

# Historic Cairo's Boundaries: Analysis and Evaluation

By:

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## Abstract:

Due to the importance of Historic Cairo as a World Heritage property from 1979, numerous researches and studies about the preservation have been done both academically and practically, the nomination file stated that Historic Cairo covers the area from the eastern bank of the Nile, surrounded by all directions by contemporary neighborhoods. In addition, the site was described as a historical fabric that is still Widely preserved.

The research represents that, there is an urgent need to develop a management plan to protect Historic Cairo and preserve the elements of outstanding universal value. To develop this plan, clear geographical boundaries must be defined for Historic Cairo and adopted by all ministries and governmental bodies for adoption by the World Heritage Center and UNESCO.

The main objective of the research is to study, compare, and analyze the various boundaries of historical Cairo adopted by the various ministries and studies. And to propose boundaries for the property, that is agreed upon by all ministries for adoption at the WHC and UNESCO. As one of the conditions of having a comprehensive management system to preserve Historic Cairo.

**Key words:** Urban heritage – property boundaries – Historic Cairo- property of the World Heritage - buffer zone

## 1. INTRODUCTION

(CENTURY GOTHIC 9 CAPITAL BOLD) (NO NUMBERING)

The establishment of Historic Cairo dates back to 969 AD, after Jouhar al-Saqli laid the foundation for the walls of Cairo and was followed by the construction of the Al-Azhar mosque. During the reign of the Mamluks, it expanded to the north and west. The rulers and princes competed in the construction of mosques, schools, shacks and wekalas. During the rule of the Ottomans, the city remained the same until the reign of Mohamed Ali and khedive Ismail where Historic Cairo flourished architecturally, and restored its position as the capital and the movement of construction was revitalized.

Historic Cairo was added to the World Heritage list under the name of Islamic Cairo in 1979 based on criteria I, V and VI of the World Heritage Operational Guidelines, recognition of its historic, archaeological and architectural importance as it contains architectural artifacts along with a large number of streets and residential areas that retain its history, texture and authenticity dating back to the Middle Ages[1].

In the nomination file, Cairo's historic city was cited as covering an area of around 32 km<sup>2</sup> on the eastern bank of the River Nile and surrounded by the modern quarters of Greater Cairo, and the site was described as a historical fabric that is still widely cohesive. However, a clear geographical definition of Islamic Cairo, as well as legal and administrative protection measures were insufficiently detailed in the nomination, despite the fact that its rich architectural heritage and historical fabric were suffering from accumulated problems. These included socio-economic pressures, poor infrastructure, illegal occupations, and traffic and transportation issues [1].

On several occasions, the World Heritage Committee encouraged the Egyptian government to formalize the limits of the historic city and pointed out the need to strengthen coordination among the institutions involved in its protection in addition to effective management system, while taking into account the special character and complexity of the site.

In 2007, in response to a World Heritage Committee request to identify the boundaries of the property (Decision 29 COM 7B.42, 2005), four maps were submitted by the Egyptian government, together with a request to modify the name of the property to "Historic Cairo".[2]

Through the time, there have been numerous researches and studies to preserve historic Cairo both academically and practically. The follow-up of the previous projects shows the multiplicity of the responsible authorities and each authority adopts different boundaries. Therefore, there is a need to adopt clear and recognized boundaries that are easily applicable to Historic Cairo, not only on the map, but also clear on the fabric with a clarified boundaries like river or main rode .. etc. alongside the adoption of a management system for the historic city.

On the national level, the attention of the central and local government to their duties specified in the laws governing the competences of each ministry or organizations make each of them assume different boundaries to work within. For Example, the official responsibilities of the Ministry of Antiquities for Historic Cairo are limited on the listed monuments and archeological sites only, while the legislation of the urban areas (of distinct value) falls under the responsibility of the National

Organization for Urban Harmony (the Ministry of Culture), but the responsibilities for construction activities and decision-making on the identification of licenses are located under Cairo Governorate scope of work, which is also control the surrounding buildings of the monuments that directly affect them.

In addition to other institutions and ministries, such as the Ministry of Awqaf, Interior and Housing, which established a device in the name of Fatimid Cairo and was working in the restoration of the northern wall and other sites, which is reflects the urgent need to demarcate one boundary agreed by all ministries and organizations for adoption at the World Heritage Center and UNESCO as soon as possible, with a clear coordination with them responsibilities.

The main objective of the research is to study, compare and analysis the various boundaries of historical Cairo adopted by the various ministries and studies. And to propose boundaries for the property, that agreed upon by all ministries for adoption at the WHC and UNESCO. As one of the conditions of having a comprehensive management system to preserve Historic Cairo.

## 2. METHODS

The study relied on the use of the descriptive approach, the comparative analytical approach and the deductive approach to achieve the research objective as follows:

**The descriptive approach** (historical) follows the importance of applying the boundaries and the importance of Historic Cairo and the evolution of the concept of historic property management. (Theoretical study).

**Comparative analytical approach** by comparing the boundaries adopted by the ministries and agencies.

**The deductive approach** by deducting and determining whether these boundaries serve the heritage property or not. And to propose a formula agreed upon by all development partners and stakeholders

## 3. Theoretical study

### 3.1 Study Concepts

This section provides definitions of all the terms used and related to the boundaries of historical areas from sources and studies, the most important ones are reports of UNESCO and ICOMOS.

