation, regional world heritage programs, and regional activities that are better catered to the region's unique needs [22]. look at figure 1

The World Heritage Committee's primary duty is to keep an eye on how well-preserved the sites that have been inscribed in the World Heritage List are. The WH committee approved the principles of monitoring at its eighteenth session in Phuket, Thailand in December 1994, drawing a distinction between systematic monitoring and reporting and reactive monitoring [23]. This distinction comes from the fact that there are two unique monitoring methods: periodic reporting and state of conservation reports. Accordingly, State of Conservation Reports are documents created by States Parties. These reports give the World Heritage Committee the ability to evaluate the situation at the sites and ultimately determine whether it is necessary to implement particular actions to address persistent issues.

While periodic reporting is a procedure that assesses how well the States Parties have implemented the World Heritage Convention. In order to keep track of any changes in the status of conservation of the sites, it also offers current information about them. The World Heritage Committee reviews the Periodic Reports, which are submitted by the States Parties themselves, on a predetermined schedule based on a six-year cycle. The findings are detailed in the World Heritage Committee's report to the UNESCO General Conference. One of the primary World Heritage Convention conservation monitoring tools is periodic reporting. The World Heritage Committee requests periodic reports from the States Parties on how the World Heritage Convention is being implemented on their soil every six years. A final report for each Region is created after the Periodic Reporting Process and is ready to be presented to the World Heritage Committee. In order to respond to the requirements, problems, threats, strengths, and opportunities identified and presented as a consequence of the Periodic Reporting exercise, tailored Action Plans will be developed at the national and regional levels using the final report as a baseline. [24]

There is a difference between "systematic monitoring and reporting" (the ongoing process of observing the conditions of World Heritage sites with periodic reporting on their state of conservation) and "reactive monitoring" (reporting by the Secretariat (the World Heritage Centre), the advisory bodies, and the Committee on the state of conservation of particular World Heritage sites that are under threat) — articles 69, 70, and 76 of the Guidelines;

Over time, both good and bad changes have been made to the reactive monitoring mechanism that addresses the state of conservation of WH characteristics [cc]. On the plus side, it was recognized that reporting has become much more professional, especially in terms of the quality of reports from Advisory Bodies and the WH Center. The most extensive and efficient monitoring system is the Reactive Monitoring procedure under the WH Convention [25].

In accordance with articles 69, 70, and 76 of the Guidelines, a distinction is made between "systematic monitoring and reporting" (the ongoing process of observing the conditions of World Heritage sites with periodic reporting on their state of conservation) and "reactive monitoring" (reporting by the Secretariat (the World Heritage Centre), the advisory bodies, and the Committee on the state of conservation of particular World Heritage sites that are under threat); Over time, both positive and less positive changes have been made to the reactive monitoring mechanism that addresses the state of conservation of WH characteristics [cc]. On the positive side, it was recognized that reporting has become much more professional, especially in terms of the quality of reports from Advisory Bodies and the WH Center.

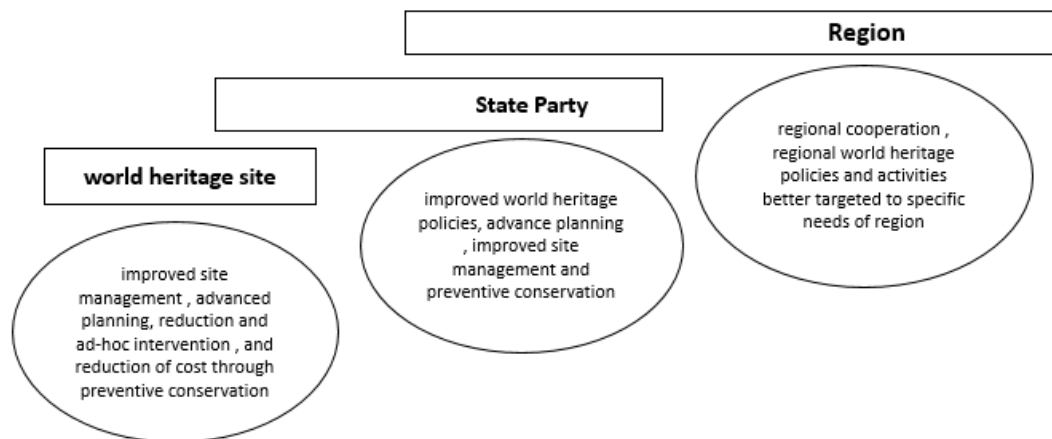


Figure 1: Aims of monitoring systems according to different categories (Region, State party, world heritage site)

