

**MOSAICS CONSERVATION  
MANAGEMENT POLICY**

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CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY

## **Cultural Resource Management**

Generally accepted practices for the conservation and presentation of cultural resources, founded on principles and carried out in a practice that integrates professional, technical and administrative activities so that the historic value of cultural resources is taken into account in actions that might affect them. In Israel Cultural Resource Management encompasses the presentation and use, as well as the conservation of, cultural resources.

### **Cultural Resource**

A human work or a place, which gives, evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and which has been determined to have historic value.

The mosaic conservation policy is an integral part of the national cultural resources management policy.

1. Every mosaic is considered a cultural resource.
2. Every mosaic with a high historical and esthetical value is considered a cultural resource level I (see evaluation section).
  - Every mosaic "in situ" should be evaluated in its historical content.
  - The evaluation of every mosaic involves the historic, aesthetic and material value of the resource.

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## 1.0 Principles of Cultural Resource Management

### 1.1 Principles of Value

#### 1.1.1

For purposes of this policy, mosaics are cultural resources. It is for this value that mosaics will be safeguarded and presented for public benefit.

#### 1.1.2

While all mosaics are valued, some mosaics are deemed to be of the highest possible value and will be protected and presented accordingly.

\*IAA will value most highly those mosaics of national historic significance.

#### 1.1.3

Cultural resources rarely occur in isolation. They often derive their value from being part of a place or a site.

\*IAA will value mosaic in their context and will consider resources as a whole as well as discrete parts.

#### 1.1.4

Mosaics will be valued not only for their physical or material properties, but also for the associative and symbolic attributes with which they are imbued, and which frequently form the bases of their historic, artistic, social and religious values.

#### 1.1.5

Mosaics, whose historic value derives from its witness to many periods in history will be respected for that evolution, not just for their existence at a single moment in time.

\* IAA will reveal an underlying or previous physical state of an object, structure or site at the expense of later forms and material only with great caution; when historic value is clearly related to an earlier form, and when knowledge and existing material of that earlier form allow.

## 1.2 Principles of Public Benefit

### 1.2.1

Mosaics, designated and held in trust so that present and future generations may enjoy and benefit from them.

\* Public benefit of mosaics as cultural resources will be most appropriately achieved by the protection and presentation of that which is of national and international historic significance.

\* The continuing public benefit of mosaics will be assured through ongoing maintenance and care.

### 1.2.2

To understand and appreciate mosaics as cultural resources and the sometimes complex themes they illustrate, the public will be provided with information and services that effectively communicate the importance and value of those mosaics and their themes.

\* IAA, together with all the other organizations in possession of, or administering, mosaics, will select the means for presenting the history and cultural heritage of its national parks, national historic sites in ways that recognize the nature and interests of the public it serves.

### 1.2.3

IAA and all the other organizations in possession of, or administering, mosaics will encourage public involvement in the protection and presentation of mosaics as cultural resources at national parks and national historic sites.

\* Appropriate uses of mosaics will be those uses and activities that respect the historic value and physical integrity of the mosaics and that promote public understanding and appreciation.

\* Information about mosaics will be made available. In cases where revealing the location of a mosaic could constitute a threat to it, information about the location may be withheld.

\* In the interest of long-term public benefit, new uses that threaten mosaics as cultural resources of national historic significance will not be considered, and existing uses which threaten them will be discontinued or modified to remove the threat.

### 1.3 Principles of Understanding

#### 1.3.1

The care and presentation of mosaics require knowledge and understanding of those resources, of the history they represent, and of the most effective means to communicate that history to the public for whom the mosaics are held in trust.

- Mosaics conservation management activities will be based on knowledge, and professional and technical skills and expertise.
- IAA will integrate the contributions of relevant disciplines in planning and implementing mosaics conservation management, and will place a particular importance on interdisciplinary teamwork.
- Adequate research, recording and investigation will precede any action that might affect mosaics and their presentation.

