

**The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
Wadi Rum Protected Area**

**The State of Conservation Report**

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## Executive Summary

The State of Conservation of the Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA) remains satisfactory. This report responds to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decision which was taken in 2016 and called upon the Jordanian government to report on the state of conservation of the site by December 1, 2017.

Since its inscription in 2011, the WRPA has gone through major structural and technical changes to ensure the protection and maintenance of the OUV for both the cultural and natural components of the Property, as well as its integrity and authenticity.

The WRPA management authority has initiated a restructuring program for the institutional coordination mechanisms, particularly in regard to the cultural heritage. This includes the development and signing of a long-term MOU between the management authority (the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority/ASEZA) and the Department of Antiquities (DOA).

Regarding the survey of the archaeological remains within the world heritage property, significance progress achieved through a joint project between the Department of Antiquities and WRPA staff in 2016, 2017 funded by UNDP, in addition to that, The rock stability monitoring program now in function through a joint project funded by USAID SCHEP, this field progress will be the fundamental stage in creating the integrated database for WPRA.

Further, the WRPA has launched a comprehensive program for the revision of the 2014 integrated management plan to ensure the enhancement of the cultural and natural components of the plan in light of the OUV statement adopted by UNESCO in 2013. The final draft will be submitted to the WHC in 2019. The ASEZA decided to postpone the water waste management plant project due to many challenges. Significance Progress related to the illegal camps issue, ASEZA has worked out strategy to find the proper solutions which emphasis the safeguarding of the site landscape.

The land use regulations within the buffer zone project are in progress, the local community feedback has been acknowledged and embedded in the final draft which will be sent to the World Heritage Center in 2018. The revision of the management plan in progress and the TOR already advertised and the plan expected to be submitted to WHC in 2018.

Regarding the enhancement of interpretation in Wadi Rum, a progress has been made through major inputs in information development, facilities restructuring, as well the production of audio visual materials, in addition to the development and installation of a new set of road signage and interpretation materials targeting local communities and visitors.

In terms of community interacting with the site a local Advisory Committee has been founded to engage the local's within the framework of the site management.

The government of Jordan, represented by the management authority of the WRPA and its national and international partners, remain fully committed to the long-term conservation of the OUV of the Property, and will take all possible measures to address any factors influencing the site OUV integrity and authenticity.