



ICCROM-Sharjah  
A Decade in Review  
**2012-2023**





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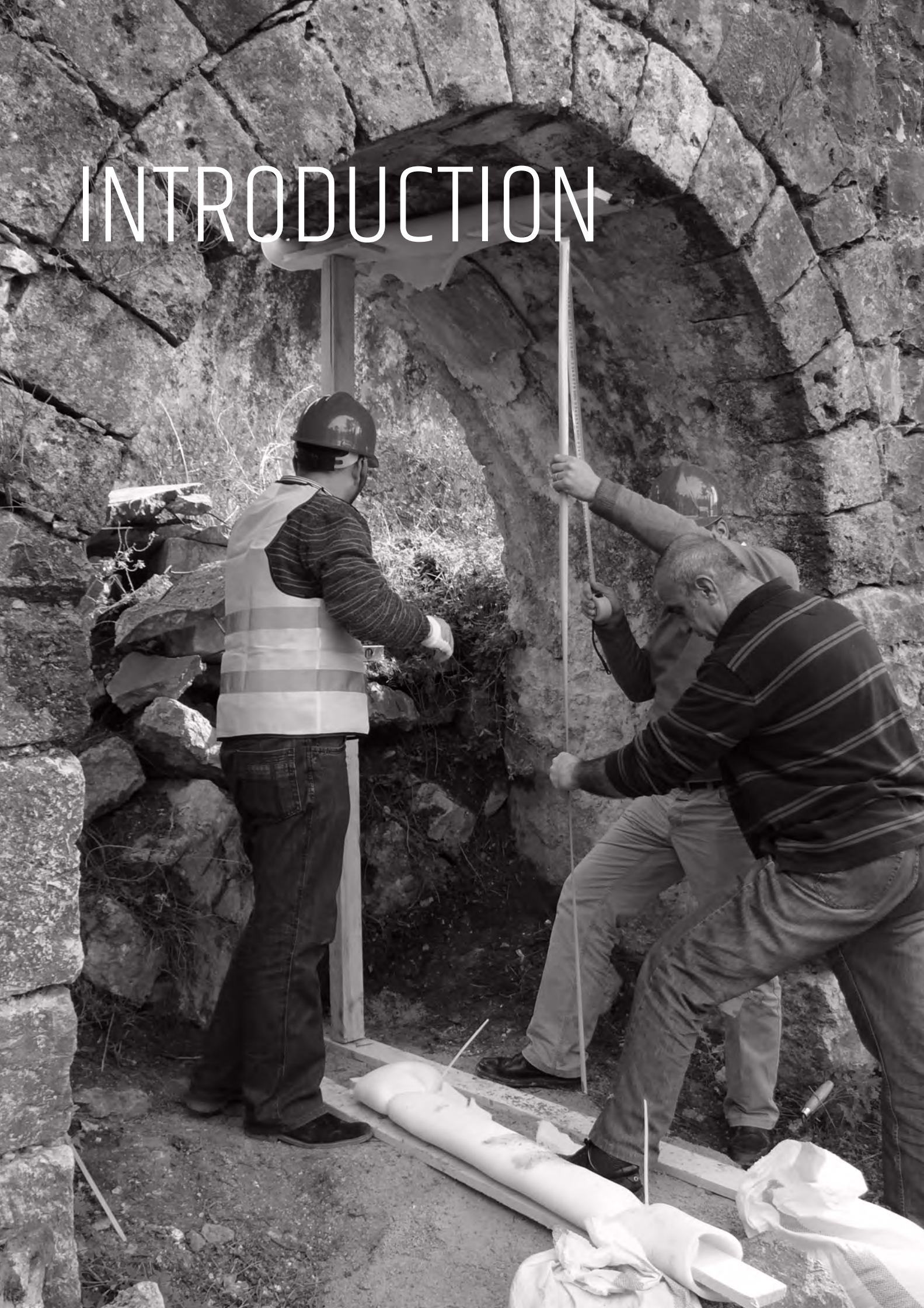
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# INTRODUCTION



## Turning ideas into impact and effecting change on the ground

Though ICCROM's ATHAR Programme (Architectural and Archaeological Tangible Heritage in the Arab Region) was created in 2004, it was 2014 that marked the birth of what the programme is today: a centre that works to protect and promote the rich cultural heritage of the Arab region.

Now known as the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Office in the United Arab Emirates, it responds to the many significant changes and new challenges facing the protection of cultural heritage in the Arab world. In the past decade, ICCROM-Sharjah has not only invested efforts in strengthening its existing ATHAR activities but also introduced new and evolving initiatives. This became acute during the COVID-19 pandemic, which became a time of reflection on the Regional Office's activities, while focusing on the potential role heritage can play in a worldwide crisis.

This report commemorates and reflects upon the first decade of the centre's impact in the Arab region. It is a review of how the ATHAR programme led by ICCROM-Sharjah has evolved and grown over the last ten years, recording its achievements and outlining the strategies and approaches employed for the conservation, advancement and coordination of cultural heritage policy and practice in the Arab region.

In addition to our work toward sustaining educational programmes, we have spent the last decade implementing major fieldwork projects that illustrate and encourage forward-thinking, good conservation practices, and positive impacts on surrounding communities. Our advocacy efforts, such as the ICCROM Sharjah Awards, have made us a regional and interregional point of reference, rooted in specific cultural contexts and benefiting potential leaders, practitioners and advocates working in the sector.

This report is a testimony of the significant contribution that professionals can make through their networks and capacity building agendas, advancing innovative approaches in the fields of heritage conservation and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration.

Given that this publication contains a collection of all our projects implemented since 2012, we would like to acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable and continued support of the Governments of Sharjah and the UAE, in the person of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah, and our many partners have been key to the sustained success of ICCROM-Sharjah's work in the past decade.

We also wish to express our deep gratitude to all the people and partners who have made the past ten years possible. Together, we are bridging gaps in the sector, while offering opportunities to develop capacities, transfer knowledge and benefit local communities for a more resilient future. We are indebted to all those who have continued to believe in our vision; through your adaptability and creativity, you have enabled us to continue our work in research, education and advocacy. While the past decade brought many changes, one thing that has stayed the same is our strong commitment to ICCROM's mission through the work of ICCROM-Sharjah.

**Zaki Aslan**

Director, ICCROM-Sharjah

WHO WE ARE



## What is ICCROM?

**ICCROM** (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is the intergovernmental organization specifically dedicated to the conservation and management of cultural heritage worldwide, by fostering best practices, communicating international standards and sharing the responsibility consistent with United Nations policies and objectives. ICCROM's vision is for a world in which cultural heritage – its preservation, protection and celebration – is inextricably linked with notions of progress, inclusivity, well-being and stability.

Since its establishment by UNESCO in 1959, ICCROM has had the unique **mission** to serve the international community of its 137 Member States with the best tools, knowledge, skills and enabling environment with which to preserve their cultural heritage in all of its forms, for the benefit of all people.



By empowering all Member States to preserve their cultural heritage, ICCROM contributes to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of communities.”



“ [...] For ICCROM, the challenge at hand was that of "thinking globally", thus maintaining its tradition as an international training institution aimed at spreading scientific principles of cultural heritage conservation with the same methodological approaches and with a sole spirit of dialogue across the world, while having to act "locally", to pursue maximum effectiveness by adapting its programmes to the different regional needs [...].”

**Stefano De Caro**

ICCROM Director-General from 2011 to 2017

## Why the need for a regional centre?

In the last decades, the significant loss and damage of cultural heritage in the Arab region has represented a major challenge to the survival of heritage places for local communities and humanity at large. While similar conditions affect heritage places worldwide, at varied degrees, public bodies in the Arab region have expressed a desire for improving the protection, conservation and safeguard of their national heritage, as well as a desire for greater coordination within a broader development and humanitarian context.

The inadequate trained or qualified human resources and skills, as well as of applied knowledge in heritage conservation, management and risk planning, together with an inadequate public support for the work accomplished by official heritage institutions, are among the most salient obstacles in heritage preservation in the region. These obstacles result in a series of difficulties, which plague historic places and collections. It has thus become imperative to address the current environment, by examining the threats and deleterious conditions under which these heritage assets currently exist, and identify adequate solutions in order to create a new infrastructure which in turn will foster change in a systematic sustainable manner, countering these problems.

Since its inception in 2004, as ICCROM's ATHAR Programme (Architectural-Archaeological Tangible Heritage in the Arab Region), and in 2014 as a Regional Centre of ICCROM, ICCROM-Sharjah has been committed to identifying the relevant problem areas and devise activities that achieve sustainable impact and maximise benefits to the region.

“**ICCROM-Sharjah today, is working to enhance the capacity of official heritage institutions to manage risks facing heritage sites, historic monuments and museum collections on a sustainable basis.**”





## ICCROM-Sharjah: Knowledge ... the future of our heritage

Established in 2014 by ICCROM and the Government of United Arab Emirates, the **ICCROM-Sharjah** Regional Conservation Centre (ICCROM-Sharjah) is a regional office of ICCROM located in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Firmly believing in the crucial role that cultural heritage can play as a vector in socio-economic development, ICCROM's Regional Office aspires to safeguard cultural heritage in the Arab region by supporting its conservation, effective management, understanding and appreciation.

ICCROM-Sharjah works with partners to build institutional capacities for sustainable conservation of cultural heritage by providing tools, knowledge and expertise to its Member States. It achieves its goals through an array of regional educational and field activities, consultation on field projects, information dissemination, including symposia, workshops and exhibitions.



### Our mission

As a point of delivery and an ICCROM field office, ICCROM-Sharjah maintains close relations with Arab Region Member States to support ICCROM's functions and consolidate institutional partnerships, while also responding to emerging needs in the region and, when possible, addressing inter-regional collaboration. The office primarily focuses on the implementation of the ATHAR flagship programme, and represents ICCROM regionally. Embedded in ICCROM's mission, it aims to be a platform for the dissemination of best practices in heritage protection and management, for education of professionals and for raising awareness of the public. It also works towards the advancement of cultural heritage policies and their coordination in the Arab region.



