

World Heritage Skills Development Course for Young People in the Arab Region



Petra, Jordan
20-25 April 2002

- *Enhance young peoples' awareness and sense of ownership of the heritage;*
- *Develop a manual of best practices in the field of hands-on conservation training activities for young people;*
- *Create a model of cooperation between schools and the World Heritage site*

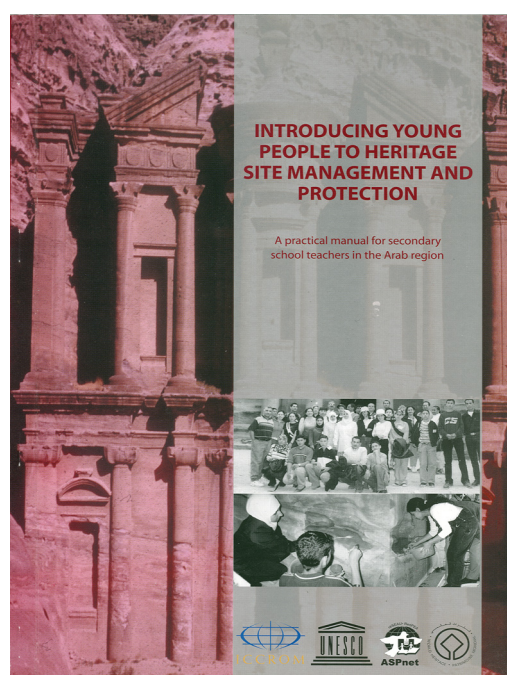
The 1st Sub-Regional World Heritage Skills Development Course in the Arab Region held in Petra, Jordan (2002) was initiated in cooperation with the Jordanian National Commission for UNESCO, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and scientifically supervised by ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property).

Students (aged 14-16) and teachers from Jordan, Lebanon and Syria participated in the course which focused on the basic techniques of archaeological digs.

In 2003, the manual "Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection – A practical manual for secondary school teachers in the Arab region" was published with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano.

It addresses teachers and students between 12-18 years old, presents the overall concept and

reflects the activities undertaken during the skills development course in Petra. This manual of best practices in the field of hands-on conservation serves as a tool to assist educators in raising awareness among future decisionmakers and guardians of the World Heritage.



A Regional Workshop on the Practical Manual: Introducing Young People to Heritage Site Management and Protection was held in Tunis (2005) involving teachers from 7 countries in the Arab region, in the discussion and evaluation of pedagogic and curricula approaches for the protection of historic sites and cities.

The workshop was initiated in cooperation with OWHC (Organization of World Heritage Cities) with the participation of the Aga Khan foundation of Syria, the Association de Sauvegard de Madina and ICCROM.

These series of related activities have set a precedent for future long-term cooperation agreements at the national level between schools and management site administrators particularly in Jordan.

The methods and approaches adopted at Petra were conceived as a model for expanding such activities within the Arab region and elsewhere.

Tunisia has offered to establish an exchange programme with other Arab States on World Heritage Education and the promotion of the Petra manual.

Oman is coordinating with UNESCO for developing World Heritage education curriculum for integration in the national education system.

The Jordan Education Ministry has expressed its commitment towards the integration of World Heritage in regular curriculum in Jordan, based on the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit and the Petra manual.

In April 2006, a Workshop was held in order to reach a consensus on the best way to integrate heritage education in school curriculum and develop a culturally responsive curriculum.