Reactive monitoring, on the other hand, involves the World Heritage Centre, other UNESCO departments, and advisory bodies reporting to the committee and bureau on the conservation status of a specific world heritage site that is in danger. In order to achieve this, state parties must submit detailed reports and impact analyses to the committee via the world heritage center whenever unusual events take place or activity is done that might have an influence on the site's conservation status. Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List. It is also foreseen in reference to properties inscribed or to be inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger [23]

Tyre



Figure 2: photo of the world Heritage site of Tyre .UNESCO world heritage center



Figure 3:Tyre, City Site Archaeological Component , Google earth Ariel view

The old town of Tyre, which is 83 kilometers south of Beirut on the southern coast of Lebanon, was once the great Phoenician city that ruled the oceans, built thriving colonies like Cadiz and Carthage, and according to history, was the site of the discovery of purple pigment. During the Phoenician era, Tyre quickly rose to prominence as the Eastern Mediterranean's most significant land and maritime trade hub. The Phoenician ruins depict the

influence, riches, and power of Tyrean merchants who traversed the Mediterranean Sea and stocked their warehouses with goods from their vast colonies around the Mediterranean coast. Figs. 2, 3,

In 1984, during a time of armed conflict, Tyre was added to the World Heritage List under criteria (iii), (vi). In order to prevent the destruction of the old city by unchecked urban expansion, the World Heritage Committee asked the Lebanese authorities to provide details on the sort of protection provided within and around the zones of protection designated on the plan. In order to bring attention on a global scale as the conflict situation deteriorated, UNESCO launched the International Safeguarding Campaign for Tyr in 1985. Despite the nominal end of military operations in 1991, the ongoing political and social crises prevented an effective management and safeguarding of the property.

The World Heritage Committee first learned about Tyre in 1995 as a result of plans for brand-new, extensive infrastructural developments. At that time, the committee was made aware of a scheme to create a tourism complex near the World Heritage site in the area of the bay near the old port to the north of Tyre. To the Lebanese authorities, the WH committee voiced its deep concern about the landfill project. A project of that nature would pose a serious threat to the area surrounding the designated site and would irreparably damage the submerged archeological remnants found close to the old port.

International efforts were undertaken in 1996-1999 within the International Safeguarding campaign for Tyre aiming at establishing a management system for the site and improvements in national heritage policy in general. However, the campaign launched in 1998 never effectively started and can be considered as obsolete. The World Bank financed Cultural Heritage and Urban Development (CHUD) has taken over. Since then the situation in Tyre has remained under **close observation** by the World Heritage Committee. The main threats have been addressed yearly in various State of Conservation Reports since then. Conservation issues and main threats identified in these reports include: Urban development pressure, Planning of National Highway connecting the city of Sour to the capital Beirut; lack of comprehensive documentation, site management and conservation plan; expansion of historical northern port affecting archaeological maritime remains; enlargement of tourist facilities along the southern seashore; insufficient monitoring and maintenance; structural weakness of exposed archaeological remains and institutional constraints (decision making process and staffing of key personnel. See table 1

Threats identified in the State of Conservation report for Tyre		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1	Management system and management plan																														
2	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure																														
3	Housing																														
4	Marine transport infrastructure																														
5	Commercial development																														
6	Ground transport infrastructure																														
7	Illegal activities																														
8	Solid waste																														
9	Management activities																														
10	Impact of tourism/visitor / recreation																														
11	Human resources																														
12	legal framework																														
13	Erosion and siltation disposition																														

Table 1: Summary of threats on Tyre world Heritage site, Lebanon from 1992-2019

During its 32nd session in Quebec City (2008), the World Heritage Committee expressed regret that the State Party had not provided a progress report, which would have made it possible to evaluate how the property's efforts were going. The Committee asked the State Party to submit a thorough topographical map with geographic coordinates showing the property's boundaries and, if possible, those of its buffer zone. It also asked the State

Party to work with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value that includes the requirements of integrity and authenticity.]

In Particular, the committee reiterated its request to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive mission. This mission took place in February 2009. The 2009 mission's major recommendations included the following: encouraging the State Party to provide sufficient support and staff resources to the national Directorate of Antiquities so that it can fulfil its mandate; encouraging the State Party to bring into effect the maritime protection zone proposed by the Directorate of Antiquities, requesting from the State Party a comprehensive management plan for the World Heritage property including delineation of the property, buffer zone, conservation strategy, short and long term action plan, and traffic plan; With the adoption of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in 2010, [27], it has been stressed that the overall archaeological prospection is still incomplete and the exact boundaries of the site have not yet been formally approved.

Following the recommendations issued during the 35th session of the World Heritage Center (WHC), namely Decision - 35 COM 7B.51-Tyre (Lebanon) (C299), June 2011, the State Party was requested to: submit a boundary modification request according to paragraphs, invite a joint WHC/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to evaluate the progress accomplished at its 36th session, submit a report to the WHC on the implementation of the above for examination at its 36th session in 2012.