### Our vision

As an integrated part of ICCROM and its vision, ICCROM-Sharjah specifically aspires to be an internationally renowned capacity building, educational, informational and development organ of ICCROM. The Centre will consolidate ICCROM's vision by becoming an integral part of ICCROM acting as a cross-road of knowledge promoting continuous protection of cultural heritage and the advancement of its management and conservation in the Arab region, as well as broadening access, appreciation, and understanding of the region's past.

"[...] Subsequently, in order to have a more permanent presence of ICCROM in the Arab region, the generous welcome of His Highness, his strong support in offering a site for a permanent capacity building entity mainly addressing young experts from all Arab countries, were manifested by his commitment to offer a new building in the Sharjah University City and the creation of a Sharjah Annex to ICCROM's headquarters in Rome. This result was warmly welcomed by ICCROM's General Assembly in 2011 following a decision of Arab Ministers of Culture of the same year at their meeting in Doha, on a proposal made by the United Arab Emirates [...]."

**Mounir Bouchenaki**

ICCROM Director-General from 2006 to 2011,  
and Advisor for Cultural Heritage (UNESCO-ICCROM-ARCWH)

# WHAT ARE OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES



ICCROM-Sharjah's core identity distinguishes it from other entities in the region. While the strategies and activities planned are designed around the Centre's assets and resources, making sure that these strengthen its role to benefit the region, they are also developed and implemented to address the current strategic directions and priority themes of ICCROM:

- Developing and promoting disaster and risk management
- Integrating material science and technology with conservation
- Improving conservation and management practices through the World Heritage Convention
- Promoting people-centred approaches to conservation: living heritage

## Our strengths



Because of its **location** in the United Arab Emirates, being politically and economically stable, ICCROM-Sharjah is more accessible to a wider audience in the region.



As an ICCROM Regional Centre, ICCROM-Sharjah can offer ICCROM's **up-to-date regional and international applied expertise** and accumulated knowledge.



ICCROM-Sharjah is able to divulge all relevant information in the **same language** for the people it aims to train and with whom it works to promote the preservation of cultural heritage in the Arab region.



Thanks to its **strong dynamic professional network**, built over the last decade, it can provide contacts of local, regional and international expertise, thus making it possible to correctly identify problems and **tailor the solutions relevant to a specific country and local contexts**.

Firmly believing that cultural heritage conservation is fundamental for sustainable development and stable societies, since 2015, all ICCROM-Sharjah activities have been aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

					
			<p>Check out how our programmes and activities seek to implement the following SDGs for partners and participants. <b>Click here</b>, or scan QR code.</p> 		

## WHAT ARE OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES

ICCROM-Sharjah achieves its vision and mission through five major types of activities:



### Continuing education

Building institutional and professional capacities to enhance conservation and management practices through training and educational programmes in collaboration with related academic and research institutions.



### Policy development

Bringing together renowned cultural heritage thinkers and specialists to address current themes that are important for the region's sustainable goals relevant to heritage conservation and development.



### Outreach and advocacy

Raising the awareness of the public about the rich history of the Arab region and foster a mature understanding of the importance of cultural heritage conservation and management through good practices of conservation and education.



### Field projects and advisory services

Offering support, co-ordination, facilitation and technical advice utilising ICCROM approaches on cultural heritage conservation and management when requested by Member States or partners from the field.



### Knowledge dissemination

Sharing the outcomes of ICCROM-Sharjah's professional studies with its experts, training and advocacy through publications and guiding frameworks.

"[...] Over the past decades, UNESCO and other international organizations have recommended guidelines for the integrated and sustainable conservation of cultural and natural heritage. It was essential to well interpret and apply these guidelines for proper conservation of heritage. Here, ICCROM-Sharjah has had a vital task in assisting the region in the development and application of shared management approaches while taking into account the specificity of each place. In addition to training, workshops have joined cultural heritage leaders to discuss critical issues such as earthen architectural heritage, underwater and industrial heritage, mosaics, museums, and climate change. The Arab Region possesses heritage associated with ancient traditions of different origins in a variety of environmental contexts, and ICCROM-Sharjah has become a crucial partner to join forces to further common safeguarding efforts[...]."

**Jukka Jokilehto**

Special Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM  
Professor Emeritus at the University of Nova Gorica







# WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR ACTIVITIES

Over the years, ICCROM-Sharjah has become renowned for its institutional capacity building activities, the implementation of model field projects and advisory services to its Member States, workshops and symposia for policy guidance and advocacy, along with its publications and translations for knowledge dissemination and a wider outreach.

Working with key partner institutions, both governmental and NGOs, the Regional Office focused its efforts to promote best practices in conservation, providing heritage professionals with up-to-date information, while opening discussions to challenge existing gaps in the field of cultural heritage conservation.

**Arab states that benefited from our activities:**

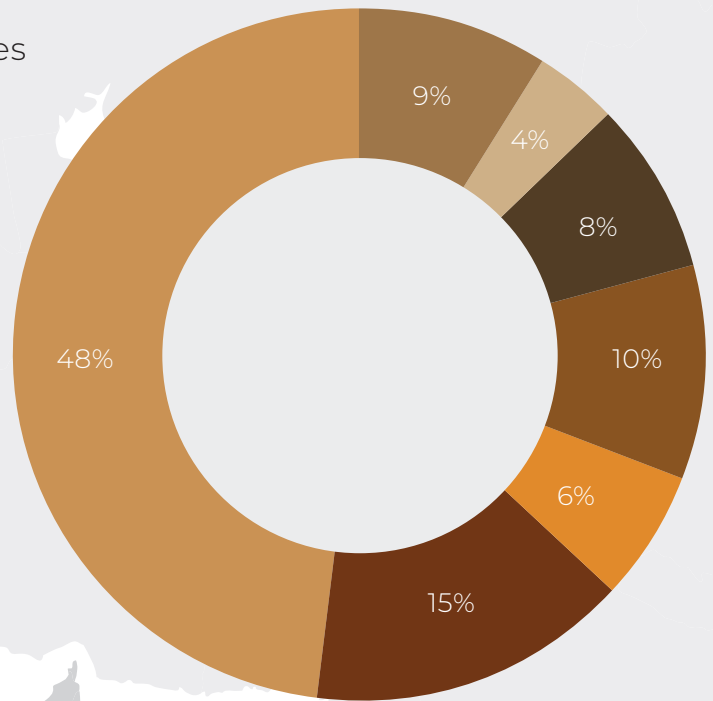
Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

"[...] "The capacity building activities offered by ICCROM-Sharjah since 2012 aimed at promoting the preservation of cultural heritage in Arab countries have given a unique opportunity to Arab professionals in this field to acquire an exhaustive and interdisciplinary knowledge of the issues related to the conservation of cultural heritage. This has contributed to the creation of a network of professionals within the Arab world who can - during their professional careers - share their experience in order to strengthen their knowledge related to regional problems and thus develop solutions specific to the environment in which they operate. Furthermore, with the translation into Arabic of multiple manuals and books, ICCROM-Sharjah has greatly contributed to the accessibility of technical and scientific information and publications. This has not only increased the awareness of all stakeholders involved in the field of heritage conservation, but also laid the groundwork for the development of sustainable and comprehensive long term conservation policies in the Arab world [...]."

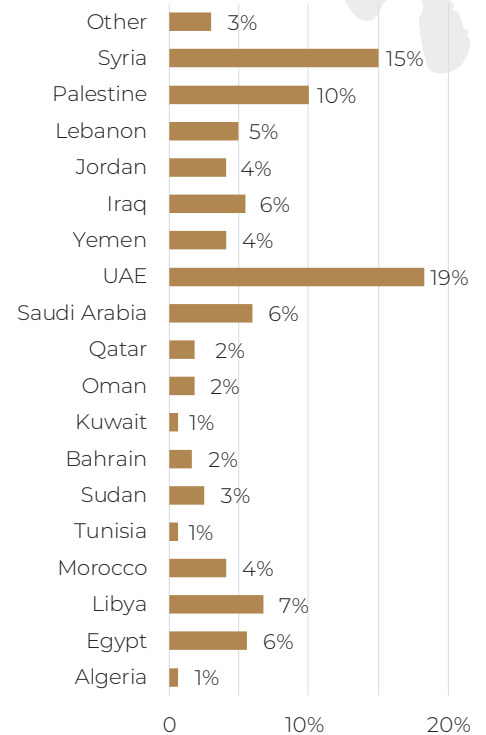
**Isabelle Doumet-Skaf**

Conservator & ICCROM-Sharjah Expert, Lebanon

## Geographical split where our activities took place between 2012 and 2022



## Nationalities of professionals trained



**775+**  
participants  
trained  
since 2012



**43**  
capacity building  
activities were  
implemented



**42%**  
of the participants  
we trained  
were female



OUR  
PARTNERS



The achievements of the last decade are a testimony of how at the very heart of ICCROM-Sharjah's work, lies a profound commitment to building long-lasting partnerships and the synergetic contributions that new partners bring when working together with the Regional Office.

Harnessing the power of its extensive network of partners and by constantly building new partnerships, ICCROM-Sharjah has been able to develop new programmes and activities that contributed to the dissemination of best practices in heritage protection and management.

Becoming widely recognised as a Centre that builds institutional capacities for sustainable conservation of cultural heritage and through the lessons learnt from experiences on the ground, ICCROM-Sharjah with its partners, has managed to bring regional needs to the attention of policy-makers by engaging in evidence-based discussions, fostering the creation of an enabling platform for the advancement of cultural heritage policies and their coordination in the Arab region.

## The patronage of Sharjah

ICCROM-Sharjah's mission is generously supported by HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, whose patronage, as well as that of the United Arab Emirates, has been enjoyed since 2008. The Regional Office is in fact funded through an Agreement of Implementation signed with the Government of Sharjah, UAE in September 2011, and a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of the UAE signed in October 2015.