#### 3.1.1 Heritage Property Boundaries

The boundaries of the heritage property to be nominated must include all attributes that give it an exceptional international value. It is important to define the heritage property as a prerequisite for ensuring effective protection [3]. These boundaries should be defined in a manner that highlights and expresses the exceptional international value of the property and the areas that help to promote this value. A buffer zone surrounding the heritage property should also be identified to provide effective protection of the heritage property with appropriate laws providing additional protection. In addition to mention the Urban Heritage Landscape which play an important role in supporting and protecting the property. The nomination file should

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include details of the size and characteristics of the core zone and the buffer applied on a clear map with coordinates [4].

### **3.1.2 Buffer Zone**

Buffer zone are precisely defined areas located outside the World Heritage property that are adjacent to its limits and contribute to the protection, preservation, management, integrity, authenticity and sustainability of the exceptional global value of this property. Although the buffer zones are not considered part of the listed property, their boundaries and management methods should be assessed, approved and formally registered at the time the State submits its proposal. And should be considered as an integral part of the State's obligation to protect, preserve and manage the world heritage property. The tasks assigned to the buffer zone should reflect the different types of protection, conservation and management, and the levels required to protect the values that reflect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property [5].

### **3.2 Boundary is a condition for registering a property [4]**

The boundaries of the property are precisely defined either by geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) or UTM coordinates of a particular point located in the approximate position of the candidate property. A series of maps showing the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone are also included:

1. Topographical map of the property shall strictly define the whole proposed property with appropriate scale and the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone should be well defined. This map or other maps shall include the areas covered by special legal protection of this State and shall be for unbroken maps, showing the scale, projection, direction, topography, name of the property and the date. maps must be sent wrapped and not folded. It is also preferable to send information in a digital format so that it can easily be integrated into the GIS system and the state shall invite the Parties to the Treaty to contact the Secretariat to obtain sufficient information on this option.
2. Another map showing the location of the property within the borders of the state.
3. A map of the property showing some landmarks.

It is also preferred to print these paintings on A4 size to facilitate their presentation to the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Committee. In the absence of a proposed buffer zone, the nomination should include a statement because the buffer zone is not considered necessary for the protection of the heritage property. It is also necessary to determine the area of the heritage property in hectares as well as the buffer zone and their summation.

### **3.3 Property boundary standards:**

Some constants have an impact on defining the boundaries such as threats and their relative time frame, the impact of demolishing, the uncontrolled expansion of the built environment and climate change. The extent of the implementation of the

community management strategy and the stakeholder partnership approach may allow for less degrees of control and regulation. As well as the tolerability of the management system and the sustainable management practices that have made the physical boundaries of the heritage property one layer of the layers and created new management challenges, and an area of special nature, with its laws and special requirements. It is also an approve that heritage places depend on their surroundings[6].

### **3.4 Assisting Characteristics for Defining the Boundaries of the Property:**

It is essential to define the boundaries of the property in order to understand the concepts of authenticity and stability, as well as to protect, preserve and manage the property. Some of the characteristics of heritage property boundaries are the following examples (importance at the visual or aesthetic level; scale of physical features or habitats; physical and ecological processes safety; natural features and integrity of natural systems; survival of rare species [4].

If the necessary elements do not exist within these boundaries or if the property is not large enough, the boundaries of the property must be reconsidered. Although it is easy to draw the boundaries of a property on the basis of administrative divisions provided that it is always agreed with the OUVs. This means that administrative divisions should not be the only criterion for defining the property. However, it is important to provide information that demonstrates that the boundaries have been determined on logical reasons. Here are some of the basics to be followed when drawing boundaries:

- The boundaries of the property shall include all attributes and values that reflect the OUVs without exclude any areas.
  - Boundaries defining is part of risk management efforts and must be shared with all stakeholders. The aim of defining boundaries is to identify land uses for the protection, conservation and management of the property.
  - The boundaries must include qualities that ensure that the property meets the safety requirement, in order for the property to retain all possible OUVs.
  - The boundaries must be drawn on logical grounds to highlight the OUVs.
  - The boundaries must be clearly defined with respect to property management and legal protection. Because the boundaries facilitate the management of the property that related to the location, its natural characteristics and the roads.
  - It is very important to prepare a good map that clearly outlines the boundaries of the property; and to prepare zoning areas (in conjunction with define managing requirements).
  - The boundaries of the buffer zone must be demarcated in order to protect the OUVs in the property from external risks, so many buffer zones may need to be identified.
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## 4. Applied Study

### 4.1 Historic Cairo:

Cairo is one of the oldest centers of cultural heritage and civilization since the dawn of history, because it's unique cultural, artistic and architectural characteristics. The archaeological sites, especially historic Cairo, are an open museum of Islamic monuments, it has about 450 monuments located in the historical area of Cairo, surrounded by the largest population density, commercial and tourism since ancient times. The historic city of Cairo was annexed to the World Heritage List since 1979, but the nomination file did not include the boundaries of historic Cairo at that time [7].

The Fatimid Cairo was founded in 969 AD when the city of Fustat fell under the command of the leader of Jowhar al-Saqaly, then he began to build a new city of Cairo on the north of Fustat. Since the Fatimid era, Cairo became the capital of a vast empire until the days of the state of Salah al-Din Ayyubi, which made Cairo the capital of the Ayyubid state and created a new defensive wall around it. During the reign of the Mamluks, the area of Cairo expanded and spread in the north and west. The rulers and princes competed in the construction of mosques, schools, libraries, palaces, wekalas and expansions of Cairo during the Mamluk era. During the Ottomans, there was no change in Cairo, either in its breadth or its extension, where it remained in its Mamluk borders. The city remained the same almost until after the French invasion of Egypt 1798, until it was re-planned by Muhammad Ali and Khedive Ismail. The French campaign identified the features of the city and the morphology of urbanization in 1807 in a map showing the main points of the city, the main axes of the street network, important monuments such as the gates of the city, the mosques, the castle, the Nilometer and the cemeteries [6].