#### 1.3.2

The importance of genuine public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of mosaics will be recognized. The understanding of mosaics requires knowledge that goes beyond a simple knowledge of their physical properties.

- Genuine public understanding may require the recording and use of traditional and on the knowledge that previously did not exist in written form.
- IAA will proceed on the basis that the meaning of mosaics may exist in a continuum ranging from national significance to local or special significance for particular people, and that the two orders of significance can be communicated.
- IAA and all other organizations involved in the process will identify the nature and various interests of the public to develop effective means of communication.

#### 1.3.3

Information about mosaics will be recorded and those records will be maintained for the future.

- IAA will maintain up-to-date inventories and records on its cultural resources. Dossiers will contain basic data and related documentation, including the results of research and evaluation, records of decisions and actions taken. Heritage recording will be carried out on mosaics of national historic significance.
- When faced with loss due to human or natural forces and when long-term stabilization or salvage is not possible, mosaics will be recorded and documented to preserve a public record.

#### 1.3.4

IAA will avoid actions that reduce the potential for long-term conservation and for future understanding and appreciation of a mosaic and the legacy it represents.

## **1.4 Principles of respect**

### **1.4.1**

Those who hold our heritage in trust are responsible for passing on that heritage in ways that maintain its potential for future understanding, appreciation and study. As an irreplaceable part of this heritage, mosaics as cultural resources will be managed with continuous care and with respect for their historic character; that is, for the qualities for which they are valued.

- IAA will respect the distinguishing features constitute the historic character of a mosaic.
- Uses of mosaics will be respectful of, and compatible with, their historic character.

### **1.4.2**

Trustees are obliged to act in ways that best ensure the continued survival of the mosaic with minimum deterioration.

- IAA will respect mosaics by using the least destructive means to accomplish objectives. Variance from the path of least intrusive action must be justified.
- Respectful, preventive and continuing maintenance will form an indispensable part of mosaics management.

## **1.5 Principles of Integrity**

### **1.5.1**

IAA and all other organizations involved in the process will present the past in a manner that accurately reflects the range and complexity of the human history commemorated at or represented in a national historic site or national park.

- Evidence that is specific to a resource or site will always be preferred to general evidence of a type or period.

There are times when one may have to rely on evidence that is indirect, but which is consistent with what is highly probable in the light of known facts and patterns.

- Conservation and interpretation based on such evidence will be permitted only when the activities founded thereon are based on extensive knowledge, when they are carefully recorded and researched and when, with respect to the physical features that constitute the historic character of a cultural resource, they are reversible.
- The use of indirect or comparative evidence will be acknowledged.
- History will be presented with integrity. This will include the presentation of differing contemporary views, perspectives informed by traditional knowledge, and later interpretations. IAA will not play the role of arbiter of Israel's human history.
- Depiction of the past without basis in historical knowledge will not be considered.

### **1.5.2**

Mosaics should be distinguishable from, and not overwhelmed by, efforts to conserve, enhance and present them.

- New work of all kinds will be distinguishable from the work of the past.
- New work will be sensitive to the historic character of the resource or resources of which it forms a part and will not overwhelm those resources.

• Reconstruction and reproductions of past forms should not be confused with what is genuinely the work of the past. Reproductions and reconstruction's will be suitably marked so as to distinguish them from the original and, in the case of mosaics in national historic sites, will not be used when they impair the commemorative integrity of those sites.

## 2.0 The Practice of Management

The mosaics conservation policy is an integral part of the national cultural resources management policy.

1. Every mosaic is considered a cultural resource.
2. Every mosaic with a high historical and aesthetically value is considered a cultural resource level 1.
3. Every mosaic "in situ" should be evaluated in its historical context.
4. The evaluation of every mosaic involves the historic, aesthetic and material value of the resource.

The IAA will apply the principles of this policy within a practical framework of cultural resource management. The practice of mosaics conservation management is not itself a formal process distinct from the activities and process already in place; rather, it integrates those activities and processes within an overall policy structure.