In 2016 report submitted by state party to WH committee. The report dealt with diverse activities undertaken to ensure the monitoring of Decision 39 COM 7B.54 of the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the 2012 mission. The degree of precision of the report does not, however, provide an appreciation of the nature of the works carried out and their pertinence.[28]

In February 2017, the World Heritage Centre visited the property and took note of the construction and development work in progress. This work, nearing completion, comprising: the establishment of a new visitor trail and the construction of security railings on the elevated areas, the construction of a multi-column shelter protecting a funeral structure, the renovation and extension of the museum, the laboratory, the boutique, the police post and the parking area located on the plot 1010 between the Avenue El Kouods and the archaeological zone of El Bass. The World Heritage Centre also noted that the major development works for the parking area had been completed and that the rubble resulting from the scraping of the surface area was stocked on the north side of the parking lot, without taking account of the comments of ICOMOS in September 2016 on this project.

The Committee expressed its concern with regard to the development and construction works undertaken within the property, without taking into account the technical recommendations of ICOMOS, or without transmission of projects to the World Heritage Centre before their implementation. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to implement the different points contained in Decision 39 COM 7B.54 and recommended by the 2012 mission.

Furthermore, it is recommended to reiterate the need to carry out a comprehensive study on traffic, indicating all the urban and roundabout road network projects, as well as Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) [10] for the South Motorway and the Tel el-Maachouk interchange, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre, as indicated in Decision 36 COM 7B.52.

The State Party provided a report on the property's conservation status in 2019. The 2018 mission report details the advancement made as a result of earlier Committee Decisions. The 2018 expedition also found issues with the property's management system, some of which were brought on by persistent understaffing and subsequent neglect of upkeep. The operational regulations' rigidity further hinders management. A number of legislative issues, including the creation of a maritime protection zone, are still up for debate due to the general unsteady security situation.

The recommendations of the 2018 mission provide a clear course of action. These include the finalization of the Management Plan for the property and its implementation as soon as possible. A comprehensive study of the urban road network and planning for the highway is required, including Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and

integrating the results of geophysical surveys and archaeological investigation. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to address its previous requests (Decisions 39 COM 7B.54 and 41 COM 7B.83), and request that the recommendations of the 2018 mission are implemented, which is mainly to establish a comprehensive strategy for the property that covers all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring, summarizing the knowledge on techniques and procedures in a manual, with an updated Action plan, as a core component of the future Management plan for the property, including improving current maintenance practices, develop a monitoring protocol, principles of minimal interventions in the conservation of mosaics and structures and integration of Management Plan.

Petra



Figure 4: An overview of Petra World Heritage site

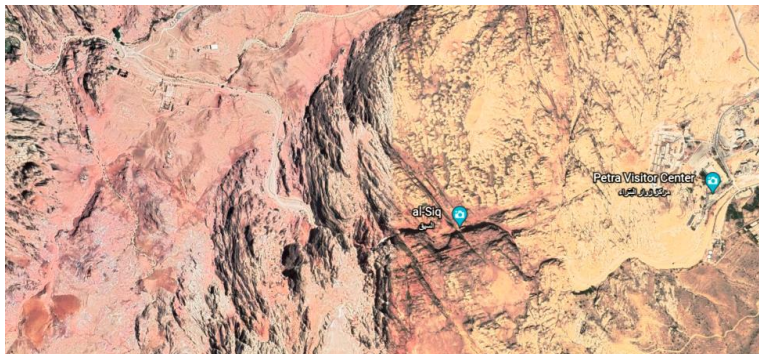


Figure 5: Aerial map for Petra World Heritage site showing the location of the visitor center and the siq, the entree to the unique site.

The rock-cut capital of the Nabateans, situated between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and inhabited since prehistoric times, developed into a significant caravan center for the incense of Arabia, the silks of China, and the spices of India during Hellenistic and Roman times, a crossroads between Arabia, Egypt, and Syria-Phoenicia. Half-built and partially carved into the rock, Petra is encircled by mountains that are laced with tunnels and valleys. During the Nabataean, Roman, and Byzantine eras, a sophisticated water management system allowed for substantial habitation of a largely desert region. It is one of the richest and biggest archaeological sites in the world, situated in a region dominated by red sandstone. Figures 4, 5,

Petra inscribed in the World Heritage list in 1985 under criteria (i), (iii), (iv) in 1985. The Outstanding Universal Value of Petra is found in the extensive network of ornate tomb and temple architecture, religious high places, remnant channels, tunnels, and diversion dams that worked in tandem with a vast network of cisterns and reservoirs to control and conserve seasonal rains, as well as the extensive archaeological remains from copper mining, temples, churches, and other public structures. A remarkable architectural ensemble from the first centuries BC to AD, the Khazneh, the Urn Tomb, the Palace Tomb, the Corinthian Tomb, and the Monastery combine Hellenistic architectural facades with traditional Nabataean rock-cut temple/tombs. The numerous architectural monuments and archaeological relics from prehistoric to medieval times provide excellent evidence of the various vanished civilizations that coexisted there.