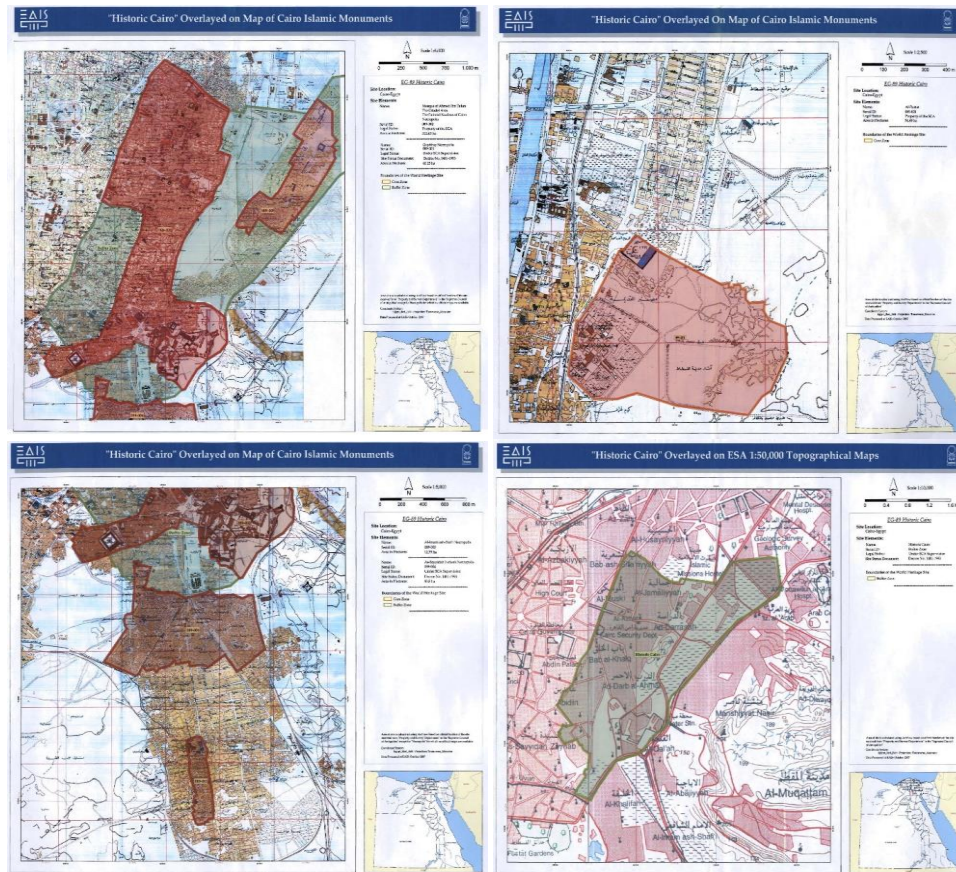
The city was developed during the Khedivial era, with the modernization efforts inspired by Haussmann plans of Paris during that period. Western spatial models were introduced in the center of the city, with new features that reflect the spread of new institutions and economic entities as well as social changes. This process has affected the pre-modern urban fabric with the opening of new roads and an extensive renovation of buildings, but it did not change the structure of the historic city. The movement of reconstruction was revitalized, but in a Western European way, which included the fill up of the canal and ponds and the construction of new residential neighborhoods and roads in the heart of the historic urban fabric. The urban development extended to the banks of the Nile, to the port of Bulaq, and to Qasr El Nil's barracks. The new urban patterns complemented the existing fabric, while a different urban morphology based on the system of regular networks and housing models with open architectural elements [6].

These urban expansions to the west led to the migration of the affluent class from the old Cairo to the new areas, followed by the transfer of the city's commercial center. The poor population remained in the old area, alongside the handicraft industries, markets and housing, which deteriorated and worsened over time. The urban, social and economic effects resulted from these phenomena which was due to the total neglect of this ancient region and dealing with it in an uncivilized manner.

The name of the heritage property was changed from Islamic Cairo to Historic Cairo in 2007 by the request of the Egyptian authority when they sent four maps

(named EG 89) as shown in Fig.1 [2] to define together the property and the buffer zone of the historic Cairo, from then, each department or ministry established a department for historical Cairo even in different names.

