



Iraq Office

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

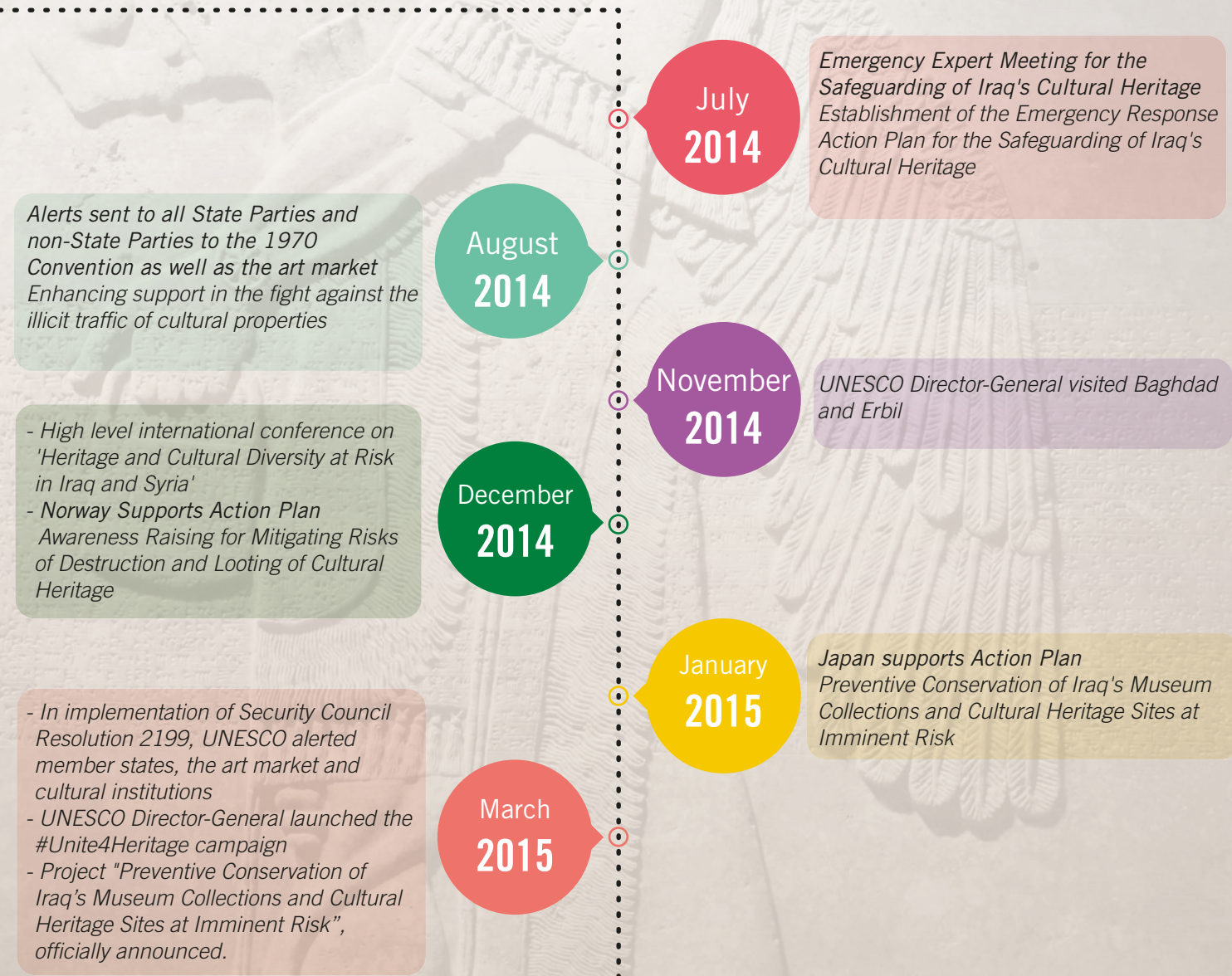
منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Emergency Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq



Activities undertaken since the onset of the conflict in 2014

UNESCO is coordinating efforts to combat illicit trafficking of cultural property, in collaboration with INTERPOL, ICOM, the World Customs Organization and law enforcement agencies.



Objectives of the Emergency Response Action Plan



Key planned actions

1. Updating of inventories
2. Monitoring by satellite imagery
3. Risk preparedness
4. Emergency contingency planning
5. Awareness raising

Activities since 2003

Since 2003, UNESCO has implemented a number of project through the support of various donors including the European Union, Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, Japan, Italy, Czech Republic, Norway, and Poland.

Illicit traffic:

3 TV spots and 1 infographic film produced and broadcast to raise awareness on the dangers of illicit trafficking of cultural property and to sensitize Iraqi youth on the importance of protecting their cultural heritage.

Damage assessment

Completion of assessment report of the present condition of the archaeological site in Babylon.

Museums

UNESCO has worked with number a of museums and repositories of cultural objects on several areas including object conservation, creation of databases, training staff on object ID and laboratory restoration.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

A capacity building workshop on the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage was held in addition to carrying out a needs assessment report on the situation in Iraq.

Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage

UNESCO has been supporting cultural heritage conservation and management at several significant sites in Iraq. Conservation work in some notable sites include: Al Askarri Shrine, The Erbil Citadel, Al Hadba Minaret and Dar Al Wali.

Promoting the visibility of Iraq's cultural heritage has been one of the major actions of UNESCO; such initiatives include promoting the international visibility of Najaf, producing an online and print encyclopaedia and assisting the Government of Iraq in developing a Tourism Strategy.