The practice of mosaics conservation management requires that four elements be in place in all decision-making that affects cultural resources:

- i) the inventory of resources;
- ii) the evaluation of resources to determine which are to be considered as cultural resources and what it is that constitutes their historic value.
- iii) the consideration of historic value in actions affecting conservation and presentation; and
- iv) monitoring and review to ensure that conservation and presentation objectives continue to be met effectively.

The practice of mosaic conservation management provides a framework for decision-making rather than a set of predetermined answers. Its aim is to ensure that the historic character for which mosaics are valued is identified, recognized, considered and communicated.

### 2.1 Inventory of Resources

#### Designation of Mosaics



Mosaics are designated as such by archaeologists via a letter or fax to the National Inventory of Mosaics ( IAA , and Conservation Department)

- by museum curators
- by conservators after surveys
- by other involved persons and organizations

#### Registering Mosaics

- Automatic registration - mosaics already in museums, deposits and collections
- Registration after designation
- Registration of the level after evaluation (except for automatic nomination)

### INVENTORY OF MOSAICS Creation of a National Mosaics Fund (National Inventory of Mosaics)

#### 1. SOURCES:

##### 1.1 Mosaics *in situ* - designation

1.1.1. Newly discovered mosaic - by the archaeologist

1.1.2. Previous discoveries:

\* archaeological archives data base

\* surveys

\* other archives and all other sources of information

##### 1.2 Mosaics *in situ* - registration and evaluation

1.2.1. The registration in the “National Mosaics Inventory List” automatically confers Level II status.

1.2.2. Evaluation is to be made no later than one month after registration, or immediately on registration by an “Evaluation Committee” if the mosaic is not on the list for automatic evaluation.

#### 2. EVALUATION OF A MOSAIC'S PHYSICAL CONDITION:

“National Mosaics Heritage Watch”

##### 2.1. Sources

2.1.1. Surveys

2.1.2. Inspections

2.2. Presentation - the information will be presented on risk maps by the IAA Conservation Department every 6 months. The “Red Book” of mosaics: a list of the most endangered mosaics, or mosaics and sites, in Israel.

### 3. MOSAICS IN MUSEUMS, COLLECTIONS AND DEPOSITS:

- 3.1. Designation - automatically form the Storage's data base.
- 3.2. Registration - automatically
- 3.3. Evaluation - in general, every mosaic in this inventory is a Level 1 mosaic.
- 3.4. Evaluation of physical conditions: inspection in museums, collections and deposits

#### 3.4.1. Presentation - list of endangered mosaics

- \* mosaics for "retransfer" (poor condition of the new support)
- \* with difficulties for exposition
- \* with potential for future deterioration
- \* list of mosaics by differences in expositions and priorities for assembling

#### **2.2 Evaluation of The Historic Value of Cultural Resources**

Evaluation by established criteria enables IAA to determine the level of mosaics as cultural resources and what constitutes their value; that is to say, what particular qualities and features make up the historic character of a cultural resource. An understanding of the historic character of a mosaic focuses the program efforts at protection, presentation and appropriate use.

Resources will be evaluated for their historical associations, their aesthetic and functional qualities and their relationships to social and physical environments, for purposes of determining which of the following three levels should be ascribed to a resource IAA plaques and monuments will be managed in accordance with this policy.

### Evaluation of mosaics

Mosaics Level 1 - mosaics with significant history and aesthetic value; consequence for national and international cultural heritage.

Mosaics Level I - preliminary designation list.

- Every mosaic from Jewish synagogue
- Every colored mosaic from a Jewish building
- Every pale-Christian mosaic
- Every colored (including geometric) Roman period mosaic
- Every colored Byzantine period mosaic (includes those with intricate geometric design)
- Every mosaic “opus vermiculatum”
- Every mosaic “opus sectile”
- Every mosaic “opus musivum” (wall mosaic). Includes fragmentary mosaics from excavations.

N.B. Every mosaic fragment of an historic site Level 1 is to be treated as Mosaic Level I

Mosaic Level II - not of national or historic significance but may have regional, ethnic, local historic value. Frequently, mosaic Level II is a fragment of complex Level I or with other mosaics Level I.