The World Heritage Committee was told of various risks during its 18th session in 1994, including hotel building near the site, inadequate waste water evacuation systems, and unchecked urban expansion, all of which posed a threat to the monument's ability to be preserved in its entirety.

By letter dated January 5, 1995, the World Heritage Centre conveyed to the Jordanian authorities the committee's serious concerns and requested action, including the immediate implementation of a management plan for the site and a ban on all new hotel constructions in the area. Jordan notified the World Heritage Center on March 13 and again three months later that the project had been suspended and that new protective measures would be implemented, including restricting the number

of visitors and horses allowed daily, improving the sanitary situation, reorganizing the street stalls, and taking other steps to ensure active management.

In July of the same year the World Heritage Center requested from the state party to focus more on long term preservation of the site and to ensure that new hotel construction would be authorized at Wadi Musa, the world heritage center also request from the state party that the Petra National park Management plan will be fully implemented. In September 1995, Jordanian authorities informed the WH committee that the building permit of the hotel had been halted and establishment of zoning regulations and guidelines for construction of Wadi Musa would be prepared. This actions by State Party was welcome by the WH committee had welcome these taken measures by the Jordanian authorities, and request them to devote all their efforts towards active implementation of the UNESCO experts' Petra management plan

In 1996 the Bureau recommended that the Jordanian authorities undertake the measures necessary to ensure the long-term conservation of the World Heritage site of Petra, and more particularly that it: halt all projects for the construction of new tourist roads, carefully evaluate the location of the water purification station; prolong the interdiction of building authorizations for hotels until the zoning regulations as proposed by the UNESCO experts can be adopted; halt all construction of new houses, prohibit the use of reinforced concrete in developing or repairing the site, protect the juniper trees and the vegetation of the natural environment of the site. In 1997, The Bureau encouraged the national authorities to continue the implementation of effective long-term protection for the site, and the measures advocated by the Petra Management Plan of the UNESCO experts.

In 1998, After having noted the report of the Secretariat on Petra and the report of the Director of the Department of Antiquities dated December 1996, the Bureau thanked the Jordanian authorities for their efforts to protect the site, but again insisted that preservation measures be urgently undertaken and that the coordination of on-site activities be reinforced with the support of UNESCO, [29]. In 2000 a UNESCO mission reported for the need for high-level decision is needed to prepare a management plan for Petra, a thorough survey, documentation and condition assessment should be prepared independently, an action plan with priorities must be prepared and implemented, a professional team responsible for conservation issues should be set up. The core of this team must consist of trained and experienced professionals. The less experienced staff should be given training opportunities, whether in Jordan or elsewhere.

Nine years later, in 2009 UNESCO three missions were undertaken by a UNESCO experts (April, June, and August) these expert missions determined that the rock is extremely unstable condition. As a first action towards the threat toward this threat to visitors' safety , a UNESCO expert, together with a local expert, prepared the terms of references for the different stages of works required and so conducted a first visual geological risk assessment of the Siq.

In 2011, State of Conservation report, The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the information about the current state of the property, in particular the conditions of the heritage assets and the continued unregulated developments both at the property and the adjacent areas. They consider that long-standing issues, such as the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan and the definition of a buffer zone, have remained unresolved, in spite of the requests made by the World Heritage Committee. They wish to highlight that if these issues are not addressed, the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property could be considered to be under potential or ascertained threat, in which case the World Heritage Committee might consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. [30]

In the 2013 State of Conservation report, The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note actions implemented by the State Party in line with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the 2009 reactive monitoring mission. They would like to underscore the need to sustain these efforts to comprehensively address long-standing concerns, particularly in relation to the efficacy of the management system, conservation of archaeological remains and visitor management and public use. [31]

In 2015, the World Heritage Centre noted that a considerable progress made by the State Party to improve conservation and management of the property. The state party repeat its request to peruse the progress to manage the property and submit a management plan and adopt a buffer zone with adequate regulatory measures to ensure its protection.