## The United Arab Emirates – an inestimable support for ICCROM

Because safeguarding culture is a key mission of the United Arab Emirates, both locally and internationally, the country has been working extensively in the field of the cultural heritage preservation worldwide. Sharing ICCROM and ICCROM-Sharjah's ATHAR Programme mission to protect cultural heritage in the Arab region, the Government of the UAE has chosen to offer gracious and continued support to ICCROM and its Sharjah-based Regional Office – hosting the only ICCROM office other than its Headquarters in Rome. In recognition of the UAE's support and contributions to ICCROM, the UAE has been awarded a permanent membership with observer status on the ICCROM Council, as a second Member State who obtained such a status after Italy.

In addition to close partnerships with national institutions working in the cultural heritage field in the Arab States, ICCROM-Sharjah works through the establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships with various institutions at national, regional and international levels.

“ [...] For many years Sharjah was among the venues for ICCROM professional development courses and technical collaboration. Its transformation into a long-term regional office with regular staff and facilities was due to the support of the Ruler of Sharjah, His Highness Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, and reflected his enthusiasm for promoting education, art and culture at national and international levels. As this report demonstrates, ICCROM's regional office has, in its ten years of activity, made a substantial contribution to saving, conserving and publicising the cultural heritage of the Arab world [...].”

**Nicholas Stanley-Price**

Director-General of ICCROM from 2000 to 2005

## Benefits for partners

ICCROM's strategic directions are guided by the benefits and added values brought to its partners. These include, but not limited to, the following:



As **an organisation with a unique mandate**, ICCROM has an established reputation and high quality of delivery in various fields of expertise for the conservation and management of cultural heritage.



As **a catalyst and a think tank** in its fields of expertise, ICCROM promotes new and up-to-date approaches, thus contributing to the formulation of national and regional agendas in heritage conservation and management.



As **an intergovernmental organisation**, ICCROM has a global outreach through its Member States, which enables it to act as a knowledge platform for local, national and regional policies, programmes and activities for heritage conservation and management.



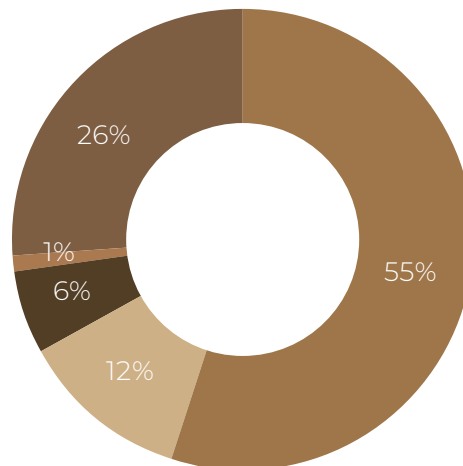
As a **specialised organisation**, ICCROM has at its disposal a large network of public agencies, educational and research institutions, urban local bodies, NGOs and civic society organisations working regionally and internationally in the field of cultural heritage conservation and management.



As a **leading international organisation**, ICCROM's expertise contributes towards achieving the wellbeing of societies through cultural heritage.

## Our partners in the last decade by type

- Governmental heritage institutions
- Higher education and research centres
- NGOs, foundations, non-profit organisations
- Private sector
- International Organisations (IGOs, regional organisations and UN agencies)



"The ICCROM-Sharjah Centre has been an exceptional partner to the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in many activities related to the cultural heritage of the Arab region. In the last ten years, ICCROM-Sharjah has played an especially crucial role in MOSAIKON, an initiative of the GCI, Getty Foundation, ICCROM and the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM), that is dedicated to improving the conservation and management of archaeological mosaics in the Mediterranean region. As a project partner, ICCROM-Sharjah has collaborated in building capacity, translating key texts, and supporting a community of practice that will be MOSAIKON's enduring legacy. We are grateful to ICCROM-Sharjah and its talented staff for all we have accomplished together these many years and look forward to fruitful collaboration in the future."

**Jeanne Marie Teutonico**

Associate Director, Getty Conservation Institute



[...] ICCROM-Sharjah has been a great supporter for all our endeavours in areas of cultural heritage preservation. We are also very proud of the ICCROM supported Masters Programme recently launched at the University of Sharjah, where Sharjah Museums Authority is a partner providing academic and research support for the museum studies track of the program [...].”

**Manal Ataya**  
Director General,  
Sharjah Museums  
Authority Initiative

## Our other partners in the last decade

- American University of Ras Al Khaima, UAE
- American University of Sharjah, UAE
- Arab Administrative Development Organisation of the League of Arab States (ARADO)
- Arab Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Egypt
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO)
- Arab National Commissions for UNESCO
- Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), Bahrain
- Art Jameel Foundation, UAE
- Associazione Italiana Prove non Distruttive (AIPnD)
- Authority of Initiatives Implementation in Sharjah (Mubadara), UAE
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt
- British Council, Cultural Protection Fund, UK
- Canadian Conservation Institute, Canada
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), UK
- Department of Antiquities (DoA), Jordan
- Department of Antiquities, Umm Al Quwain, UAE
- Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), Lebanon
- Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), Syria
- Directorate of Archaeology & Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Kingdom of Bahrain
- Dubai Municipality, UAE
- Egyptian Academy in Rome, Italy
- Faculty of Archaeology, Fayoum University, Egypt
- Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), USA
- Getty Foundation, USA
- Global Heritage Fund (GHF)
- Government of Malta
- Government of Sharjah, UAE
- Government of the United Arab Emirates
- Heritage Centre, Nyala University, Sudan
- Institute of African and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum (IAAS), Sudan
- International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)
- INTERPOL
- Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)
- La Société Marocaine d'Archéologie et du Patrimoine (SMAP), Morocco
- Louvre Lens Museum, France
- Ministry of Culture and Youth (MCY), UAE
- Ministry of Culture, Morocco
- Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, UAE
- Ministry of Public Works, UAE
- Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Palestine
- National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums (NCAM), Sudan
- National Council of Tourism and Antiquities, UAE
- National Heritage Board of Poland (NID), Poland
- New York University of Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), UAE
- Oman National Museum, Oman
- Prince Claus Fund
- Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Turkey
- Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS), Saudi Arabia
- Sharjah Archaeology Authority (SAA), UAE
- Sharjah Department of Information and Culture, UAE
- Sharjah Institute for Heritage (SIH), UAE
- Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences (SIFHAMS), UAE
- Sharjah Museums Authority (SMA), UAE
- Sharjah Police, UAE
- Social Fund for Development (SFD), Yemen
- Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture (NATCOM), Sudan
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland
- The Africa Institute, Sharjah, UAE
- The Ahfad University for Women (AUW), Sudan
- The International Forum Bosnia (IFB), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- University College London (UCL), UK
- University of Cambridge (Centre for Heritage Studies, McDonald-Institute for Archaeological Research), UK
- University of Oxford (Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa - EAMENA Project), UK
- University of Sharjah (UoS), UAE
- US Department of State, USA
- Welfare Association - Jerusalem's Old Cities Revitalization Program (OCJP)
- ZeeArts Gallery, UAE

# HOW WE REVIEW AND ASSESS OUR WORK



## Our Advisory Board

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ICCROM and the Government of Sharjah, ICCROM-Sharjah, through Consultative Board Meetings, discusses the past and upcoming biennial programme of the Regional Office, as well as review its future strategic directions endorsing new strategies and planning new activities around the Centre's assets and resources, as well as the regional needs and interests. These meetings are held with ICCROM-Sharjah's Advisory Board, which is composed by key institutional partners, ICCROM Council Representatives and Directors of Cultural institutions from the Arab region.

### From ICCROM:

- Director General | ICCROM and/or Chairperson of ICCROM Council
- Current Council Members Representatives of ICCROM

### Our Partners:

- Representative of the Ministry of Culture and Youth of the UAE
- Director General, Sharjah Museums Authority or his/ her representative
- Chairman of the Sharjah Institute for Heritage or his/ her representative
- Director General, Sharjah Archaeology Authority or his/ her representative
- Chancellor, University of Sharjah or his/ her representative
- Chancellor, American University of Sharjah or his/ her representative
- Directors of Cultural Heritage from Member States and/or their representatives
- UN Resident Coordinator for the United Arab Emirates
- Other key partners working in the region (invited as observers)

Over the past decade, Consultative Board Meetings were held in 2015, 2017 and 2019, often in concomitance with ICCROM's General Assembly. At the end of each Consultative Board Meeting, the Advisory Board put forward recommendations based on the biennium achievements and challenges of ICCROM-Sharjah, while also looking at ways to increase the level of cooperation with international and regional organizations and institutions.

In the last Consultative Board Meetings, the recommendations put forward were in reference to:

1. **Raising awareness and improving communication:** To strengthen the cooperation with the education and media sectors in order to disseminate the appreciation of cultural heritage, while sensitizing other government institutions about the importance of heritage, encouraging them to contribute to existing safeguarding efforts.
2. **Knowledge dissemination and capacity building:** To enhance ICCROM-Sharjah's role as a centre for publishing and reviewing studies, and translation in the fields of heritage conservation and management, focusing on the imperative need to standardise Arabic terms and concepts used in conservation literature.
3. **Field projects:** ICCROM-Sharjah is to continue assisting Arab states, by providing appropriate advice and experts – making sure to invite heritage professionals from the Arab region to participate in the field projects implemented by ICCROM-Sharjah, in cooperation with national authorities, in order to disseminate knowledge.
4. **Policy-making and conservation strategies:** To urge Arab countries to ratify the international agreements and conventions in the fields of cultural heritage preservation, and to benefit from these conventions in the development of their national heritage preservation laws.

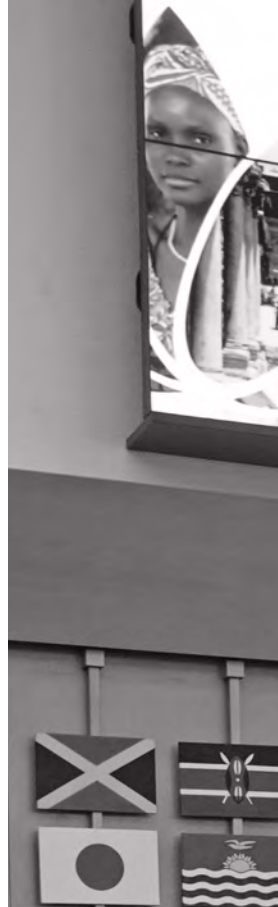


The current ICCROM Council Members representing the Arab region are from Jordan, Lebanon and the UAE. In the last decade representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia and Sudan have also been part of the Council.”