**Fig 1:** The maps of Historic Cairo with the core and buffer zone.

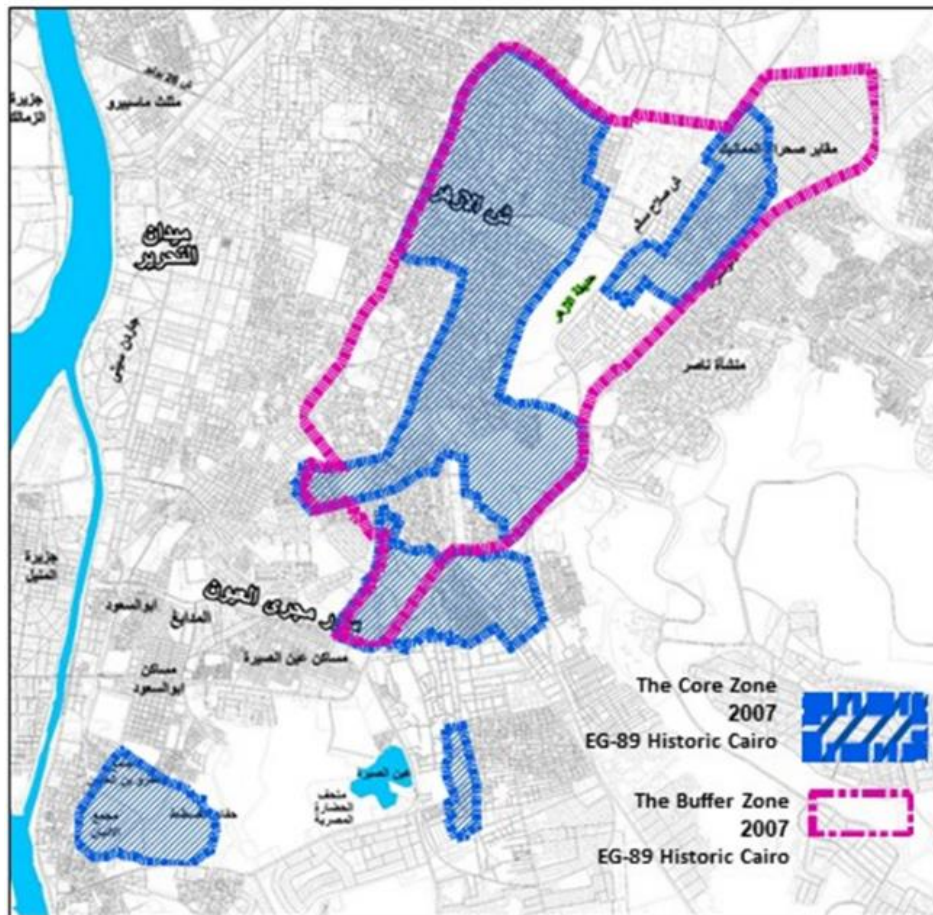


Source: [1] WHC/ UNESCO, "Maps of Historic Cairo." 1989, [Online]. Available: [https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/multiple=1&unique\\_number=95](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/multiple=1&unique_number=95).

When the authors tried to analysis this maps, it was a must to collect them in the same scale in one map to can understand them and read them together, so the result shown in Fig.2. From the analysis we can found that:

1. The core zone has been collapsed to 5.36 km<sup>2</sup>, and the buffer zone is about 2.47 km<sup>2</sup>, if we compare it with the nomination file that had been submitted to WHC in 1979.
2. The core zone has been divided in to 5 different areas, which is not agreed with Characteristics for Defining the Boundaries by UNESCO.
3. The buffer zone goes throu the core zone in Sayeda Nafesa zone, and in other zones it goes directly with the edges of the core, in addition to there are two zones without any protection by the buffer zone. All of this cases have lost the buffer zone its importance to protect the urban fabric around the property.

**Fig 2: Eg-89 Maps for Historic Cairo**



**Source:** the authors from: WHC/ UNESCO, “Maps of Historic Cairo.” 1989, [Online]. Available: [https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/multiple=1&unique\\_number=95](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/multiple=1&unique_number=95).

#### **4.2 Status of conservation through World Heritage Center reports [8]:**

The World Heritage Center assesses the state of historical preservation of Cairo annually since 1993 after the earthquake in 1992. In the following part, the authors review the previous reports and focus on the management plans and boundaries:

- In 1993, The World Heritage Center noted that the work being carried out in Historic Cairo was suffering from the lack of uniform standards, also pointed that the funds provided by UNESCO should be used for technical assistance to coordinate and monitor the various efforts in the historic city.
- In 1995, the World Heritage Center has preserved the restoration work in mosques.
- In 1997, the World Heritage Center recommended to stop any restoration in Al-Azhar Mosque. And The Ministry of Culture has committed with this recommendation, as reflected in the state of conservation report of 1999.
- In 2000, the World Heritage Center requested ICOMOS to organize a mission to study the state of conservation of Historic Cairo’s monuments, and



pointed to the difficulty of managing the urban heritage of the city due to its vast area.

- in 2001 the WHC pointed to the lack of coordination in the restoration programs. The report highlighted the great complexity of Historic Cairo as a World Heritage Site, an effort by the Ministry of Culture through supporting the Center for Historical Studies and Development of Cairo to develop a plan to rehabilitate monuments, while the General Organization for physical Planning (Ministry of Housing) working on a comprehensive project to rehabilitate historical Cairo, but the city does not have a comprehensive plane tell now.

- In 2002, the World Heritage Center praised the role of the Ministry of Culture in holding an international seminar on the preservation and restoration of Islamic Cairo in cooperation with the WHC on projects implemented by the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The main recommendations of the seminar could be summarized as “Setting Cairo as a single planning area, with clear boundaries with a comprehensive plan for urban conservation and development”

- In 2003, 2004 and 2005, the WHC commended the Egyptian authorities for stopping the implementation of the proposed new road through the southern sector of Islamic Cairo.

- In 2006, the WHC noted with concern that the main recommendations of the 2002 report, in particular "the delimitation of historical Cairo's boundaries of registered property and the buffer zone, in accordance with the guidelines for heritage management, as well as the preparation of a comprehensive urban plan for the preservation and development of the Old City, where building conservation is accompanied by legislation to promote the rehabilitation of the urban fabric" has not yet been implemented.