Mosaic Level II - preliminary designation list:

- Every monochrome mosaic
- Every marble floor without emblemata
- Every “pavimenta”
- Every mosaic “opus spiccatium”
- Every monochrome pavement

Remarks:

\* IAA will establish and apply criteria to determine which mosaics under its jurisdiction are Level II. A mosaic may be included in this category by virtue of its historic, aesthetic or environmental qualities.

\*\* Mosaics that are designated “classified” or “recognized” in accordance with the Heritage Policy will automatically be considered as Level II cultural resources, unless they meet the requirements that have been described for Level I cultural resources.

\*\*\* Mosaics evaluated and deemed not to be cultural resources for purposes of this policy may be re-evaluated at a later date.

#### **2.2.3 Other**

While all mosaics under the administration of IAA deserve initial consideration as cultural resources, resources that are determined, upon evaluation, not to meet criteria established for Levels I and II are exempted from this policy, and will be managed under other appropriate processes and policies.

Mosaics evaluated and deemed not to be cultural resources for purposes of this policy may be re-evaluated at a later date.

### **2.3 Consideration of Historic Value in Actions Affecting Cultural Resources**

Cultural resource management requires that the concept of historic value of mosaics as cultural resources be fully integrated into the planning and delivery of conservation, presentation and operational programs.

#### **2.3.1**

Planning processes will recognize that mosaics of national historic significance are of highest value, and that mosaics of historic value (and others) are at the second level of importance.

#### **2.3.2**

In all actions that affect mosaics, IAA will consider the potential consequences of proposed actions and the cumulative impacts of those actions on the historic character of those mosaics and will plan and implement measures that respect that historic character.

### **2.4 Monitoring and Review of Ongoing Activities**

Management processes will include the review and monitoring of activities that affect mosaics and their presentation.

## **3.0 Activities of Mosaics Conservation Management**

### **3.1 Corporate Direction**

IAA and all other organizations involved in the process will ensure the application of the principles and practice of mosaics conservation management in all activities that may affect mosaics and the historic character of those mosaics.

#### **3.1.1**

The principles and practice of mosaics conservation management will apply to those contracts, leases, licenses, concessions or agreements that affect mosaics conserved by IAA.

### 3.2 Planning

Effective planning sets out the ways and means by which mosaics will be cared for and presented. Planning activities flow from policy objectives and adhere to policy principles. Through these activities IAA ensures that the elements of good mosaics conservation management practice are in place in all systems and processes.

Long-range direction for the management of the mosaics conservation at each national park and national historic site is established through the process of management and service planning.

#### 3.2.1

Given the multi-disciplinary nature of mosaics conservation management, planning practices will integrate in a timely fashion the contributions of responsible disciplines.

#### 3.2.2

Mosaics conservation management planning will be coordinated with the management planning for a national historic site. It will be based on the commemorative objectives that led to the designation and acquisition of the site. Primary themes developed in the course of management planning will be consistent with that designation. When, as a result of further research, it is considered that a primary theme should be changed, the matter will be referred to the management committee. The goal of management planning for national historic sites is to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites and the application of cultural resource management principles and practice.

#### 3.2.3

Mosaics conservation planning for national historic sites that potentially will be designated as World Heritage Sites will contain strategies for protecting and promoting the values that resulted in this international designation.

#### 3.2.4

Mosaic conservation management planning that affects cultural resources in national parks will deal with cultural resources on the basis of this policy and will be consistent with human history themes established for a park.

#### 3.2.5

Because mosaics as cultural resources are managed for public benefit, public consultation is essential in planning. The principles of this policy will form part of the terms of reference for all public consultation regarding the management of cultural resources.

#### 3.2.6

IAA will cooperate actively with other appropriate agencies with respect to shared cultural resource management concerns in land use planning, tourism and marketing.