## ICCROM's General Assembly

The **General Assembly** meets in ordinary session every two years in Rome, Italy. It consists of delegates from all ICCROM Member States, usually government officials or experts associated with conservation and restoration of cultural properties. The General Assembly determines the general policies of ICCROM. It approves its biennial Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), including that of ICCROM-Sharjah, elects the Council Members and appoints the Director-General. The Council Members from Arab Member States, are encouraged to take part in ICCROM-Sharjah's Advisory Board meetings during their mandate.

The Assembly's other functions include approving reports on Council and Secretariat activities – determining Member State contributions, adopting ICCROM's financial regulations and approving changes to the Statutes. ICCROM-Sharjah activities and relationship with host country are also presented at the General Assembly. Decisions related to the Sharjah-based work can also be made then.



## Strategic Meeting for Arab Directors of Culture and Antiquities

**Date:** 17 November, 2015 and 31 October, 2019

**Location:** Rome, Italy

As part of the 29th and 31st session of ICCROM's General Assembly, ICCROM-Sharjah organized strategic meetings with the Directors of Antiquities, Heritage and Culture coming from ICCROM's Arab Member States. The meetings created an opportunity to discuss the Regional Centre's strategies and activities to be implemented in the coming years, as well as ways in which to promote coordination and cooperation between ICCROM-Sharjah and the Directorates of Heritage in the Arab region. Among the concerns Member States requested ICCROM-Sharjah to tackle through its activities, were: issues concerning legal context and policies relevant to antiquities and heritage, the dissemination and facilitation of information, consolidating the raising awareness, outreach and capacity building activities. These meetings were also an opportunity for Member States to request ICCROM-Sharjah for special projects to be implemented as part of its Advisory Services.

Representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen attended the meeting, along with representatives from the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

# 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly



Eduardo Mansur  
Director General  
World Tourism Organization (WTO)



Anne Nyhamar  
Temporary President  
General Assembly



Emanuela Del Re  
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation of Italy



Webber Ndoro  
Director General  
CCROM



Lazare Eloundou  
Director  
Culture and Heritage, Culture  
Sector (PH071)

31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly  
30-31 October 2019



31<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée générale  
30-31 octobre 2019



ANDORRA

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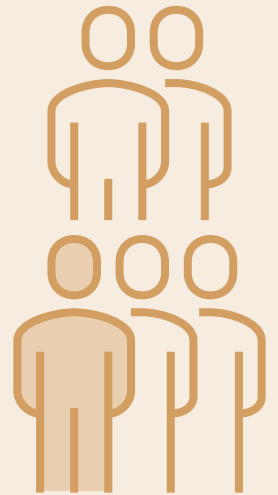
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# THE DECADE IN NUMBERS

**9** SDGs targeted in the implementation of our activities



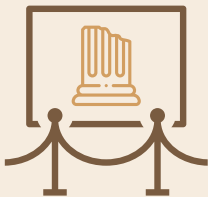
**3** cycles of the ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Practices organised to honour and reward outstanding work contributing to the protection and vitality of tangible cultural heritage in the Arab world



**775+**

were the beneficiaries of our capacity-building, skills training and leadership programmes

**23** exhibitions were organized



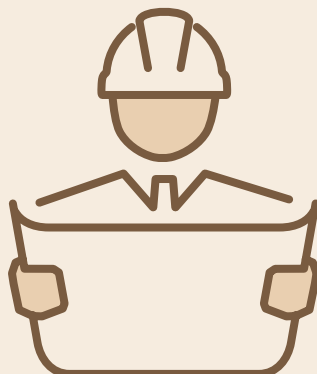
**73** partners joined us in implementing our activities



**17** were the beneficiary countries of our programmes and activities



**5** advisory services were offered and **5** field projects were implemented at the request of Member States



**21** promising and innovative learning packages, proceedings and training guides published to enhance cultural heritage practices worldwide





3

cycles of the Arab Forum held to highlight global trends and discuss regional challenges



79



capacity building activities were designed and implemented



Type of impact:

0% cancelled

40.5% postponed\*

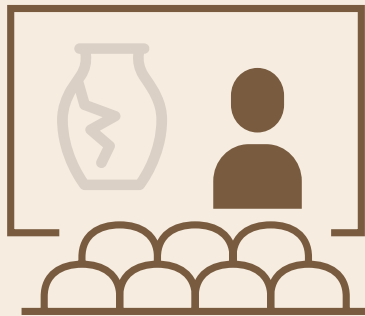
40.5% took place as planned

19% moved online

\* 6% of the activities had an online component added.

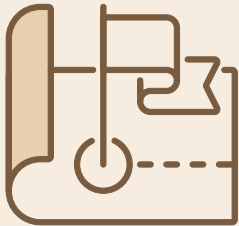
41

activities were designed to raise awareness for the conservation and management of cultural heritage through good practices of conservation and education



143

activities and projects implemented in total since 2012



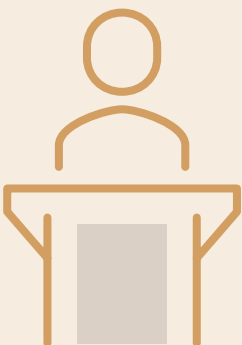
4

intakes of the MSc Programme



22

international charters and 10 training manuals were translated



13

workshops, conferences and symposia were held to address current themes, important for the region's sustainable goals relevant to heritage conservation and development



€ 21.300.000+ raised since 2012

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS ...

**2012**

Management and Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Sites and Museum Collections

■ The Sharjah Initiative: Regional Symposium on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis



**2014**

Inauguration of the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Centre

Sharjah Declaration

■ Exhibition – Highlights from CH in the Arab World



**2016**

Regional Leadership Course on First Aid and Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

International Expert Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage

■ Assessing Risks for Museum Collections, Preparedness, and Establishment of Emergency Contingency Plans for Museums (for Iraq, Syria and UAE)



**2013**

ATHAR - Ten Years of Achievements

■ Moving from a programme to a regional Centre

**2015**

First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Syria, Part II

■ Building National Capacities for Managing Risks to Cultural Heritage in Case of Emergency, Cairo

Training of Trainers: Preventive Conservation and Risk Preparedness for Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage (Part II\*) in Libya and Yemen

**2017**

■ Special Roundtable on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities

Expert Meeting on the Means to Strengthen Cultural Heritage Protection in the Arab Region - workshop

Introduction to Architectural Documentation for Cultural Heritage Series

2018

"The Day After: Shadows of Heritage" Travelling Exhibition

ICCROM-Sharjah Award (2017-2018)

Western Sudan Community Project

1st Forum for Arab Cultural Heritage '18

"The MSc programme gives you the opportunity to gain professional experience and establish your own network in the field, which comes in handy to kick-start your career. It is a very interdisciplinary programme, looking at cultural heritage from many different angles, with the friendly, open and collaborative atmosphere."

**Ahmad Badr Aldin Fattal**  
Class of '22  
MSc Student

2020

Medina Initiative

1st ICCROM-Sharjah Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young '20

2022

"Climate Change and Cultural Heritage: Arab Region Priorities" - with ICOMOS Jordan

Experts Programme: Building Capacity Project for Saudi and GCC Professionals



2019

First Aid to Cultural Heritage for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in times of Crisis

1st Intake - MSc programme in "Conservation Management of Cultural Heritage"

2021

Preventive Conservation Measures for Archaeological Sites: Protective Shelters and Reburial

# OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST DECADE



## Continuing Education / Training



### Images from left to right:

Participants during the final course simulation of the course on *First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis for Syria, Lebanon*.

Participants of the *Introduction to First Aid for Archaeological Finds* training workshop during an excavation exercise in Qal'at al-Bahrain site.





ICCROM-Sharjah's three-phase training course provides Member States with technical support through local professionals who understand the cultural context.”

### Regional Course on Management and Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Sites and Museum Collections

**Dates:** 11 November – 13 December, 2012 and 10–14 November, 2013

**Location:** Sharjah, United Arab Emirates with a one-week excursion to Doha, Qatar

Composed of three phases spanning over a year with five weeks of personal presence, this course implemented in partnership with UCL-Qatar, was designed to have participants acquire a critical approach to the management and conservation of heritage sites and museum collections in Arab countries. By familiarising themselves with conservation in the context of broader heritage management issues such as authenticity, tourism, site presentation and development pressures, as well as by assessing legal and institutional contexts, participants would be equipped to devise informed conservation strategies for heritage sites and museum collections.

Following the initial phase consisting in the training component of this activity, a second phase had participants select projects within the framework of their home institutions and implement them with the support of ICCROM-Sharjah. The final phase of this training had participants come together and discuss the short-term impacts of their projects. This served as a platform for the participants to exchange experiences in implementing their projects and share methods they devised to ensure effective and realistic application of their acquired knowledge, creating the opportunity to propose practical solutions to the challenges that conservation specialists face in the Arab region.

### Training Workshop: Introduction to First Aid for Archaeological Finds

**Dates:** 13–17 April, 2014

**Location:** Manama, Bahrain

This intensive five-day workshop designed in collaboration with the Directorate of Archaeology and Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Kingdom of Bahrain, and with the additional support of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), was developed to introduce its participants to principles, guidelines and techniques for treating archaeological finds, from the moment they are excavated to the time they are handed over to a professional



conservator, including the transportation to their final destinations at museums or storage facilities. While the lectures focused on the general treatment principles and materials – including the basics of recording, lifting, cleaning, marking, packing and transportation of archaeological finds – intensive practical sessions were designed to have participants work in the field and in the laboratory, on selected archaeological materials from Qal'at al-Bahrain site.