- In 2007 and 2008, the focus of the CIHF project was to reduce its impact on the Citadel's urban landscape and to seek an alternative design. So as not to jeopardize the OUV of the property. Urges the State to implement the key recommendations contained in the 2002 Symposium Report, subsequently endorsed by the World Heritage Committee in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

- In 2009, it welcomed the decision to involve the WHC in this process of consultation with its advisory bodies. Emphasis were placed on the lack of maintenance and legal and planning tools, in particular:

- the absence of specific and operational boundaries of the property;
- Lack of coordination among the various governmental institutions concerned;
- The absence of specific urban planning tools to preserve the unlisted buildings and the remaining urban construction in historic Cairo outside the antiquities protection systems.

And to define the boundaries of the buffer zone from the historical properties of Cairo on clear supplementary maps.

- In 2011, the WHC pointed out that the Egyptian authorities did not provide Historic Cairo's boundaries, either the management plan report, so, the WHC

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launched a program to develop a plan for the preservation and management of Historic Cairo. The project focused on:

- The demarcation of Historic Cairo's properties and buffer zones and the OUV that has been formulated;
- Preparation of the management plan to preserve the property of the World Heritage in historic Cairo
- Establish an institutional and legal framework for the development of a sustainable urban conservation policy, and strengthen coordination and cooperation between various institutions and departments involved in the management of heritage property;
- Establish an appropriate and common information platform for urban conservation.
- Knowledge and understanding of the urban fabric in Cairo,

- In 2012 and 2013, the WHC noted that the State had established a national committee for all World Heritage properties in Egypt, which was a first step towards the establishment of a historic Cairo administrative system. But the administrative authorities are unable to stop the irregularities or apply the removal orders.

- In 2015, a ministerial committee was established under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to oversee all activities related to historic Cairo and to determine the boundaries of the heritage property and its buffer zone, which was developed by the UNESCO urban regeneration of Historic Cairo project. The government submitted a document showing efforts to control the constructions.

- In 2017, the state of preservation report stated progress in dealing with the recommendations of the previous mission in terms of short- and long-term policies and administrative procedures to address pressing problems. However, it should be noted that the report considered that the property of the world heritage of Historic Cairo and its buffer zone extends over an area of 5 km<sup>2</sup>, which should be reviewed as the real area of the property in the nomination file that was 32 km<sup>2</sup>.

- In 2018, The 3rd stage of the URHC project was established with the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. In the first submitted report, it was indicated that the Ministry of Antiquities, in discussion with the General Consultant of the URHC, was considering appointing a General Council for the management of the property, which would be legally constituted and have an independent budget. In this year's report, no further details have been submitted on this General Council and instead, it is said that work to draft a proposal for an institutional framework to manage the property will be carried out as part of the 2nd stage of the URHC and presented to the Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development for approval. This aspect is said to be one of the most important outputs of the 2nd stage. The timeframe for establishment of this administrative framework remains unclear and will only be known once the expected timeframe for the 2nd stage is set out. It is recommended that the Committee request additional information in this regard.

- In 2020: Degradation of the urban fabric appears to be increasing and in places accelerating; The overall historic urban fabric suffers more than individually protected monuments; Neglect and lack of maintenance are leading to deterioration beyond affordable rehabilitation or the total collapse of some structures; The attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are threatened by a process of physical and environmental degradation and functional decay.

- In 2021: The WHC sent a mission to revise the implementation of the previous recommendations, but the main recommendations of the mission report included:

- Ensure that the plans are based on a clear definition and firm understanding of the attributes of OUV, and on clear boundaries,
  - Establish, adopt and submit to the World Heritage Centre one map for the new boundaries and buffer zone of the property.
  - Complete the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
  - Full implementation of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, especially in relation to clearly established boundaries, finalization of the management plan, and submission of the RSOUV.
  - Halt immediately the demolition of all structures, old or new, within the property.
  - Stop any further street cutting or widening to improve vehicular traffic.
  - Complete as a matter of urgency the Conservation Plan to define a holistic vision for the conservation of the historic urban city.
  - Apply strict controls for the demolition of non-registered buildings on the basis of the Conservation Plan, or other approved planning tools.
  - A map of the property in Arabic and a justification including the names of the roads in English was also received, but a presentation in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines for submission to the Advisory Bodies is still expected.
  - The property is now reaching a critical point where degradation of the urban fabric appears to be increasing and in places accelerating with the vernacular buildings suffering more than the protected monuments. Although the exact number of demolitions over the past five years is not known, it is clear on the ground that these are cumulatively leading to drastic transformations in some areas of the city.
  - Given the positive reassurances that have been provided by the State Party over several years that progress has been made, details remain insufficient to demonstrate that the measures taken are achieving the desired impact. There still appears to be a strong focus on protected/registered monuments, and what appear to be lacking are mechanisms to promote and support the conservation of traditional and vernacular structures at the property and prevent their demolition. Progress remains extremely slow in improving the overall management framework.
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- From the above it is clear that the establishment of clear boundaries and management plan for historic Cairo has been the main and repeated requirements of the WHC since 1979. Especially after the year of 2002 and the development that took place in this regard was from UNESCO and supervised by the WHC. A map of Historic Cairo's boundaries has been prepared as an outcome of the Urban Regeneration project for Historic Cairo (URHC) 2014, Which has been approved by the Egyptian government, but didn't submitted to WHC.

The Higher Council of the Planning and Urban Development approved in 2020 a new proposal for the Historic Cairo, but also didn't contain all the heritage buildings and landmarks that comes in the nomination report in 1979, and didn't attached with a clear management framework.