### 3.3. Mosaics Conservation

Conservation encompasses the activities that are aimed at the safeguarding of mosaics so as to retain their historic value and extend their physical life. All activities share a broad concept of conservation that embraces one or more strategies that can be placed on a continuum that runs from least intervention to greatest; that is, from maintenance to modification of the mosaic.

#### 3.3.1 General

##### 3.3.1.1.

In planning mosaics conservation activities IAA will ensure first and foremost the basic protection of its cultural resources. With regard to mosaics as cultural resources, the highest obligation is to the protection and presentation of mosaics of national historic significance.

##### 3.3.1.2

In undertaking conservation activities, IAA is especially cognizant of the principles of respect for the existing form and material that constitute the historic character of a mosaic. Conservation activities will therefore involve the least possible intervention to achieve objectives.

##### 3.3.1.3

In dealing with issues relating to the protection of existing fabric and enhancement through modification for presentation, IAA will apply the five principles listed above of cultural resource management to determine the most appropriate treatment. Respect for historic value will be the central consideration.

##### 3.3.1.4

In determining the most appropriate conservation treatment, consideration will be given to the following factors:

- i) the historic character of the mosaic as cultural resource as determined through evaluation;
- ii) the physical condition, integrity and context of the mosaic;
- iii) the impact of the treatment on the integrity of historic fabric and character, available documentation and information;
- iv) the opportunities for presentation and potential appropriate uses of the mosaic, and
- v) available financial and human resources.

##### 3.3.1.5

Activities involving some replacement are the most interventionist of conservation activities and will be the last to be considered.

#### 3.3.1.6

The reproduction, reconstruction or replication of mosaics as a cultural resource will be considered as an interpretative option, not as a conservation activity. These activities are addressed in section 3.5.2 on Interpretation.

### CONSERVATION OF MOSAICS - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- \* *In situ* conservation is the basis of the mosaic conservation policy of the IAA.
- \* Every modification connected with “transfer” must be approved by the IAA. The necessary documentation and evidence must be presented before the IAA.
- \* Every activity of mosaic conservation will be under IAA control and with permission for execution from the IAA. All conservation plans and programs must be approved and signed by the IAA prior to beginning the project.

### REGISTRATION MOSAICS

Level I Mosaics - obligatory recording

- \* photo-recording - including rectified photography
- \* graphic documentation - plans in scale, plus documentation 1:1
- \* recording of the physical condition

Level II Mosaics -

- \* photography
- \* graphic documentation (location map)
- \* recording physical condition

### PRESERVATION

LEVEL I - obligatory intervention

- \* following excavation - preservation work with planing of full conservation treatment
- \* if there no plans for exhibition, the mosaic should be reburied
- \* full conservation treatment
- \* maintenance planning
- \* maintenance under IAA control

Level II - preservation and maintenance is obligatory - under IAA control

### CONSERVATION OF MOSAICS

- \* Every conservation work must be executed only upon approval of the conservation program, and its completion must meet with the IAA inspector's approval.

- \* Presence of the conservator is obligatory.
- \* A conservation plan is obligatory and must include documentation - photos, drawing, work plan and documentation, final report. All this material must be deposited with the IAA archives.

#### RESTORATION OF MOSAICS

- \* All restoration work must be executed, following approval of the project as defined by this policy.

#### MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

- \* It is impossible to accomplish any long term conservation without maintenance and monitoring.

#### PROTECTION

- \* Mosaics must be physically protected and this is the responsibility of the site's administrators or curators (National Parks Authority, museums, etc.)

#### REBURIAL OF MOSAICS

Reburial is only possible after proper preservation measures have been taken.

- \* reburial planning
- \* approval of the reburial plan
- \* the reburial plan must include section of the reburied layers, list of materials by layer, monitoring measures must include biocides treatment and protection measures to be used after reburial.

#### TREATMENT OF MOSAICS AFTER EXCAVATION

Every newly discovered mosaic must be:

- designated and registered in the National Inventory of Mosaics. A written notice of the discovery must be sent to the IAA Conservation Department
- documentation of the physical condition from both the archaeological and conservation standpoints, entry into the data base, and photographs
  - \* protection - the mosaic must be seen and evaluated by the National Mosaics Fund.