### Course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis for Syria

**Dates:** 24 November – 6 December, 2014 and 1–10 June, 2015

**Location:** Beirut, Lebanon

In the framework of the Programme on “Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Programme” funded by the European Union in collaboration with UNESCO, this two-week intensive course was organized for mid-career professionals coming from Aleppo, Damascus, Daraa and Homs. Starting by exploring the general framework of complex emergency situations and response – focusing on risk assessment, damage assessment, debris management and structural analysis – sessions had participants familiarise themselves on how to handle damaged artefacts in triage, first aid, documentation, labelling, packaging and transportation.

The visits to several archaeological sites and historic buildings including the National Museum in Beirut, the village of Abey and Sima'aniye, as well as the World Heritage Site of Byblos, were an opportunity for participants to put into practice what they acquired throughout the course. These visits were complemented by course simulations which were designed to provide participants with the ability to form rescue teams on the ground during emergency situations, as well as develop their project management, reporting and networking skills. Throughout the simulations, while practicing their skills for emergency consolidation of built heritage, participants were encouraged to explore ways in which to engage local communities in times of crisis.

A ten-day follow-up intensive course for Syrian professionals was organized, where the course themes were identified in agreement with the Syrian Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) to reflect the urgent needs for the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the country. Although the course modalities were similar to those of the first course, participants' projects were the centre of this training, through which participants explored the best possible means for rescuing their endangered cultural heritage and follow-up strategies to execute on upon their return to Syria.

### Sub-regional Course on Building National Capacities for Managing Risks to Cultural Heritage in Case of Emergencies

**Dates:** 18–29 January, 2015

**Location:** Cairo, Egypt

Nominated by their governments, the participants selected for this two-week specialist course from Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Sudan and Palestine, took part in interactive participatory sessions, both theoretical and practical, aimed at creating effective nationally and regionally recognised emergency task forces for managing risks to cultural heritage. Led by a multi-disciplinary and international teaching team of professionals who have been working in emergency situations for protecting cultural heritage and providing humanitarian assistance, the workshop focused on developing skills in risk management planning. Special emphasis was given to the understanding of international and national legislation, in order to

be able to advocate for the better enforcement of legislation aimed at the protection of cultural heritage during times of peace and crisis. Participants had the opportunity to put into practice their newly acquired skills for risk assessment, preparedness, mitigation and response, on several monuments located in Historic Cairo and Saqqara. While discussing recovery planning, participants also got to practice their mediation and negotiation skills through the involvement of local communities.

This activity was organized in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Cairo, and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Ministry of Culture, together with the support of the Government of Sharjah, UAE, and the US Secretary of State.

### Informed Conservation Series

In 2015, in partnership with UCL-Qatar, a short course series titled "Informed Conservation" was developed and implemented for professionals with varied profiles – such as archaeologists, surveyors, architects, art historians, collections and site managers, conservators-restorers, conservation scientists, curators, directors of museums, galleries and archives – who were looking to expand their working knowledge and experience in the field of cultural heritage conservation. The series consisted in three individual modules:





Field exercises for GPS data gathering took place at the site of Ed-Dor, where ICCROM-Sharjah managed a conservation project to stabilise the deterioration of a 1<sup>st</sup> century temple.



**Images from left to right:**

Participants of the *Sub-regional Course on Building National Capacities for Managing Risks to Cultural Heritage in Case of Emergencies* during an exercise on documentation.

Participants during a site visit in Ed-Dor, UAE.

■ **An Introduction to Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections and Preparation of Risk Plans**

**Dates:** 18–22 October, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

This short course aimed at introducing participants to the principles of preventive conservation in museums with theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of organized and systematic approaches. Covering the processes of preventive conservation for collections in storage and exhibition areas, this course put special emphasis on topics concerning emergency situations in museums. This enabled participants to identify and assess disaster risks treatments of museum buildings and collections affected by natural and/or human hazards, and consequently apply the latest preventive conservation measures for the safeguard of collections within their environment and undertake practical measures for emergency response in museums.

■ **Oral History for Cultural Heritage Preservation**

**Dates:** 24–28 May, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Designed with the intent of building the capacity of conservation professionals in the Arab region in the field of oral history, this course presented the storyteller's role in safeguarding elements of intangible cultural heritage and in developing current techniques for collecting data and conducting research work through oral history practices, demonstrating how traditions can be passed through conservation work to future generations. By exploring the "how" and "why" personal narratives of the past are constructed, as well as how interviews are to be conducted and analysed to help inform decisions for cultural heritage preservation, participants developed their research methodologies and enhanced their skills in identifying and collecting data from accurate, reliable sources – thus exploring the role that this specialised field as evidence of cultural heritage has and how documenting it can also promote national identity.

■ **Integrating Documentation in Heritage Management: Introduction to the Use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

**Dates:** 28 February – 3 March, 2016

**Location:** Nizwa, Oman and Sharjah, UAE

Aimed at building capacities in the Arab region by introducing key concepts of heritage value assessment and significance, as well as risk management tools, this course introduced the participants to the design and management of records and methodology for processing data. Specific emphasis was given to the importance of GIS utilisation in managing cultural heritage and archaeological sites, as it can enhance coordination between site managers, by facilitating the exchange of databases and related information, and empower them in taking informed decisions regarding their sites.

**Building National Capacities for Libyan Professionals in First Aid and Risk Preparedness for Cultural Heritage**

**Dates:** 9–15 June, 2015

**Location:** Djerba, Tunis

ICCROM-Sharjah, in cooperation with UNESCO-Cairo, designed and implemented this training activity to address the need for emergency preparedness and the lack of trained heritage professionals in Libya. Emphasising the significance of Libyan cultural heritage and the need for its protection and maintenance,

the participants – coming from Tripoli, Leptis Magna, Cyrene, Benghazi, Fezzan and Sabrathah – presented case studies that examined how threats such as armed conflict, cultural and social problems, along with negligence, endangered their cultural heritage. Tailored to the needs of these participants, the training sessions, both theoretical and practical, focused on how to undertake preventive and first aid interventions in times of crisis for risk reduction and protection of cultural heritage, that included both historic structures and museum collections.

**Training of Trainers on Preventive Conservation and Risk Preparedness for Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage**

**Dates:** 29 October – 5 November 2015

**Location:** Tunis, Tunisia

Implemented in collaboration with UNESCO-Cairo and the Institute National du Patrimoine in Tunisia, this follow-up activity to the ICCROM-Sharjah course on "Building National Capacities for Libyan Professionals in First Aid and Risk", explored the latest rapid documentation techniques, as well as in situ preventive and conservation measures for movable immovable cultural heritage. Study visits and disaster simulation exercises at selected archaeological sites complemented the work carried out in the classroom. Focusing on disaster and risk preparedness and management, these exercises had participants learn how to manage risks and museum security issues,



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**Images from left to right:**  
 Participants during a practical exercise executed as part of the Training of Trainers on Preventive Conservation and Risk Preparedness for Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage course held in Tunis, Tunisia.

Old City of Sana'a, Yemen.





while learning how collaborate with other sectors and raise the awareness of the general public. Although the course was designed for professionals from the Libyan Department of Antiquities, Historic Cities Authority, NGOs and Civil Defence, two professionals from Yemen were also invited to participate in response to the increased threats to cultural heritage in their country.

### **Training of Trainers on Protection of Yemeni Heritage in Times of Crisis**

**Dates:** 21–23 December 2015

**Location:** Amman, Jordan

Due to the persistence of conflict in Yemen and the resulting deteriorating conditions of Yemeni cultural heritage, in cooperation with UNESCO-Doha, a meeting was held with Yemeni professionals from the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums, General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) and the Social Development Fund (SDF). The aim was to devise a biennium action plan to be jointly implemented by partner organizations, with the ultimate goal being the creation of

a national team that could contribute to the protection of heritage in Yemen.

Following the presentations by the Yemeni delegates in which the current condition of cultural heritage in Yemen was presented – discussing the local efforts, challenges and achievements invested in supporting, restoring and rehabilitating the affected buildings – ICCROM-Sharjah conducted theoretical training sessions and field training relevant to the methodologies of risk management and rapid assessment for the protection of sites and museum collections.

The successful implementation of these sessions led to the agreement of conducting similar training courses in different parts of Yemen, where the learning tools provided during the training were to serve as key resources and references to establish a training of trainers' programme. The transfer of expertise to other Yemeni professionals from different sectors, was to consequently establish a network of professionals who are able to respond to the country's emerging heritage risks and disasters. Recordings of lectures were initiated to assist trained trainers in their tasks to disseminate the knowledge acquired during the course (*see Yemen Online Course p35*).

### Assessing Risks for Museum Collections, Preparedness and Establishment of Emergency Contingency Plans for Museums

**Dates:** 2–6 October, 2015 and 9–13 October, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Strongly supporting museums, collection houses, libraries and storages of archaeological objects – as crucial components of cultural heritage and significant factors in cultural and identity formation – ICCROM-Sharjah designed a course to address the current crises faced by multiple museums throughout the Arab region in the form of deliberate human destruction, natural disasters, negligence and deficient management. This capacity building activity was developed as a two-part course, one for mid-career professionals from the United Arab Emirates and Syria, and a second for Iraqi professionals, implemented in cooperation with the UNESCO-Iraq Office. Both sets of participants were trained to devise preparedness and response plans to be implemented in emergency settings, in order to mitigate risks faced by museum collections in times of crisis.

### Specialised Conservation and Site Management Planning Courses in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Hebron

As part of a series of courses originally initiated by the Welfare Association, UNESCO, the European Union, and ICCROM, three courses were implemented in Palestine, in partnership with Jerusalem's Old Cities Revitalization Program (OCJP), with the aim of training mid-career professionals working in the field of site management and planning:

- **“Conservation and Management of the Built Heritage” in Jerusalem**  
(25 January – 30 March, 2016)
- **“Site Management Planning and Management of Conservation Projects for Professionals” in Ramallah**  
(26 September – 13 December, 2016)
- **“Conservation and Management of the Built Heritage” in Hebron**  
(20 March – 25 May 2017)

These courses offered capacity building and applied training for engineers, architects, contractors, practitioners and professionals who work in the preservation of architectural heritage field. After being introduced to

conservation principles and theory, both local and international, participants were exposed to historic building materials and how to assess their structural behaviour, along with how to document and record their management. This included the analysis of humidity in historic buildings, the conservation of stone, plaster and mortar, as well as the conservation and restoration of wooden structures and elements. The last part of the courses focused on principles of site management planning and management of conservation projects, including maintenance, risk preparedness plans and the development of communication skills, with practical teamwork exercise. A technical jury was set up to evaluate and assess the group's work as the course progressed.

