

Development of World Heritage information management capacities in the Arab States



UNESCO/FLANDERS
TRUST FUND

WORKSHOP

CAIRO, FEBRUARY - MARCH 2004

APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE PROTECTION OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

INTRODUCTION

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This training workshop will be organized from February 17 to March 4, 2004 in Cairo, Egypt and environs. It is aimed at identifying and developing human resources in the Arab Region in documenting World Heritage sites.



This first initiative integrates a long-term vision for capacity building in the region and provides a solution to the issues exposed in the document entitled 'Regional Programme for the Arab States' presented to the World Heritage Committee in Paris on May 2003', which states:

- *Lack of World Heritage management and information exchange capacities* : they do not have an integrated information management or the technology for information exchanges.
- *Lack of adequate documentation at the sites* : the nomination dossiers prior to 1997 rarely contain up-to-date topographical maps, geographic coordinates, photos, recent bibliographies, etc., provided by the conservation services and the Sites. With rare exceptions, the sites have not produced comprehensive maps or measurements defining the boundaries and buffer zones. This lack of information is very detrimental to the conservation of heritage properties, because it prevents the establishment of a coherent system of legal protection, monitoring and maintenance.

The proposed workshops will bring together young professionals nominated by regional state governments for training in basic and advanced recording, documentation and information systems for World Heritage sites.

The training program will be led by qualified instructors from both international and regional institutions. This interdisciplinary group of experts will have an extensive experience in mapping and conserving world heritage sites. We would be honoured to have you join this team.

The training will be organized in cooperation with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Ministry of Information and Telecommunication's Centre for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT). CULTNAT brings a young and qualified staff and excellent facilities to this event.

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The training modules:

The modules will be developed as packages to be used for recording, documenting, monitoring, and managing information related to a world heritage site, the contents consists on:

1. Introduction to the use of recording, documentation and information systems in conservation and protection of world heritage sites.
2. Preparation of a digital site reference map, a measured map(s) containing geographic information, features and other relevant thematic assessments of the site. These maps could be developed through GIS and other technologies.
3. Preparation of systematic monitoring tools to assist site managers in planning and evaluating conservation activities at WH properties using Information Systems and other related techniques.
4. Preparation of digital measured datasets of specific locations within the site. These maps could be developed through non- and imaged-based recording tools, such as REDM Total Station, digitising conventional hand measurements maps, 3D laser mapping devices, rectified photography, photogrammetry and other techniques.



5. Introduction to the use of advanced digital information system that might be applied for Periodic Reporting of the Arab States Region in 2007 (HEREIN system), targeted to mainly for the national experts

These five modules will be integrated in the each proposed training workshops. In the future, these modules could be taught individually, depending on the needs of each site and regional partner.



Furthermore, the two workshops will be organized in January and February 2004, the teaching contents will make use of a selected number of case studies, on sites selected in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the concerned national authorities.

These training sessions will be able to identify the level of support required at the sites in terms of the following questions (UNESCO, 1998) :

- Is basic documentation available at the site?
- Is there a conservation and management plan?
- Is there appropriate expertise in the staff at the site?
- Do they have necessary tools to do their job on a continuing basis?

Moreover, during the training courses, the first module will be taught to the whole group of trainees. Subsequently, the group will be split into two groups (beginners and advanced), depending on their background and knowledge in recording, documentation, and information systems.

The contents of each remaining module will be adapted to the beginner and advanced groups.

Case Studies

Cultural heritage: Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt), focusing on Saqqara: the capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt has some extraordinary funerary monuments, including rock tombs, ornate mastabas, temples and pyramids. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World (Inscription on the List of World Heritage in 1979).



Target audience: trainees

Trainees: experts on cultural and natural heritage preferably with both knowledge of cultural heritage recording and documentation and computer skills. Desirably with experience in computer-aided drafting tools (ex. AutoCAD, MicroStation, etc) and other graphic packages (ex. Adobe PhotoShop, Corel Draw, etc). They should be attached to the national authority dealing with protection of World Heritage sites.

Number of trainees: young professionals (from 25 to 35 years old) on this field will be invited from each member country of the region. There will be approximately 18 to 20 participants for each training course; each country may propose three candidates, from which the WHC staff will select one.

Duration

The training workshop consists of four modules designed for both mapping cultural and natural heritage sites. The duration will be of 2 weeks (6 days per week 8 hours a day) of intensive training.

Furthermore, study a technical excursion to visit other cultural and/or natural sites are planned during the training course; these could be organized by the hosting State Party at a site currently being documented.

Download more information

Training brochure: PDF

General project brochure: PDF

UNESCO Report to the Director-General of UNESCO on the management review of the world heritage convention, Paris 1998.

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UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Flanders Authority (Vlaanderen)



Supreme Council of Antiquities (Cairo, Egypt)



Center for documentation of cultural and natural heritage
(Cairo, Egypt)

Proposed teaching staff

The course will be taught by an interdisciplinary group of experts.

Executive Committee

Giovanni Boccardi, UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris, France)

Karim Hendili, UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris, France)

Mario Santana Quintero, UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris, France)

Local Organizing Committee

International programme committee

Alonzo C. Addison, Center for Design Visualization, UC Berkeley (Berkeley, USA)

William Blake, English Heritage

Philippe De Maeyer, Geography department of the University of Ghent (Ghent, Belgium)

Gaetano Palumbo, World Monuments Fund and University College London (London, UK)

Koenraad Van Balen, R. Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, University of Leuven (Leuven Belgium)

Zahi Hawas, Director, Supreme Council of Antiquities (Cairo, Egypt)

Fathi Saleh, Director, Centre for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (Cairo, Egypt)

Fekri Hassan, University College London (London, UK), Center for documentation of cultural and natural heritage (Cairo, Egypt)

Paul Van Lindt, Ministry of the Flemish region, department of monuments and landscapes (Brussels, Belgium)

Maurizio Forte, Italian Research Council (Rome, Italy)

Rand Eppich, Digital Lab, Getty Conservation Institute (Los Angeles, U.S.A.)

These experts would help in the preparation of scientific contents of training workshops, as well as, with supplying instructors to teach the different modules.

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