#### COMPULSORY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

- \* recording and documentation



- \* preservation measures
- \* conservation planning including
  - \* preservation treatment
  - \* conservation treatment
  - \* protection
  - \* monitoring and maintenance
  - \* research

### **3.3.2 Maintenance**

Conservation involves not just a once-in-a-lifetime intervention to a mosaic but equally its routine and cyclical maintenance. IAA will employ conservation maintenance to mitigate wear and deterioration without altering the performance, integrity or appearance of a mosaic.

### **3.3.3 Preservation**

Preservation encompasses conservation activities that consolidate and maintain the existing form, material and integrity of mosaic. Preservation includes short-term protective measures as well as long-term actions to retard deterioration or prevent damage. Preservation extends the life of the resource by providing it with a secure and stable environment.

Preservation activities will involve the least possible physical intervention and, in the case of interim measures, be as reversible as possible, so as not to jeopardize long-term measures. Preservation activities ensure the stability and security of a mosaic so that it can be kept serviceable through routine maintenance.

### **3.3.4 Modification**

Modification encompasses conservation activities that may change the existing form or materials through treatments, repair, replacement of missing or deteriorated parts, or recovery of earlier known forms and materials. It involves a higher level of intervention than preservation. Modification may be undertaken in order to satisfy new uses or requirements, compatible with the historic character of a resource, as in the case of appropriate adaptive re-use of a structure; or to reveal, recover or represent a known earlier state of a mosaic which is called restoration. Modification may involve some replacement of fabric: (involve) new supports, integration process, restoration.

#### **3.3.4.1**

IAA will base modification on a sound knowledge of, and respect for, the historic character of the mosaic; particularly as that character is expressed by the existing form and material of the resource.

#### 3.3.4.2

IAA will assess and consider the impact of proposed modification activities on the historic character of mosaics as cultural resources and will identify and consider the consequences of modification using the cultural resource management principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity.

#### 3.3.4.3

Restoration is a modification activity that will require clear evidence and detailed knowledge of the earlier forms and materials being covered.

#### 3.3.4.4

In the case of sites and structures, modification may include the activities of period restoration, and of rehabilitation for purposes of safety, property protection and access.

- i) period restoration is the accurate recovery of an earlier form, fabric and detailing of a site or structure based on evidence from recording, research and analysis, through the removal of later additions and the replacement of missing or deteriorated elements of the earlier period. Depending on the intent and degree of intervention, period restoration may be a presentation rather than a conservation activity.
- ii) Rehabilitation is the modification, including adaptive re-use, of a resource to meet various functional requirements while preserving the historic character of the structure.

#### 3.3.4.5

In the case of artifacts, modification includes removal of the products of deterioration such as corrosion, repair, and the infill of missing parts. Modification also includes restoration, which returns the object or specimen to a known earlier visual state, using compatible construction methods and materials.

### 3.4 Research

Ongoing research and investigation will be carried out as they are essential to the success of mosaics conservation management. Research is fundamental to the achievement of conservation objectives, high-quality interpretation and public programs, and the advancement of knowledge.

#### 3.4.1

Research and the results of research will be the basis for activities that have an impact on mosaics and their presentation.

#### 3.4.2

Results of research will be made available to the public in the form of publications and other media.

### 3.4.3

IAA will cooperate with other professionals, research agencies and individuals to achieve mutual objectives.

## 3.5 Presentation

Presentation encompasses activities, facilities, programs and services, including those related to interpretation and visitor activities, that bring the public into contact, either directly or indirectly, with national historic sites and national parks and museums, presents these places by promoting awareness of them, by encouraging visitation, by disseminating information about them and about opportunities to enjoy them, by interpreting them and their wider significance to visitors and non-visitors, by providing opportunities for appropriate visitor use and public involvement, and by providing essential services and facilities.

### 3.5.1 General

The presentation of mosaics as cultural resources offers the public a wide range of opportunities to understand, appreciate and enjoy those resources.