In addition, in 2007, in response to the WHC's request to determine the boundaries of the property, the Egyptian government submitted four maps attached to the request to amend the name of the property to (Historic Cairo). It included five areas: including Fatimid Cairo, parts of the northern and southern tombs, the Citadel and the Fustat area. These maps are the only official document containing a demarcation of the site, but they have provided a vague definition of "property area" and "buffer zone" and were not identical to the elements mentioned in the nomination file, and the boundaries contained therein were not related to formal procedures or decisions for protection.

However, the third stage of the URHC project give a clear proposal for the management, but the management framework did not apply tell now and the map of the property and the buffer zone didn't approve.

### **4.3 Cairo's historical boundaries in the various ministries:**

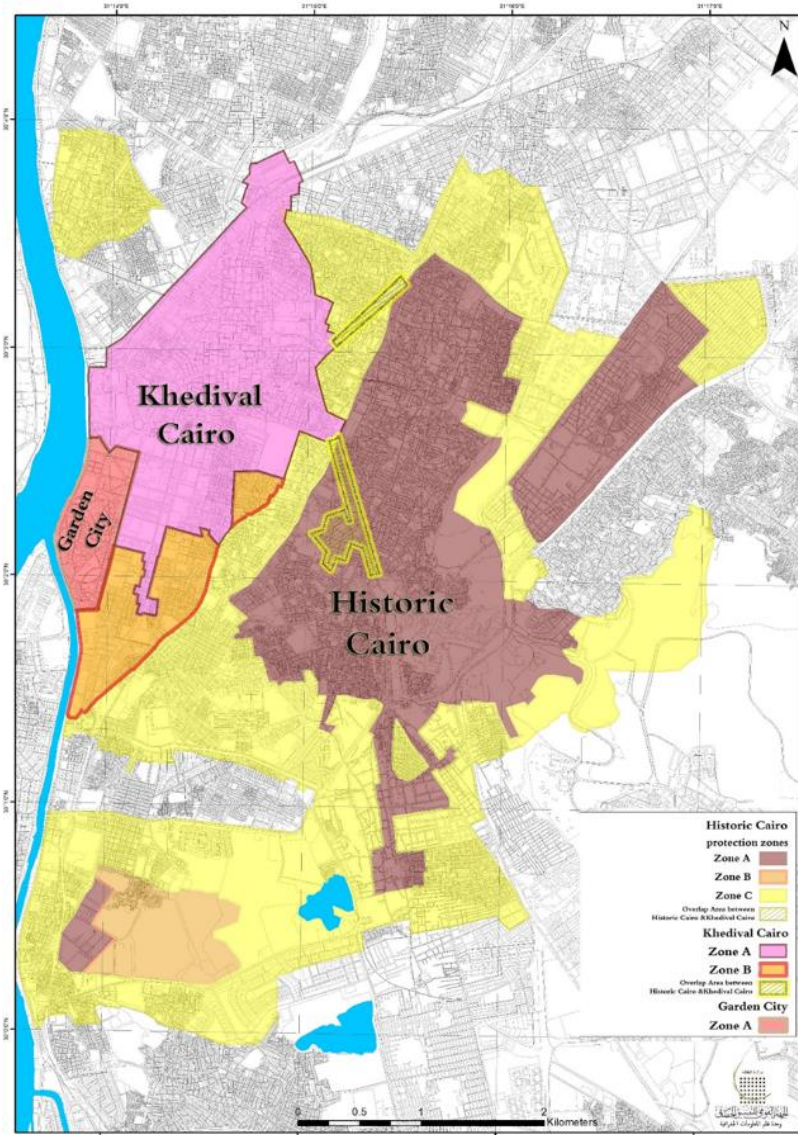
Due to the interest of the Egyptian ministries in historic Cairo and their duties stipulated in some laws, many departments and organizations had been established. Such as the Ministry of Antiquities which responsible for listed monuments and archaeological sites only, as well as the National Organization for Urban Harmony (Ministry of Culture) responsible for the legislation of urban areas (with distinct value) and the listing of the valuable architecture buildings. It is also Cairo governorate that is responsible for construction activities and decision-making responsibilities on the releasing of licenses for non-archaeological buildings, and control of buildings surrounding the monuments [6]. These are the main stakeholders in addition to other institutions and ministries, such as the Ministry of Awqaf, Interior and Housing. Therefore, when tracing Historic Cairo's boundaries at the three main stakeholders we find:

#### **4.3.1 Historic Cairo Boundaries by the Ministry of Culture:**

The boundaries and regulations of the historic Cairo area approved by the Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development were established in July 2009 as shown in the map (Fig.3) [9].

In this map it is clear that Historic Cairo's boundaries as a Heritage distinct has a three protection ranges A, B and C, adjacent to the khedival Cairo and Garden City as listed heritage areas which have special regulations also.