On 22 April 2017, the Petra National Trust contacted the World Heritage Centre to raise a number of issues in relation to the conservation of the property. It also pointed out the pressure generated by current or planned projects, including those related to tourism. The finalization and adoption of the management plan of the property is a top priority. Although regulatory measures are activated, additional details about what they stipulate would be useful. The World Heritage Committee also regretted that the Management Plan have not been finalized yet and expressed concern that a number of major projects foreseen in the planned buffer zone have reached an advanced level of development prior to their submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by ICOMOS, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

Upon this, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as possible, in order to assess the overall situation at the property and its setting and to discuss the development of a Master Plan. This mission should include a number of specialized experts in order to cover all aspects of the proposed development and planning.

The World Heritage Committee remarked in 2018 that the State Party exhibits a strong commitment to acting on the recommendations of the mission in a planned and methodical manner.

It is highly commended that the State Party is working to address the demands of local communities and civil society groups in terms of economic and social development, and is particularly working to address child labor and school dropouts. However, the fundamental dangers to the property, urban expansion and encroachment, were not properly addressed as a matter of urgency. As a result, the WHC advised the State Party to put all of the suggestions made by the joint Reactive Monitoring mission in November 2017 into action. Protect the property from pressure from development and urban growth by creating an Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) that would allow for sustainable economic, social, and environmental growth.

The Land of Olives and Vines –cultural landscape of Southern Jerusalem,



Figure 6: genral view of the cultural landscape of Battir, world heirtage centre, nomination file



Figure 7: Boundaries of the nomination area and buffer zone of Battier World heritage Site, World Heritage Center data base

Due to a plentiful supply of water, a deep valley system was transformed into Battir, a significant cultural landscape in Palestine. Strong archaeological evidence supports the use of dry wall terraces dating back at least 4,000 years thanks to the intricate and distinctive irrigation system of this water supply. The cultivation of olives and vegetables on the agricultural terraces, which took use of this irrigation system, provided the foundation for a significant agricultural presence.

The same purpose remains for the area today. The distinctive water distribution system utilized by the families of Battir is evidence of a prehistoric egalitarian system that distributes water to terraced agricultural land based on a straightforward mathematical calculation and a distinct time-managed rotation plan. According to criteria iv and v, the location was added to the world heritage list as being in risk. The dry-stone architecture is a superb illustration of a landscape that shows the growth of habitations close to water sources and the transformation of the land for agriculture. Figures 6, 7

Two important features that drew people to Battir and encouraged them to live there and turn the area's rough terrain into agricultural land were its strategic location and the presence of springs. The property is a superb illustration of traditional land usage, which reflects many years of culture and interactions between people and the environment. For local populations, the agricultural tactics that were used to produce this living landscape represent one of the oldest farming techniques known to humanity.

Battir was inscribed in the World Heritage in danger in 2014 under criteria (iv), (v). As part of the World Heritage request, the State Party has submitted a State of Conservation Report. The report highlight main threats to the sites to be: *the construction of wall, the socio-cultural and geo-political changes and abandonment of terraces and afforestation and management and Conservation.*[32] The World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to implement the corrective measures to be included in the development and implementation of an active system of management that involved local communities and stakeholders and to submit a timetable for their full implementation to the World Heritage Centre.

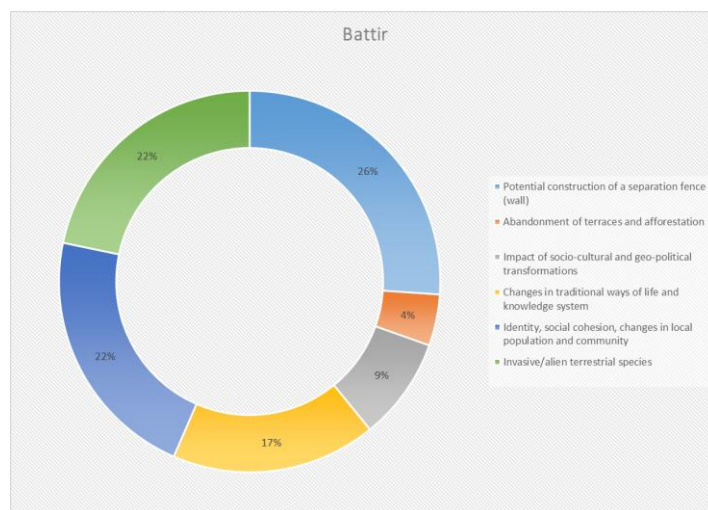


Figure 8: Percentage of threats mentioned in the State of Conservation Report , Palestine

In 2019, the State Party submitted a State of Conservation Report. In this report, progress in a number of conservation issues previously addressed by the Committee was presented. It included; a draft Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) and the new Decree Law on Tangible Cultural Heritage no. 11/2018 requires that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be conducted prior to any significant intervention or proposed development within the property.