#### 3.5.1.1

IAA will integrate its activities so that efforts as presentation will respect and enhance the historic value of the whole in order to contribute to a positive experience for the public. A knowledge of the nature and interests of the public will enable IAA to enhance that experience by appropriate means of presentation.

#### 3.5.1.2

In planning and implementing the presentation of mosaics at national historic sites, national parks and museums, IAA will cooperate with individuals, organizations and agencies.

#### 3.5.1.3

IAA will encourage visitors to become familiar with the risks associated with access to mosaics and to exercise appropriate responsibility for their own safety. The qualities (historic value) that make access to mosaics desirable will not be diminished or destroyed in order to provide access, especially when public safety can be achieved by means other than modification.

#### 3.5.1.4

Information about mosaics will be accessible to all visitors, also during conservation works. When the condition mosaics prevents access by persons with disabilities, special programs or services will be offered.

#### 3.5.1.5

Information about the richness and diversity of the family of national historic sites and how these sites express various aspects of our national identity will be made available to those who visit national historic sites administered by IAA.

### 3.5.2 Interpretation

Interpretation seeks to reveal meanings and relationships so that the public will gain an enhanced awareness of what mosaics signify. It includes the specialized activities by which IAA communicates an understanding and appreciation of the historic value of particular places, things, events and activities to visitors and the public. This communication may be accomplished through firsthand experience of historic places, appropriate use of cultural resources and the use of media. An understanding of public needs and interests is indispensable for effective interpretation, because such understanding makes it possible to identify effective means to communicate the significance of mosaics as cultural resources.

#### 3.5.2.1

In its interpretive activities IAA will communicate the historic character of the cultural resources being presented, the historical significance of the specific national historic site, or national park, the relevant links between historical activities and the natural environment and the value of cultural resource management.

#### 3.5.2.2

Where there is a designation of national historic significance, the primary interpretive obligation will be to communicate what has been designated as being of national historic significance.

#### 3.5.2.3

In selecting the most appropriate means and media for interpreting mosaics and themes relate to human history, IAA will be guided by decisions regarding the purpose and form of commemoration, and will consider the following factors:

- i) the commemorative intent, themes, purpose and objectives of the national historic site, national park or museum;
- ii) the historic value of the mosaic;
- iii) the interpretive potential of the mosaic and its themes.;
- iv) visitor needs and expectations;
- v) the impact of interpretation activities on the mosaic;
- vi) the availability of knowledge on which to proceed;
- vii) opportunities for appropriate visitor use;

- viii) the relationship of specific interpretive options to the overall presentation of a site; and
- ix) available human and financial resources.

#### 3.5.2.4

Outreach programs will be developed to enhance knowledge and appreciation of national historic sites as well as cultural resources in national parks and to promote heritage awareness and conservation.

#### 3.5.2.5

Interpretation is an ongoing activity. It will include the maintenance, monitoring and review of interpretation.

#### 3.5.2.6

Interpretation need not be complex to be effective. The kinds and levels of interpretation may range from letting the spirit of the place speak for itself to creating a sense of the past, although these forms are not mutually exclusive. No hierarchy of resources or interpretation activities is implied by the following examples, and all may be used at a specific location.

##### 3.5.2.6.1 Spirit of Place

Some cultural resources evoke an aura or spirit that speaks directly to visitors with minimal interpretive support material.

This interpretive approach will be considered for resources and complexes that have retained their historic uses or function or whose integrity is intact; whose meaning is readily comprehensible; whose condition will not support more intensive use and development or whose integrity would be compromised by more elaborate development.

##### 3.5.2.6.2 Interpretive Media

IAA will use a variety of personal, print, exhibit and electronic media when there is a need to offer background, detail and perspective on the history of cultural resources.