### Regional Leadership Course in First Aid and Risk Management for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

**Dates:** 4–31 October, 2016

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Building on ICCROM-Sharjah's long experience in providing capacity building in the area of preventive conservation, risk mitigation and first aid to cultural heritage, this month-long training was devised with the specific learning objective of providing heritage conservation professionals in the Arab region with the in-depth knowledge and tools required to support their risk management efforts before, during, and after a crisis. With participants coming from war-stricken countries, where cultural



**Images from left to right:** Practical exercise on mitigating risks faced by museum collections.

Course simulations to practice the stabilization, documentation and evacuation of collections during an emergency, as part of the *Regional Leadership Course in First Aid and Risk Management for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis*.





heritage had experienced an unprecedented wave of destruction, it was necessary to devise a professional leadership training programme for potential leaders that would enable them to create effective emergency task forces for managing risks to cultural heritage at national and regional levels. To this end, substantial time in class was spent on developing the participants teamwork and negotiation skills, as well as knowledge and application of international legislation for the protection of cultural heritage in times of crisis and emergencies.

In the first phase of this three-phase programme, participants complemented their in-class training with field visits and simulations centred on two case studies: the historic site of Al Khan and Beit Al Abboudi, a historic building in Sharjah. For the second phase of the training, participants were invited to submit proposals for projects related to disaster risk management, that they would pursue in their home countries. The goal of these projects was to share the acquired knowledge with other stakeholders and help devise risk management strategies in high-risk sites in the region. Funding opportunities were sought to support the implementation of these projects, which were implemented with the assistance of ICCROM-Sharjah, together with its partners and other institutions working in this field, including UNESCO. The training concluded with a review meeting that took place in early 2017, organized to finalise the project

applications and synthesize the following steps of each project.

### Yemen Online Course

**Dates:** November, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

In order to provide heritage professionals living in conflict-affected countries in the MENA region with the best tools that would support first aid interventions and protection of cultural heritage in times of crisis, a course was devised and implemented for Yemeni professionals, in partnership with UNESCO-Doha, with the aim to develop pre-recorded online teaching resources. Addressing the key issues and diverse measures that serve the preservation of cultural heritage and risk preparedness, the training course included both online live lectures and pre-recorded video presentations which covered topics such as rapid documentation techniques, condition assessment, implementation of appropriate remedial or preventive interventions and managing risks at heritage sites. The development of such online training activities was crucial for the many countries that were suffering from similar situations as in Yemen, where professionals in the field of conservation cannot receive the appropriate training for safeguarding their heritage due to the political upheaval in the region.



### Workshop on conservation projects in conflict zones

**Dates:** 22–23 March, 2017

**Location:** Tunis, Tunisia

In cooperation with the Prince Claus Fund (PCF), and with the support of the American Embassy to Libya, a workshop on projects' applications for cultural heritage protection was organized. The workshop was attended by professionals or former participants in the above-mentioned courses who had already expressed the need for such support for specific projects in Libya, Iraq and Yemen. After detailed presentations of the proposed projects the participants agreed on the proposals that corresponded to ICCROM-Sharjah and PCF's criteria, and that stressed the collaboration between stakeholders. Three projects were selected and supported by partners to be implemented, with the consultation and technical support from ICCROM-Sharjah:

- **Ottoman Barracks** – Libya  
– Benghazi DoA
- **Design a risk preparedness plan for Old Damascus Syria** – Damascus – DGAM
- **Refurbishment of the Library of Mosul University**, Iraq

### Introduction to Documentation and Conservation of Built Heritage in the Arab Region

In 2017, a refresher course programme composed of five short course modules was designed to advance the professional development of those institutions and individuals involved in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage. These one-week training modules addressed the following areas:

- **Introduction to Architectural Documentation for Cultural Heritage: Principles and Techniques of Architectural Documentation of Cultural Heritage**

**Dates:** 21–25 May, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Organized in cooperation with the Sharjah Institute for Heritage, this first module focused on having participants practice their registration and documentation skills, using traditional and readily available techniques, as well as high-end technologies that could be adapted to their working conditions in their home countries.





“ [...] In 1980 because of the Iraq-Iran war, the Baghdad Center originally supported by UNESCO closed and unfortunately never reopened despite the necessity to provide professional training in the region. To fill this gap and following a feasibility study based on concrete actions, the offer made in 2011 to ICCROM and Arab Member States by UAE through HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, to create a new Center for Arab countries was more than welcome. Since then, the Sharjah Center has not only run numerous activities in Sharjah, as the Baghdad Center did in late 70s, but extended its activities to serve all countries across the Arab region [...] ”

**Gaël de Guichen**

Special Advisor to the Director-General of ICCROM

■ **Conservation of Stone and Mortar**

**Dates:** 10–14 September, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

This course focused on stone and mortar – being one of the most important traditional materials used in different parts of the Arab region. Following sessions that were designed to identify proprieties and causes of deterioration to develop appropriate treatment and conservation interventions, the training focused on lab work aimed at characterising stone and mortar, understanding the stages of mechanical and chemical deterioration. Here they practiced testing the porosity of stone and mixing different types of mortar which were used for hands-on exercises related to mixing and grouting of a historic house in the Heart of Sharjah.

■ **Introduction to Structural Conservation**

**Dates:** 1–5 October, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Designed to introduce participants to the basic key methodologies for the structural conservation of historic buildings, participants of this course had the opportunity to learn about the different techniques and structural behaviour of historic buildings, including the main characteristics of construction materials used in the course of history. Using a series of case studies, participants had the

chance to explore what questions to ask in order to decide which types of analytical methodologies could be followed to be able to write structural assessment reports.

Participants to put to test the main principles of structural assessment and reading they were taught in class, and practiced the documentation of structural conditions of historical buildings, on Burj al Midfa in the Heart of Sharjah – where an ongoing reinforcement project was taking place for this wind tower that had lost its structural integrity, and began to lean dangerously.

■ **Principles of Conservation and Management of Historic Sites**

**Dates:** 8–12 October, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

The course introduced participants to the development of the international conservation doctrine across history, focusing on the conservation and management framework. Presentations focused on urban heritage conservation, where a framework of urban conservation was presented and followed by case-studies of the urban conservation projects in the old cities of Aleppo, Syria, and Zabeed in Yemen. Participants had the opportunity to conduct condition assessments for a number of selected houses in the Heart of Sharjah.

7

**Images from left to right:**

Participants during an exercise for recording built heritage.

Participants during an exercise of the Conservation of Stone and Mortar course.

■ **Conservation of Earthen Architecture**

**Dates:** 5–9 October, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Looking at the levels of intervention, as well as the conservation principles and values regarding this particular kind of heritage, through this course, participants were exposed to the principles of conservation of archaeological sites and standing monuments, as well as how to document earthen sites. As part of their training, participants visited the Al Dhaid archaeological site in Sharjah, where they put into practice what was learnt throughout the course.

**Introduction to Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections for Iraq**

**Dates:** 9–16 July, 2017

**Location:** Amman, Jordan

In light of the significant damage that was suffered by cultural heritage in Iraq, in cooperation with UNESCO-Iraq and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in Iraq, a ten-day course was devised to develop the capacity of Iraqi heritage professionals working on local conservation, protection and restoration projects. While the course had a strong component aimed at improving teamwork and communication skills, it focused on introducing participants to the basic concepts and tools of preventive conservation for museum collections – on display or in storage – with a particular focus on the Iraqi context. The course provided a systematic approach to comprehensively assess the different kinds of

risks to the collections, and develop effective preventive measures to eliminate or reduce them, using locally available resources. A strong hands-on component was included to consolidate the understanding of this approach, through visits to Jordanian museums as case studies.

**Introductory Training Course on Risk Management for World Heritage**

**Dates:** 13–17 January, 2019

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

As risk management is a process that can help concerned entities and organizations understand, assess and prioritize various types of risks – such as floods, fire, vandalism, etc. – before taking any action, it was essential to devise a training activity that could help reduce damage and loss within the available resources. Aimed at mid-career professionals responsible for the conservation and management of heritage in various institutions of the Government of Sharjah, spanning heritage preservation institutions to municipality and police forces, the course aimed to equip participants with the best tools available to manage risks facing cultural heritage sites in the Emirate of Sharjah. Field visits to sites, including Khorfakkan, Al Dhaid, Al Mahatta and Wadi Al Helo, were organised for participants where they worked in groups to identify and analyse the risks these sites faced, and subsequently propose means to reduce and mitigate these risks.

**Enhancing World Heritage Management Skills for Heritage Professionals**

**Dates:** 8–11 February and 13–15 December, 2019

**Location:** Beirut, Lebanon and Sharjah, UAE

In partnership with UNESCO-Beirut and the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) in Lebanon, two workshops were organized for site managers, archaeologists and architects working for the DGA in Lebanon. During the first workshop, participants were introduced to the World Heritage Convention and its operational guidelines, outstanding universal value, along with the notions of authenticity and integrity in the World Heritage context. Focusing on value-based management, impact assessment and



➤ **Image:** Participants of the course on Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections for Iraq.



A visit to the archaeological site of Meliha was planned during the workshop, in order to give participants, the opportunity of visiting Palaeolithic and Neolithic sites where they were introduced to some of the measures taken by the administration regarding the site's management.



[...] The course provided me with the skills required to effectively manage IUCN World Heritage programmes. It gave me the opportunity to apply what I had learned along with the knowledge I gained through my studies, and translate them into practice [...].”

**Haifaa Abedalhaleem**  
Co-Convenor |  
OurWorldHeritage  
Initiative

risk management, the course lectures were complemented by interactive sessions and discussions in the World Heritage site of Byblos.

