

International Assistance Request

ref: 2546

Conservation of mosaic floors at the World Heritage sites of Quseir Amra

Summary

State Party: Jordan
Properties: Quseir Amra
Type of Assistance: Cultural / Conservation
Modality: Technical Cooperation
World Bank: LMIC
Reference: 2546

Process Steps

✓ Submitted on Dec 30, 2012 (NB. Request subject to transitional measures, so deadline of 31 Oct. did not apply).

✓ Approval by Chairperson on Feb 26, 2013

1. State Party

Jordan

2. Title of project

Conservation of mosaic floors at the World Heritage sites of Quseir Amra

3. Type of assistance

	Emergency assistance	Preparatory assistance	Conservation and management
Culture			✓
Nature			
Mixed			

4. Project location

a) Will the project be implemented at a World Heritage property?

Yes

No

- Quseir Amra

b) Will the project include a field component?

Yes

No

Where and how?

The project includes assessment, monitoring and conservation intervention on two mosaic floors at Quseir Amra WH site.

c) If the project is being implemented at a World Heritage property, indicate whether it will also benefit other World Heritage properties, and if so, which ones and how?

- Petra
- Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a)

The methodology developed for the assessment and conservation of the two mosaic floors may be adopted and implemented at other two WH sites in Jordan, Petra and Umm er-Rasas, where mosaic conservation still poses a challenge. The staff from the Department of Antiquities (DoA) involved in the project will learn the methodology and be able to apply it in the future. Moreover, guidelines on the methodology will be developed by the DoA in coordination with the mosaic conservation expert, in order to provide a practical tool for conservation within the Department.

5. Timeframe for the implementation of the project

Start date: April 1, 2013

End date: December 31, 2013

Duration: 9 month(s)

6. The project is:

- Local
- National
- Subregional
- Regional
- International

7. Justification of the project

a) Explain why this project is needed.

Quseir Amra is a unique Umayyad (Early Islamic) site known for its figurative mural paintings and other decorative elements.

In 2010 a project was launched, a cooperation between the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DoA), the Italian Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR), and World Monuments Fund (WMF). The project was conceived as a response to the risks caused by a variety of factors, including environmental conditions, previous improper conservation approaches, excessive visitation, and vandalism, addressing and responding to the requirements of the periodic reporting exercise (Cycles 1 and 2) as well as the recommendations of the ICOMOS mission and report of November 2006. The project, which is currently on its second phase, includes several components, from structural consolidation and water proofing of the exterior, to the cleaning of the paintings, and from site management planning to site presentation.

PROJECT PROPOSAL:

This request is dedicated to a specific component of the project which has not been financed by the partner organizations: the condition assessment, cleaning, and consolidation of the two mosaic floors situated in the two alcoves at the back of the main hall of the monument, which represent the only preserved mosaic floor in the property. The two mosaic floors measure 2.4 x 3.4 meters, and each displays a different geometric decoration with the use of abundant glass tesserae which are a rare occurrence in this type of mosaics. The two mosaics present a similar state of conservation:

- in various areas, the stone tesserae are damaged from phenomenon of pitting and/or corrosion;
- they present various recent lacunae;
- previous conservation attempts conducted in the 1970's applied cement mortars to fix the lacunae (at least one of them being a consequence of an early attempt to detach them). This mortar is deteriorating and it is indispensable now to replace it with more appropriate material.

Moreover vandalism is a continuous threat and after the proposed conservation a new barrier system will be studied and implemented.

As far as the methodology of the intervention is concerned, the condition assessment will be conducted using measured drawings and photographs.

The intervention proper will consist in the removal of the cement patches and use of lime mortars with local aggregates to fill the resulting lacunae and consolidate the mosaic edges.

The surface of the mosaics will be cleaned using procedures that will be adapted to the material (stone and glass) and the type of incrustations to remove. The preferred solution will be discussed and approved by an expert group supervising all the various components of the Amra conservation project. Finally, the mosaic will be consolidated and protected from external deteriorating agents. The intervention will be carried out by an expert on mosaic conservation, who will work together with two local assistants (not Government employees) and two students from the Madaba Mosaic Institute, as well as two conservators from the Department of Antiquities. The mosaic conservation expert will ensure the capacity-building of the students, who will be trained on the job; also, capacity-building will be ensured for the staff from the department of Antiquities.