The State Party also continued to work on the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in 2015, among them the finalization of the Management Conservation Plan (MCP) and rehabilitation of the agricultural terraces and dry-stone walls. It is reported that little progress has been made on the development of a sufficient sewage system, though a Water and Sewage Unit has been established to manage sewage water within the property and to seek funds to develop an adequate system. The Committee urged the State Party to continue seeking, on a priority basis, the required funds for this corrective measure. In 2021, the management Conservation Plan has been finalized, translated into Arabic and disseminated among local actors and communities. [33]

Discussion

Although the three case studies shared many common issues when it comes to challenges faced in implantation of an effective management plan. These sites differed in how they were inscribed and being monitored to ensure its protection as World Heritage Sites. In case of Tyre, it was difficult for the World Heritage Center to monitor the site because of the unsettled political situation. It took 15 years to coordinate with the State Party to have a management plan for the site. See figure 9, 10

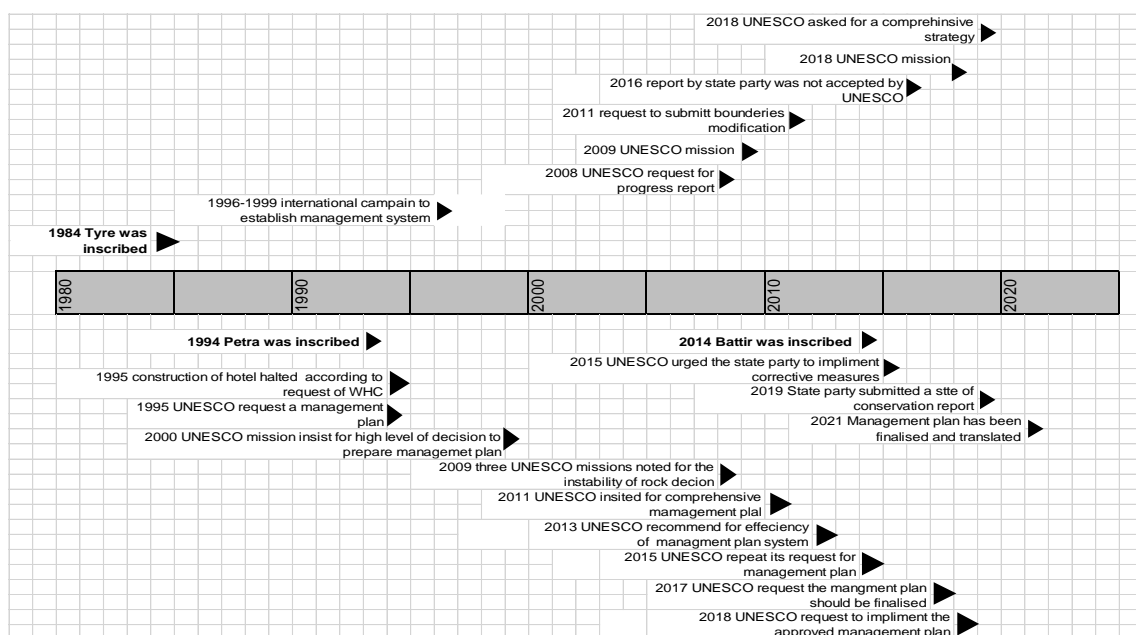


Figure 9: Summary of monitoring process of the three case study from its date of inscription till the most recent 2020

According to SOC reports for Tyre , seven missions reported to see if the OUV is till protected ; the mission in 2004: Evaluation mission by the UNESCO Office in Beirut; September 2006: UNESCO mission following the 2006 summer conflict; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: visit of the property by the World Heritage Centre, WH Centre visit the property in 2018.

Most of these reports described the difficulties suffered by the property since its inscription in 1984, given the period of war in the country (1975-991) and risks incurred more recently as a result of major infrastructure development projects and the 2006 conflict. Due to the long period of instability the authorities had difficulties in developing sustainable approaches to site management. Also there have been long periods when the authorities lacked the capacity to control development close to and within the property.