The second workshop was designed to provide a thorough understanding of the tools used for developing an integrated and sustainable World Heritage management plan in the participant's own context. Through multiple sessions of group work, participants produced an outline of a potential new, or revision of, components of their sites management plans, together with ICCROM-Sharjah experts.

### Regional Workshop on Conservation of Documentary Heritage

**Dates:** 4–7 March, 2019

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

In partnership with the Arab Administrative Development Organization of the League of Arab States, a four-day workshop was organized for professionals working in the field of documentary heritage, aiming to familiarize participants with the various types of documentary cultural heritage and to discuss the challenges facing its conservation.

It also addressed modern techniques in digital archiving and showcased some successful experiences in this field in the Arab region.

### Workshop on Touring Exhibition and Loan Process

**Date:** 25–27 June, 2019

**Location:** Ramallah, Palestine

At the request of the Palestinian Museum in Ramallah, ICCROM-Sharjah developed a workshop on the theme of touring exhibition and loan processes for its staff. Following a series of lectures on the theme of touring exhibition – analysing the history, types, feasibility study of subjects – participants practiced their skills for developing project proposals and the relative budget. In addition, participants explored ways in which to expand their network to improve their know-how and confront their practices to an international level. The workshop also focused on topics pertaining loan processes, shipment and insurance related to preventive conservation matters, opening discussions regarding current curatorial practises which led to suggestions for improving the touring exhibitions for the Palestinian Museum.

### International First Aid Course for Specialized Police Units (in partnership with INTERPOL)

**Dates:** 8–19 December, 2019

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

In light of the increasing number of international crimes related to the looting and trafficking of cultural heritage and properties, the need to integrate cultural heritage first aid methods within national civil protection response systems, became ever more pressing. In partnership with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and with the financial support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Government, an international training course was organized with the aim to build the capacity of police units on first aid to cultural heritage in times of crisis, while dealing with the prevention of looting and illicit trafficking of cultural properties in disaster or conflict situations.

While the first week of training focused on theoretical concepts and the sharing of police experience in illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, the second week had participants practice situation analysis, salvage, triage, evacuation and packaging of damaged artefacts, along with the setting up of a temporary storage. The course promoted inter-agency cooperation and cross-sectorial knowledge exchange as an effective mean for reducing disaster risk, promoting peace and sustainable development.

### Field School on Modern Techniques in Architectural Documentation

**Date:** 29 January – 1 February, 2022

**Location:** Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

Within the framework of the agreement cooperation between ICCROM and the American University in Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK), a field school was implemented to introduce participants and students of architecture to modern methodologies and techniques in architectural documentation of traditional buildings. This course followed the architectural preservation course developed by the University to motivate future architects and increase their understanding of cultural heritage, and its significance to the community.

Focusing on heritage documentation in its comprehensive concept, which includes understanding and documenting the cultural and historical context of cultural properties as well as their heritage values, this course also examined topics concerning architectural recording, surveying methods and the use of digital and photographic imaging and other survey instruments. Course participants applied the acquired knowledge during a visit to the site of Fort Daya in Ras Al Khaimah. Here they trained to use TotalStation and spherical digital cameras.

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**Images from left to right:** Participants during a course simulation organised in collaboration with INTERPOL and the Sharjah Police, UAE.

Students of the 2nd Cycle of the MSc programme during a site visit.



[...] this training course is one of the main results of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between INTERPOL and ICCROM to concretely improve the capacity of the police forces in preventing and countering all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural properties and related offences [...].”

**Lieut. Col. Corrado Catesi**  
Former Coordinator of the Interpol's Works of Art Unit







## MSc Degree in Conservation Management of Cultural Heritage

**Date:** 2018 – 2022

**Location:** Sharjah

Aiming to demonstrate the importance of disseminating complementary knowledge, while encouraging a multidisciplinary approach in the field of cultural heritage preservation, this first in its kind programme, implemented with the support of the University of Sharjah, UAE, involves a broad range of specialists in various fields of cultural heritage to provide its graduates with the latest knowledge, skills and attitudes required in conservation practice.

Developed following the structure of

the previous ICCROM's ATHAR Programme Core Regional Courses, comprised of 12 four-week modules, this programme, taught in Arabic, examines cultural heritage by taking a holistic approach with regional emphasis. The mandatory modules offered by the programme include:

1. Theories of Cultural Heritage Conservation
2. Contemporary Approaches to Heritage Conservation and Management
3. World Heritage and International Conservation Frameworks
4. Museology and Museum Ethics
5. Conservation of Historic Buildings and Sites
6. Conservation of Museum Collections
7. Risk Management for Cultural Heritage
8. Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage
9. Management of Museums
10. Management of Historic Districts and Cities
11. Research Methods
12. History of Architecture and Archaeology

By looking at technical, cultural, historical and management aspects, students are provided with a strong theoretical background, which is complemented with the practical training necessary to develop their conservation and heritage management skills, targeting both movable and immovable cultural heritage. Students are in fact given the opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired in class in actual projects, with the support of the Centre and in coordination with different heritage institutions in the Arab region. Since 2019, three cycles of the programme have been successfully completed and a fourth is undergoing.



[...] This MSc programme is pioneering in terms of design, content, uniqueness, and diversity. It blends scientific theory and practice with strategies adopted by international conventions in management and conservation of cultural heritage, with a focus on the heritage issues within the Arab context. The lectures have been geared by a very high-level of expertise by ICCROM, UoS and other international institutions dedicated to supporting this outstanding program. The entire programme encouraged our sense of responsibility as promising site managers who should uphold and guarantee the best conservation and management of cultural heritage sites, and protecting their value while taking into account the global dynamic development of sustainability, participatory approaches, urbanism, interpretation, management of change, among other very important topics. [...].”

**Ziad A. H. AbuOwda**

Acting Director | Conservation Department of the  
General Administration of National Registry | Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Palestine)  
Class of '22

Want to learn more  
about the programme  
and how to apply?  
[Click here](#), or scan QR  
code below.



**ICCROM-Sharjah in Terra 2022 Congress: Interregional collaboration**

**Date:** 7-10 June, 2022

**Location:** Santa Fe, New Mexico

Drawing up specialists in the fields of conservation, anthropology, archaeology, architecture and engineering, site management and sustainable development of earthen architectural heritage, the 13th World Congress on Earthen Architectural Heritage included sessions presenting technical information, management issues, methodology, case studies and guidelines that reflected the latest research and best practices in the study and conservation of earthen heritage around the world. Serving as a platform for the exchange of knowledge on earthen architecture, this congress provided a unique opportunity to consolidate interregional collaboration in Africa, Western Asia and the Arab Region. During the program of the congress, ICCROM-Sharjah scholarship holders selected jointly with the Getty Conservation Institute took part in training workshops led by the Getty Conservation Institute, and ICCROM-Sharjah moderated a session on education, and served on the steering committee that will evaluate the abstracts of the papers submitted to Terra 2022.

As follow-up to the Congress, a series of webinars were organised in order to consolidate

the network and exchange information with a wider audience whereby experts could learn from each other.

**MOSAIKON**

Building on the expertise and experience of ICCROM and the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), the MOSAIKON Initiative seeks to improve conditions for the conservation of mosaics in the Arab region through education and capacity building, strengthening the professional network, research and the creation and dissemination of information. To this end, in 2022, two training activities were implemented.

■ **International Training Course for the Conservation of Mosaics in situ**

**Dates:** 26 March – 26 April, 2019

**Location:** Byblos, Lebanon

In partnership with the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) in Lebanon, this five-week international training course for the conservation of in-situ mosaics was developed to enhance the capacity of national authorities responsible for the care of archaeological sites in the Middle East and North Africa – a region rich in mosaic



**Images from left to right:**

*Terra 2022 Congress poster exhibition reflecting the latest research and best practices in the study and conservation of earthen heritage around the world.*

Participants visiting the Church of the Virgin Mary, Madaba, Jordan.



heritage which is increasingly threatened by modern construction, looting and lack of qualified personnel requires much needed conservation and maintenance work.

The training included practical exercises at the World Site of Byblos, on one of the few remaining mosaics left in situ, where they were exposed to a methodology for documenting and conserving mosaics using lime mortars to stabilize them, along with how to carry out preventive conservation measures such as reburial and drainage of mosaics. The programme complemented an earlier training course that was held in Byblos in 2017 for the conservation of lifted mosaics.

- **Advanced Training on Preventive Conservation Measures for Archaeological Sites: Protective Shelters and Reburial**

**Date:** Date: 18–29 September 2022

**Location:** Amman, Jordan

While previous MOSAIKON courses on archaeological site conservation covered multiple topics, ranging from documentation to site presentation, this advanced course organized in partnership with the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DoA), focused on providing participants with more in-depth information on shelters and reburial as sustainable and preventive conservation practices. Although based in Amman, the course took advantage of the incomparable archaeological sites of Jerash and Madaba. Used as outdoor classrooms, these sites provided in-depth knowledge on the use of protective shelters and selective reburial as preventive conservation measures for archaeological sites.

Due to the global uncertainty that followed the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in postponing this advanced training – planned to take place in 2020 – a series of nine webinars were designed to take place prior to the start of the online training, to substitute for the time loss. The monthly webinars served as an opportunity for the participants, organizers, experts and other professionals to meet and discuss their shared experiences, challenges faced in the field, as well as exchange opinions and project ideas related to protective conservation measures for archaeological sites with mosaics.



[...] About fifteen years ago, four international institutions: ICCROM, the Getty Institute for Conservation, the Getty Foundation and ICCM decided with the heritage professionals of the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean rich in mosaics, to set up the MOSAIKON programme. It consisted in developing together, a strategy for the conservation and protection of mosaics whether in situ, deposited, exhibited or stored. ICCROM, through its ICCROM-Sharjah Centre, played an important role in identifying problems and developing actions in the various countries, always in close collaboration with the national institutions.