The intervention will go in parallel with the study of a new barrier system to avoid vandals to enter the alcove rooms, which will remain close to the public. An illumination system utilizing the existing ceiling's holes will be studied, to allow visitors to see the mosaics and painted walls from the exterior of the rooms. While the barriers will be implemented, the illumination system will remain as a study in order to verify its compatibility with the system to adopt in the rest of the monument.

Finally, guidelines for the periodic monitoring and maintenance of the mosaic surfaces will be produced.

b) List all supporting documents submitted, if applicable.

Documents

- AMRA Mosaic conservation report
- ICOMOS 2006 report on Qusayr Amra
- May 2009 report to DoA by an expert committee
- Plans and photos of mosaics
- Preliminary assessment on the conditions of the mosaics
- Qusayr Amra Conservation Programme-Report fall-winter 2011
- Qusayr Amra Conservation Programme-Report winter-spring 2011
- Qusayr Amra-Periodic Reporting Cycle I

8. For emergency assistance only

a) Describe the actual or potential threat/danger affecting the property

N/A

b) Indicate how it might affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value

N/A

c) Explain how the proposed project will address the threat/danger

N/A

9. Objectives of the project

The project has the objective to:

1. Assess the conditions of the two mosaic floors in the alcoves situated besides the Throne room, on the back of the main hall of the monument;
2. Develop and implement a conservation plan for the cleaning and consolidation of the two floors, and develop monitoring guidelines;
3. Study and install new barriers to avoid people entering the rooms;
4. Study and recommend a lighting system and presentation of the mosaics.

10. Expected results

Clearly state the **results** expected from the project and define the **indicators** and **means of verification** which can be used to assess the achievements of these results

Expected results	Indicators	Means of verification
Condition assessment	Study is conducted and a plan is drafted	Report to DoA

Expected results	Indicators	Means of verification
and conservation plan of the two mosaic floors		Director
Conservation and consolidation of the mosaics	Cement mortars are replaced and lime mortars are used to fill the lacunae and consolidate edges. Mosaic tesserae are cleaned using a methodology described in the conservation plan and agreed by all parties	Report to DoA director, monitoring of conservation activity
Guidelines for the monitoring of the mosaics' conditions	Guidelines are drafted and discussed with conservation team and DoA experts	Report to DoA Director
Recommendations on design and material of new barriers	A study is conducted in coordination with the ISCR, WMF and DoA conservation team	Report to DoA Director
Installation of new barriers	Work is conducted under DoA and conservation team supervision	Barriers are installed
Report on site presentation and lighting system	Report is developed in coordination with conservation team	Report to DoA Director

N/A

11. Work plan

Activities	Time Frame (in month)											
	Year 1											
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Condition assessment and conservation plan of the two mosaic floors Recommendations on design and material of new barriers	✓											
Conservation and consolidation of the mosaics			✓	✓								
Procurement and preparation of new barriers					✓	✓						
Installation of new barriers							✓	✓				
Report on site presentation									✓			

12. Evaluation and reporting

Reports will be provided by the team to the DoA Director and shared with the WHC and UNESCO office in Amman.

13. Profiles of specialists, trainers, technicians and/or skilled labour, if the project foresees the participation of such people

An international mosaic specialist, Mr XXXX (see attached CV) will be in charge of the assessment, conservation, and recommendations concerning site monitoring. The specialist will work in close coordination with the DoA/ISCR/WMF team. Two students from the Madaba Mosaic Institute and two technicians from the Department of Antiquities will participate in the conservation campaign, working together with the mosaic specialist and two local assistants, gain direct on-site experience from the project.

An international expert will be in charge of recommendations concerning site presentation and lighting system, and new barrier design. This expert has not yet been identified.

A local firm will be in charge of the production and installation of the new barriers.

14. Key target audiences, including profiles of trainees / participants, if the project foresees the participation of such people

Key target audiences are staff of DoA and students from the Madaba Mosaic Institute who will acquire skills in the development of conservation plans for mosaic floors and in issues concerning site presentation.