**Fig. (3): The boundaries of the Historic Cairo, Khedival Cairo and**



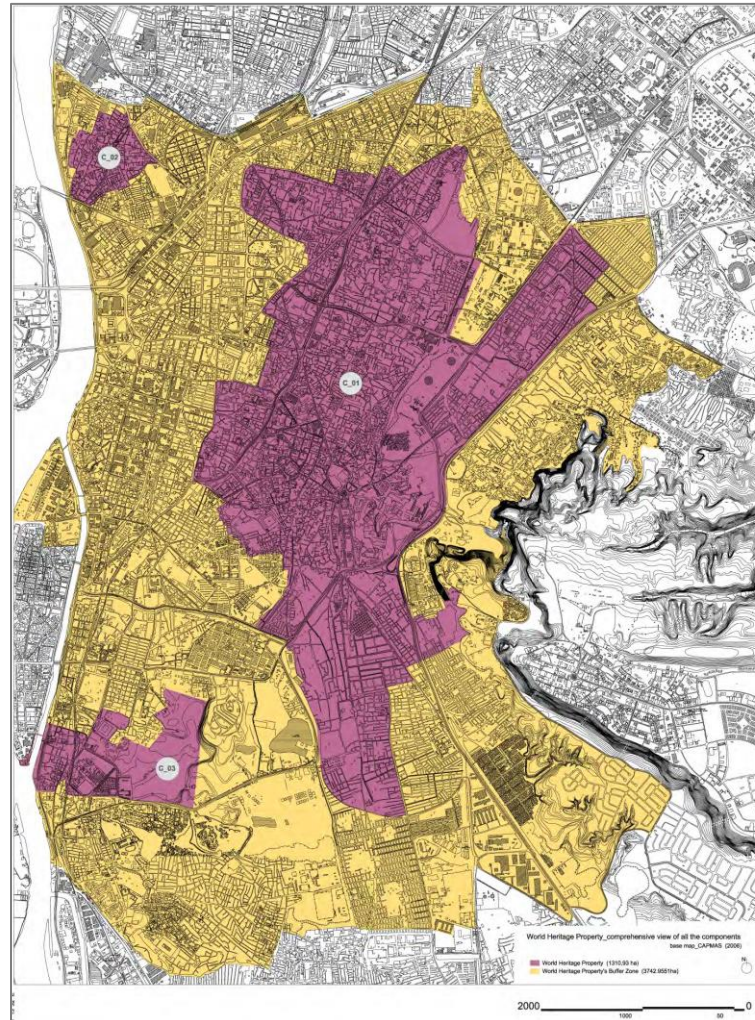
Source: The authors, from [1] National Organization for Urban Harmony, “Boundaries, Regulations and Preservation Criteria for the Heritage Areas, Historic Cairo.” Ministry of Culture, 2009.

#### **4.3.2 Historic Cairo boundaries by the Ministry of Antiquities:**

As a result of not demarcation of Historic Cairo since its nomination on the World Heritage List in 1979, the first task of URHC project was to define clear boundaries of heritage property by comparative analysis of historical maps in order to define the historical pattern in Historic Cairo. In addition, when review the OUVs and match it with the nomination file, and to emphasize the criteria that inscription of property of historic Cairo. The study shows that no clear boundaries of historic Cairo

have been set at the Ministry of Antiquities, or at the Supreme Council for Antiquities Affairs, only after 2014 with an area of 13 km<sup>2</sup> only, although the nomination file suggested that the core of Cairo historical area should be 32 km<sup>2</sup>. The map on (Fig.4) [9] shows the proposed boundaries from the URHC project 2014.

Fig. 4 : proposed boundaries from the URHC project 2014.



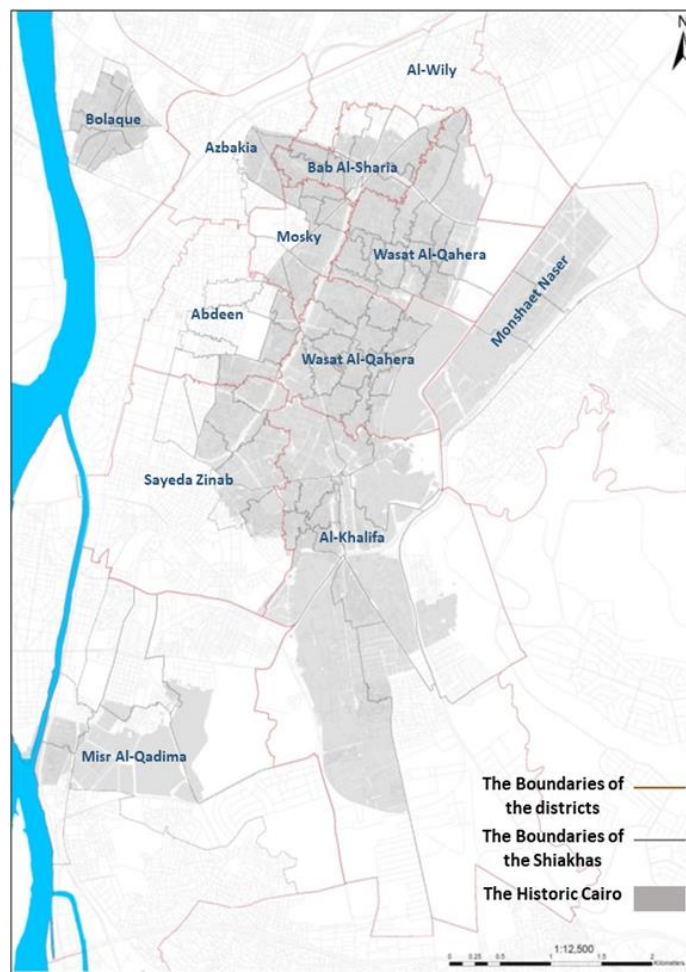
Source: [1] F. MIGLIOLI, D. PINI, and E. Al, “Urban Regeneration Project for Historic Cairo FINAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES.” UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Management of World Heritage Sites in Egypt, 2014.

In examining the previous map, the authors find that clear boundaries have been set for the historic property of Cairo's historic heritage. The large zone of protection was determined in 2014 including Cairo Khedive and Garden City as well. By matching the boundaries of this map and the previous map, it was found that there are areas within the boundaries of the World Heritage property that do not fall within the special requirement ranges for distinct areas. Also, the scope of protection for the World Heritage property extends to include areas with special regulations because they are registered as valuable areas, such as Khedive and Garden City.