##### 3.5.2.6.3 Creating a Sense of the Past

Creating a sense of the past for the visitor is an interactive interpretive approach that may use a combination of the following activities off-site: accurate restoration, reconstruction or replication of cultural resources; volumetric representation(s) of cultural resources; reproduction of period costumes and objects; role playing and representations of past activities. Creating a sense of the past is a comprehensive interpretive option that requires the integration of all aspects of the scene or environment being interpreted (for example, landscape treatments should be consistent with period restorations/reconstruction's).

IAA will consider creating a sense of the past as an interpretive option when:

- i) there is a specific commemorative objective to provide the visitor with an understanding of a defined period in the history of a site; and
- ii) the action is consistent with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity of the site and its resource; and
- iii) resources and their setting possess sufficient historical integrity to support a complete scene or environment; and
- iv) there is sufficient understanding of the resource to ensure accuracy of detail; and
- v) cost can be justified in relation to historic significance and interpretive potential; and
- vi) in the case of established sites, demonstrated visitor demand or expectations warrant this type of development.

#### 3.5.2.6.3.1.

Reproductions may be manufactured and used in interpretation when:

- i) sufficient knowledge exists for an accurate reproduction; and
- ii) the original mosaic is too fragile or cannot be provided with a stable display environment; or
- iii) more than one of a mosaic is required; or
- iv) a mosaic is to be handled or consumed.

#### 3.5.2.6.3.2

The use of reproductions will be acknowledged.

### 3.5.3 Special Programs and Events

Special programs and events offer important opportunities to integrate the presentation of cultural resources at national historic sites, national parks and historic canals with related activities in their surrounding communities and to develop partnerships with others.

In planning for these activities and All parties will be sensitive to the size, nature and interests of existing and potential visitor groups, while acknowledging that not all visitor expectations are compatible with the mandate for national historic sites and national parks.

#### 3.5.3.1

Activities that are consistent with the principles of cultural resource management, that are appropriate to the specific national park, and that are acceptable will be encouraged.

## 4. Definition of IAA Activities for Mosaics

4.1. Inventory of mosaics - The following resources will be used to complete the inventory:

- 4.1.1. Surveys - the IAA Conservation Department will conduct surveys in order to build a national inventory of mosaics *in situ*
- 4.1.2. Archival information

4.1.3. Other sources of information

4.1.4. An inventory of mosaics in museums and collections. Storage's data base with addition of physical condition report for each mosaic.

4.2. Physical condition recording - The scope will reflect the creation of risk maps and red book (annual list of endangered mosaics)

4.3. Evaluation of the historic and aesthetic value of mosaics as cultural resources, in cooperation with archaeologists, art historians and other involved persons and organizations.

4.4. Establishment of national priorities for conservation and protection of mosaics

4.5. National programs for the conservation and protection of mosaics

4.6. National program for the maintenance and monitoring of mosaics

4.7. Priorities for the Survey Program:

- \* ancient synagogues in Israel
- \* condition survey of sites with existing information
- \* all other sites
- \* issues such as a long term national maintenance program

4.8. Priorities for conservation of mosaics in Israel are:

\* National program of *in situ* conservation of mosaics is the priority program of the IAA Conservation Department. The program involves:

- \* priority list for the treatment of historic sites
- \* priority list for treatment of mosaics at historic sites
- \* recommendation for treatment
  - \* full conservation treatment
  - \* covering and roofing
  - \* preservation and protection
  - \* monitoring and maintenance
  - \* research

4.9. Long term conservation program for transferred mosaics:

When conservation activity involves lifting, transfer or modification of mosaics, conservation *in situ* should be considered, or the possibility of returning the mosaic to its *in situ* site after the transfer.

Removing the mosaic from its historic environment should be considered only in the following cases:

- \* conservation *in situ* is impossible

- \* very poor physical condition
- \* mosaic is endangered by natural factor, earthquake, floods, etc.
- \* deterioration produced by human factors - vandalism, building of highways, tunnels, houses etc.
- \* excavation under the mosaic to an earlier period.

Every operation of lifting and transfer of a mosaic must be financially covered from beginning to end, before undertaking the operation.

Lifting without a pre-arranged budget is permissible only in extreme situation.