15. Budget breakdown

Items	Items Description	Amount x Unit USD	Total USD	Amount Requested to the World Heritage Fund USD	States party Funds USD	Other USD
Organisation						
Office Expense		4,000x1 Unit	4,000	0	0	4,000
Translation		4,000x1 Unit	4,000	0	0	4,000
Simultaneous Interpretation		3,000x1 Unit	3,000	0	0	3,000
Audio Visual Equipment		3,000x1 Unit	3,000	0	0	3,000
Total			14,000	0	0	14,000
Personnel / Consultancy service (fees)						
International Expert	12 ISCR conservators x UX\$1,500 x 5 weeks	18,000x5 Week	90,000	0	0	90,000
International Expert	Mosaic conservator	1,250x8 Week	10,000	10,000	0	0
National Expert	2 local assistant conservators x US\$250 x 8 weeks	500x6 Week	3,000	3,000	0	0
International Expert	Site presentation expert	1,500x2 Week	3,000	3,000	0	0
National Expert	DoA archaeologist	250x10 Week	2,500	0	2,500	0
National Expert	DoA architect	250x10 Week	2,500	0	2,500	0
National Expert	2 DoA conservators x US\$200 x 8 weekds	400x8 Week	3,200	0	3,200	0
Total			114,200	16,000	8,200	90,000
Travel						
International travel cost	12 ISCR conservatores	12x1000 Unit	12,000	0	0	12,000
Domestic travel cost	Petrol for transport from Madaba to Quseir Amra for the mosaic conservator, the 2 local assistants and the 2 students	1,500x1 Unit	1,500	1,500	0	0
Domestic travel cost	Petrol/car hire for the 12 ISCR conservators	5,000x1 Unit	5,000	0	0	5,000
International travel cost	Site presentation expert	1,200x1 Unit	1,200	1,200	0	0

Items	Items Description	Amount x Unit USD	Total USD	Amount Requested to the World Heritage Fund USD	States party Funds USD	Other USD
Domestic travel cost	DoA car	1,200x1 Unit	1,200	0	1,200	0
Total			20,900	2,700	1,200	17,000
Daily Subsistence allowance						
Perdiem	1 mosaic conservator	20x30 Day per person	600	600	0	0
Perdiem	2 assistants x US\$20 x 60 days	40x30 Day per person	1,200	1,200	0	0
Perdiem	2 students x US\$20 x 60 days	40x30 Unit	1,200	1,200	0	0
Perdiem	1 site presentation expert	80x12 Unit	960	960	0	0
Perdiem	4 DoA staff x US\$20 x 60 days	80x60 Day per person	4,800	0	4,800	0
Perdiem	12 ISCR conservators	42,000x1 Unit	42,000	0	0	42,000
Total			50,760	3,960	4,800	42,000
Equipment						
Tools		20,000x1 Unit	20,000	0	0	20,000
Conservation material	Mortars, chemicals	27,840x1 Unit	27,840	1,840	1,000	25,000
New barriers, production and installation		16,350x1 Unit	16,350	5,500	0	10,850
Scaffolding		8,000x1 Unit	8,000	0	8,000	0
Total			72,190	7,340	9,000	55,850
Evaluations						
Evaluation		1,000x1 Unit	1,000	0	0	1,000
Reporting		1,000x1 Unit	1,000	0	0	1,000
Editing, layout		3,000x1 Unit	3,000	0	0	3,000
Printing		1,000x1 Unit	1,000	0	0	1,000
Distribution		1,000x1 Unit	1,000	0	0	1,000
Total			7,000	0	0	7,000
Miscellaneous						
Visas	US\$15 x 10 participants	15x10 Unit	150	0	0	150
Total			150	0	0	150
Total			279,200	30,000	23,200	226,000

Amount requested details:

Note: the amounts from other sources refer to the conservation activities on the building and the mural paintings which will occur at the same time as the mosaic conservation project. Some of these however will contribute to the mosaic conservation project

(provision of tools and equipment, transport, workers, etc). DoA's contribution refers to this specific request and not to the larger project.

b) Specify whether or not resources from the State Party or other sources are already available or when they are likely to become available.

100,000 euros available from the Ministry of Culture of the Italian Government

100,000 dollars available from World Monuments Fund, New York

23,200 dollars available from DoA, Jordan

Note: the funds from WMF and Italy are mainly dedicated to the conservation of the building exterior and mural paintings, but some elements will be available to the mosaic project as well, such as materials and funds for the production of the barriers. DoA's contribution refers instead to assistance to this specific request.

16. In kind contributions from the state party and other agencies

a) National agency(ies)

Provision of salaried personnel

b) Other bi/multi lateral organizations, donors, etc

See 15b above

17. Agency(ies) responsible for the implementation of the project

Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (with request to UNESCO Amman Office to assist in project implementation).

18. Signature on behalf of state party

Full name: XXXX

Title: Director General (ad interim), Department of Antiquities

19. Annexes

Documents

- CV XXX, mosaic specialist
- Signed request-revised version-30 December 2012