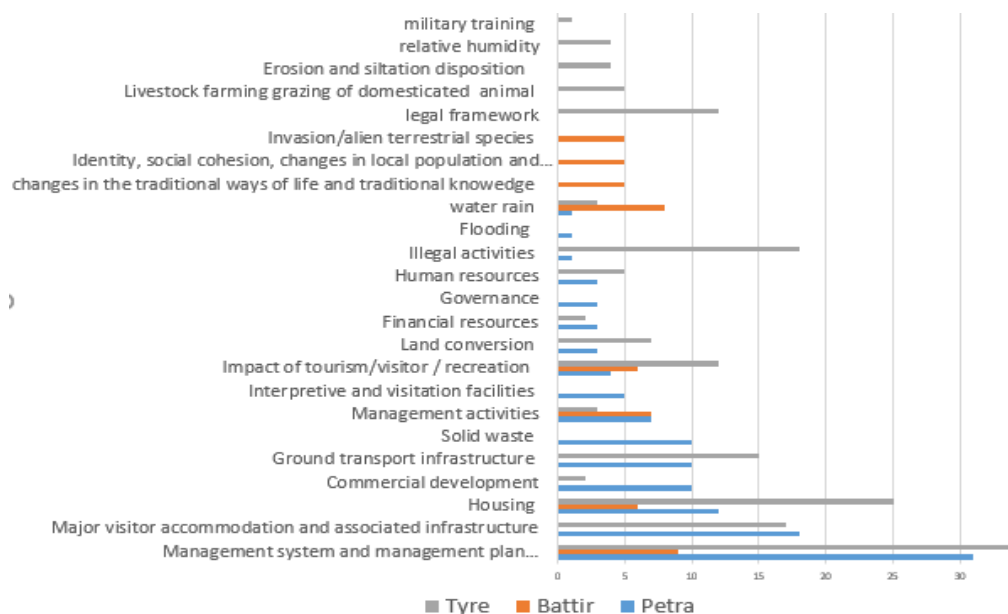


Figure 10: the accumulated percentages of threat in the three selected case studies, Tyre, Petra and Battir

The key issue is about management of the site and the delay in responding promptly to the WHC various recommendations; especially those related to the adjustment of the WH boundaries and the adoption of a comprehensive management plan for Tyre.

In the case of Petra World Heritage site, the challenge is not only about having a comprehensive management plan that will consider all aspects of the site, but also the need for high ministerial decisions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations regarding setting a management structure[35]. Not to forget the need to have a proper documentation, which would serve as a starting point for any conservation planning or monitoring.

In Palestine and because of the relative more recent date of the site inscription, the procedure of monitoring system were more clear in addressing the outstanding universal value which is not included initially in nomination dossier of the site of Tyre and Petra.

Since 2014 the Palestinian Authority has submitted annually State of Conservation Report. The most common threats in all these reports were the same threats that have been identified in the nomination dossier which are: potential construction of a separation fence (wall), identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community and Invasive/alien terrestrial species.

The nomination dossier provided very little information on management and protection of the cultural landscape. In terms of protection, it appeared that within the nominated property only archaeological sites and the ruins of human settlements were provided with legal protection. The dossier acknowledges that there was an absence of governmental policy regarding sustainable landscape planning, environmental protection, and sustainable development, which has resulted in uncontrolled urban expansion and solid waste, and water, air and soil pollution. The State of Conservation Reports has mentioned that there was no management plan for the property and no management system was outlined. Battir Conservation and Management Plan was being developed later.

Conclusion:

A site's inclusion on the World Heritage List is only the beginning of the process. The management, supervision, and preservation of the World Heritage assets require constant effort on the part of site managers and local authorities. Professional theory and practice both agree that monitoring should be a continuous procedure carried out on-site by local staff and based on routine comparison of certain indicators to a predetermined baseline

condition. The values for which they were inscribed on the World Heritage List have been maintained over time thanks to the frequent monitoring of the heritage's state of conservation.

If we understand that the aim of monitoring is to objectively assess and evaluate the conservation actions after it has been initiated and helps continuously keeps threats under observation and develop requisite strategies to dispel them. so, it is logic that threats which have been identified in soc reports at certain period would eventually disappear. this is not applicable in our case . Figure 11 shows that there are some threat , mainly management issues is still reported in the soc report in case of Tyre since its inscription till 2020.