### 4.3.3 Cairo historic boundaries in Cairo Governorate:

The Cairo Governorate deals with its districts and neighborhoods (local government) with different limits and requirements from the Ministry of Culture or the Ministry of Antiquities, where it deals with the boundaries of the sheikhs and neighborhoods, on the other hand, it applies the unified building law (No. 144) and the regulations approved by the Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development of some areas such as Khedivial Cairo and Garden City as shown in the next map (Fig.5) [10].

**Fig (5): Administrative boundaries by the Cairo Governorate**



Source: The authors, from [1] “Cairo Governorate.”  
<http://www.cairo.gov.eg/en/Pages/Regions.aspx?SubmID=141>.

By analysis this map, we can found that the Historic Cairo located on different parts of many neighborhoods, in addition to take a part of the Shiakhas inside the Historic area, not all the Shiakha, which is difficult to enforce the building regulations in the Historic context.



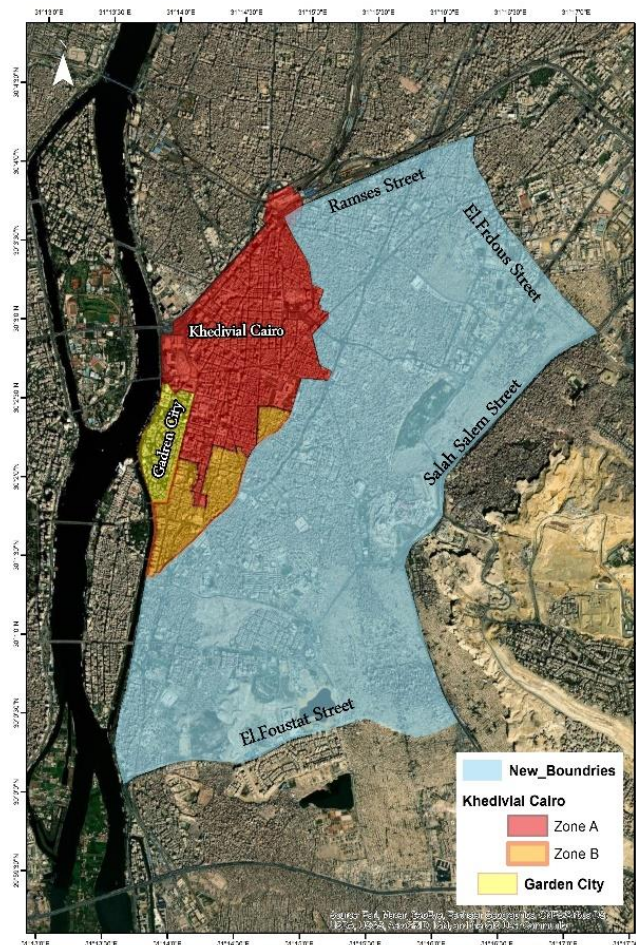


## 5. The proposed Boundaries of the Historic Cairo:

From all the previous analysis, new boundaries had been suggested from the authors on map Fig.7, these boundaries respected the following criteria in a try to identify a clear comprehensive area as the following:

1. The boundaries were modified to include the old urban area that has remained since 1807 AD with its axial streets, patterns, urban fabric, built-up areas and spaces.
2. The boundaries reformed to alien with main edges like main streets and edge of heritage area.
3. The Historic District includes modern neighborhoods and building styles, but does not affect the spatial consistency of the pre-modern urban fabric, which assist the administration to creating services and green areas, as happened in Al-Azhar Park.
4. Also, this property reflects some of the many morphological and topographical models. Therefore, the proposed area includes: from the East, the slopes of the Mokattam plateau, to prevent high-rise urban development that harms the view of the sky line of the historic city. And the western boundary includes “heritage areas” which are: The Khedivial Cairo and Garden City, and from the north Ramses street and El.Fardouse Street, from the South El.Foustat Street.

**Fig (7): The proposed boundaries for the Historic Cairo**



## 6. CONCLUSION

- Emphasis on the importance of the existence of clear boundaries agreed between all stakeholders of urban heritage through the rehabilitation of characteristics to deal with urban heritage appropriate with the importance.
- The idea of management and the establishment of clear boundaries and dealing with historic Cairo as a special planning area was the most important demands in the reports of the World Heritage Center.
- Lack of appropriate legal and planning tools for the entire historical area that threatens heritage property such as (lack of defined and operational boundaries of property; lack of specific urban planning tools to preserve unlisted buildings and remaining urban construction in Historic Cairo)
- Boundaries of Historic Cairo's property as well as the buffer zone have been identified on clear holistic maps, but not approved by all relevant ministries.
- It is difficult to deal with part of the Sheikh with special laws and special requirements and leave the rest of the Sheikh under the unified building law.
- When determining the boundaries of a Heritage property, it must to comply with the administrative boundaries or to define clear edges to the boundaries, like main road, river... etc., the clearer the boundaries, the easier to put management plan.
- There is no knowledge of the property and no boundaries of heritage buildings and monuments in the region within the boundaries and therefore difficult to deal with them.
- Due to difficulty of dealing with a part of the Sheikh, so it is proposed to combine some parts together within the boundaries of historic Cairo.
- Historic Cairo should be considered as a heritage planning unit with a special nature.
- The division of Cairo's boundaries into areas of work, identification of a priority area of work, and a plan of action for implementation in that area can then be applied to the entire site.

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