

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.

> Alerts sent to all State Parties and non-State Parties to the 1970 Convention as well as the art market Enhancing support in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural properties

- High level international conference on 'Heritage and Cultural Diversity at Risk in Iraq and Syria'
- Norway Supports Action Plan Awareness Raising for Mitigating Risks of Destruction and Looting of Cultural
- In implementation of Security Council Resolution 2199. UNESCO alerted member states, the art market and cultural institutions
- UNESCO Director-General launched the #Unite4Heritage campaign - Project "Preventive Conservation of Irag's Museum Collections and Cultural Heritage Sites at Imminent Risk", officially announced.

Emergency Expert Meeting for the Safeguarding of Iraq's Cultural Heritage Establishment of the Emergency Response Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Iraq's Cultural Heritage

UNESCO Director-General visited Baghdad and Erbil

Japan supports Action Plan Preventive Conservation of Irag's Museum Collections and Cultural Heritage Sites at Imminent Risk

Objectives of the Emergency Response Action Plan

Enhancing communication, and raising awareness with regards to the importance of safeguarding of Iraqi cultural heritage

Ensuring that international actors in the field are engaged in the process of assessing and reporting on the state of safeguarding of cultural heritage and in raising awareness about its importance

Ensuring that appropriate coordination and measures are in place to monitor the state of protection of cultural heritage and to implement risk-mitigation measures

> Providing technical assistance and training in the establishment of coordination and risk mitigation mechanisms for cultural heritage protection and as necessary

> > Enhancing knowledge, training and information about the state of conservation of sites by conducting damage assessment to cultural heritage for the longer term recovery planning process

Key planned actions

- Updating of inventories
- Monitoring by satellite imagery
- Risk preparedness
- Emergency contingency planning
- 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.



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