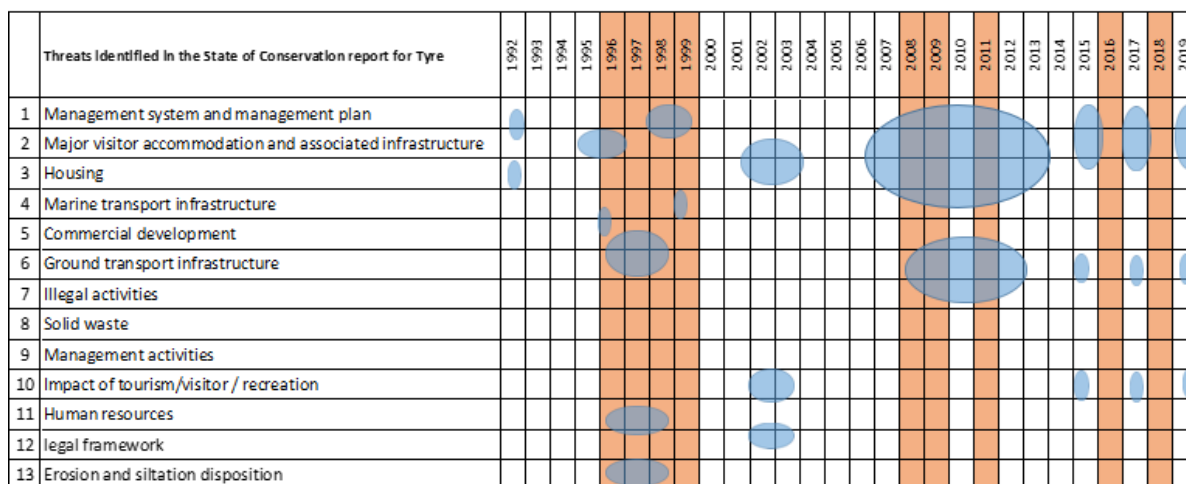


Figure 11: threats that have been identified in case of Tyre 1992-2019 , in blue , versus the dates of world heritage missions , in light orange

It should be noted that the analysis presented in the State of Conservation Reports in three cases that management is the most important threat. It is also noted that the States Parties related to the case studies like any other State Parties in the Arab Region have been through a period of transformation. At the same time, the previous, experienced senior personnel who were responsible for the protection and conservation of heritage resources have often retired. A new generation has entered the offices. See Figure 12

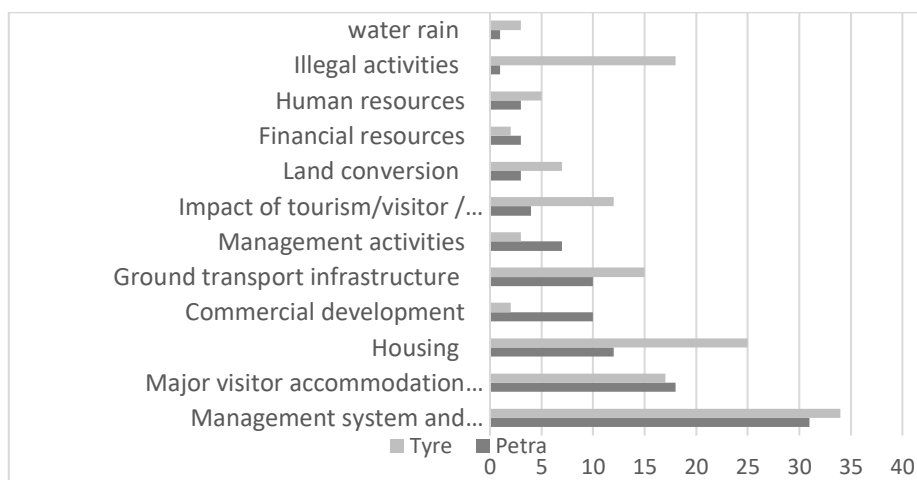


Figure 12: comparison between main threats identified in Tyre and Petra shows that management system is the most common threat in identified in SOC reports

There is a gap between theory and practice when it comes to monitoring. the nature of monitoring approaches largely focuses on collection of a comprehensive body of information related to cultural heritage being managed. This is considered logical. however, for the site manager and heritage conservation practionners in fast developing urbanizing and unsettle political situation, processing and working with exhaustive data is not unlike distant utopia. it become a limitation rather than facilitation of management. in countries like the one where the selected cases are, the practionners in heritage sector is continuously confronted with questions related to priorities of stakeholders and their representatives as well as discission makers. graph on reactive monitoring of Petra and how it reflects on the SOC

In the Arab region, heritage resources are numerous and diverse, while the pressure on heritage is huge as a result of the rapid urban development. This pressure may often undermine value of heritage through fast urbanization, cultural homogenization, land use transformation. These changes do not slow down to suit the pace of decision makers or site managers and any need for collection of comprehensive information for monitoring. The exhaustive approach often results in the amendment of management action become outdated by the time it is implemented on the ground. this all happening because of the time laps in comprehensive data collection analysis and actins in relation to faster paced external conditions. This will not undermined the validity of the theoretical approach but have some limitation in context where concept of heritage is not similar from the international one . a proposed solution will be to have the Monitoring Reports set out in a similar form for each one. Unlike the bound set of Monitoring Reports, Management Plans should be in a loose-leaf format, in a suitable ring binder, that can be kept up to date as a working tool.

The purpose of these periodic state of conservation report is a procedural one which is to assist site manager and state parties to maintain systematic records of the state pf conservation of each site *and* to enable the World Heritage Centre to maintain a data base of information relating to the state of conservation of sites, identifying trends and common issues and brief committee accordingly.

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