Originally designed to undertake one-off actions, the MOSAIKON programme has now been running for more than a decade. The main activities cover various specialized training courses intended for site and museum managers on the one hand and technicians in the restoration and conservation of mosaics on the other. Regular meetings with heritage Directors General of the 13 partner countries made it possible to follow the evolution of the various projects. ICCROM-Sharjah has played an essential role in the development of various activities, especially in their implementation. To highlight is the publication of a book which brings together, for the first time, the main articles on the conservation of the mosaic translated into Arabic [...].”

**Aicha Ben Abed**  
MOSAIKON Regional Coordinator



■ **Training Worksite on the Conservation of Mosaics in Storage**

**Date:** 10 October – 4 November, 2022

**Location:** Sidon, Lebanon

Addressing topics pertaining to the conservation of mosaics in storage, through this hands-on training, participants trained on the different methodologies for documenting and conserving lifted mosaics using lime mortars to stabilize and re-back them, along with preventive measures to store them long-term. Multiple exercises were conducted on a large collection of lifted mosaics, originally from downtown Beirut, that were stored in Sidon without any backing since 1998. After assessing their conditions, participants provided mortar backings after removing the deteriorated facings used to lift them decades earlier. With the skills and knowledge gained from this experience, the multi-year task of conserving the entire collection of mosaics of Ancient Beirut could finally begin in the purpose-built storage facility.

■ **Experts Programme: Building Capacity Project for Saudi and GCC Professionals**

**Date:** February – July 2022

**Location:** Online, with one session in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Stemming from a request from the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ICCROM-Sharjah, in cooperation with the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, an intensive capacity-building programme of comprised of seven high-quality individual modules was organized and implemented. Designed for academic figures and civil servants, with the purpose of establishing a qualified group of experts that would manage the implementation of five international cultural heritage conventions and two UNESCO cultural programmes, this course enabled its participants to effectively prepare nomination files, periodic monitoring reports, as well as the elaboration of related policies and action plans, tailored for GCC professionals. As the first part of this two-part programme was delivered online, the follow-up activity, aimed to take place in 2023, was designed to complement the theoretical training of participants with practical in-situ exercises.



**Image:**

Participants during a practical exercise for the conservation of mosaics in storage, Sidon, Lebanon.

■ **The 7 modules of this training focused on the:**

- 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention
- 1972 World Heritage Convention
- 1970 Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property
- 1954 Hague Convention
- UNESCO Programme on Industrial Heritage
- UNESCO Programme on Creative Cities Network
- 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

## INTERNSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

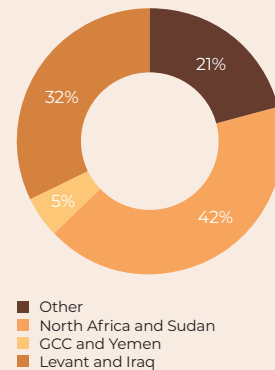
An internship at ICCROM-Sharjah creates an opportunity for young graduates to experience what it means to embark on a career in the field of conservation, and more specifically, what it means to work within an international organization. Firmly believing in the central role that education plays in the preservation of cultural heritage, which in turn contributes to the socio-economic development of a country, considerable efforts were made in the last years to improve the opportunity of interning at ICCROM-Sharjah.

All internships were undertaken in association with one of the priority areas underway at ICCROM-Sharjah at the time of holding the internship. Since the inauguration of ICCROM-Sharjah's premises in 2014, a total of 19 interns were selected to be involved in and contribute to the work of the Regional Office.

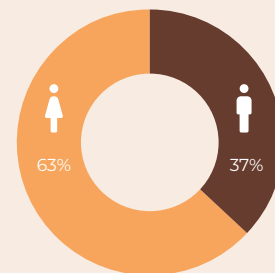
Furthermore, multiple scholarships were granted to participants who applied for ICCROM-Sharjah's training courses. In addition to giving scholarships for its own courses, the participation of mid-career professionals from the Arab region in other capacity activities of ICCROM were also awarded scholarships.

Adjusting to the new normal, post COVID-19 pandemic, ICCROM-Sharjah is now looking to increase the number of beneficiaries of scholarships and internships in the coming biennia. While internships and fellowships are open to all candidates from ICCROM Member States, preference is given to candidates coming from the Arab region, or whose focus of study fits ICCROM-Sharjah's priority areas.

**Nationality distribution of our interns since 2014:**



**Gender distribution of interns:**



Want to learn more about Internships, scholarships and fellowships? [Click here](#), or scan QR code.



### Here is what our past interns have to say about their experience with us ...

“ Want a professional supportive work environment to develop your skill set and sample various components of the cultural heritage field in the Middle East and North Africa? If so, then the ICCROM-Sharjah's internship programme would be a great place to start.

The numerous fulfilling experiences, team's warm embrace and thoughtful guidance of its leadership, will make an internship with them worth your while. I had exciting opportunities such as assisting in drafting conservation guidelines for the United Arab Emirates and crafting a global underwater archaeology workshop's programme. It was especially rewarding when I was given the chance to aid renowned conservationists to preserve the ancient Ed-Dur Temple. I received hands-on experience that complimented my anthropology studies and was able to utilize other skills from my communications training to support both the restoration and the Centre's mission. The internship resulted in a consultancy job that provided unique assignments like representing ICCROM at international conferences such as ALESCO's Architectural Heritage Observatory of Arab Countries' launch in Tunis. The Centre's resources meanwhile enabled me to foster vital relations with major media organizations to amplify its reach like with Al Arabiya's exclusive Louvre coverage. It's a no-brainer, it is important to have a conservation centre in a region home to the cradle of civilization, and its place in society lends a marketing power I was able to harness. I still reminisce about my time with ICCROM-Sharjah, it truly is a place where passion and hard work leads to growth and memorable experiences. I am even more grateful for the existence of such a crucial centre for its efforts in preserving our shared heritage for future generations. ”

**Hameed Evenson**

Intern at ICCROM-Sharjah from 1 January to 29 February 2016

# OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST DECADE



Policy Development



→

**Images from left to right:**

Participants of the Sharjah Initiative Symposium.

Symposium on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis.

## The Sharjah Initiative: Regional Symposium on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

**Dates:** 22–24 May, 2012

**Location:** Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

As a result of the social and political upheaval in parts of the Arab region, and the subsequent damage to cultural heritage, an international symposium was organized with the aim of developing an Arab regional framework to guide national policies for heritage protection in relation to emergency planning, infrastructure, law and public awareness.

Specialists representing institutions from twelve Arab countries, together with international organizations and other experts working in this field, addressed the types of cultural heritage that have been most vulnerable, threatened or damaged in the last decade, focusing on the weaknesses in current heritage protection systems, inadequate records, lack of manpower, emergency preparedness and physical protection. This symposium provided the perfect platform to argue for the reviewing of existing national laws and assistance required to develop model legislations for the conservation of cultural heritage in the region, prioritizing provisions for emergency planning.

During the three days of intensive deliberations, special attention was given to the roles to be played by governmental and non-governmental organizations to minimize damage to cultural heritage, along with the opportunities that cultural heritage and its protection can provide for recovery and reconciliation. These discussions resulted in an agreement of actions to be pursued, called the Sharjah Initiative.

## Symposium on Conservation of Urban Heritage: Living Heritage in Islamic Cities

**Dates:** 30–31 March, 2014

**Location:** Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

During this two-day symposium, co-organised by the Department of Culture and Information and the Directorate of Heritage in Sharjah, lecturers from participating organisations explored ways in which to protect urban heritage, using experiences from Islamic cities in Bosnia, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and



Uzbekistan. Emphasising the need to involve local communities in conservation and development projects in Arab cities, the symposium also served as an opportunity to address urban heritage conservation methodologies and standards, particularly those relevant to world heritage in cities such as Cairo, Damascus, Aleppo, Sana'a and Shibam in Yemen, and Bahla Oasis in Oman.

The interactive sessions of the symposium resulted in a series of recommendations that included the use of the latest Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation (ITUC) methodologies by adopting approaches that aim at conserving urban heritage as a vector for optimising sustainable development, along with the need to integrate concepts of urban heritage conservation in educational programmes on all levels. In the context of Sharjah and the United Arab Emirates, specific practical procedures were recommended to reconnect the Heart of Sharjah with Al-Khor, revitalising the role Al-Khor played in the community's everyday-day life.

## Symposium on Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis

**Dates:** 15 December, 2014

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Held within the scope of the "Sharjah Initiative", a framework developed in 2012 for the protection of cultural heritage in times of crises for the Arab region, and in response to the deteriorating conditions of the cultural heritage resulting from the regional on-going political upheavals, a symposium was organised to strengthen the region's strategic actions in protecting its cultural and religious heritage.



The symposium brought together Directors of Heritage/Antiquities from Arab Member States, as well as international participants and speakers representing a broad range of cultural and development institutions including UNESCO, ICCROM, ISESCO (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization), the World Bank and the UN World Tourism Organization. Sessions and discussions during the symposium addressed the challenges in protecting cultural heritage in the current context within the Arab region and explored the socio-cultural and economic dimensions in the processes for cultural heritage reconstruction and recovery. Particular focus was given to the existing legal frameworks in the processes of cultural heritage mitigation and recovery, in addition to advocating for community participation in mapping cultural crises.

The symposium resulted in a unanimous Statement by national representatives that provided a basis for strengthening policy and practice for the safeguarding of cultural heritage in times of crisis. It included an action plan devised to assist Arab governments in their efforts to safeguard endangered cultural heritage on both the national and regional levels. The Statement was later presented at the 19th Session of Arab Ministers of Culture Meeting, which took place in Riyadh on 11 January 2015, and obtained their endorsement and support.

**Workshop on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis**

**Dates:** 15–17 December, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Following the Sharjah Initiative 2012 and the Sharjah Statement 2014, which jointly laid the foundation for guidelines to be followed by the Arab states in the protection of their heritage, and after reviewing the results of the capacity building activities implemented with the aim of forming multidisciplinary national teams responsible for the protection and salvage of cultural heritage, this workshop was organized in close cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

Following an analysis of the general conditions of cultural heritage in the Arab region that suffered from major destruction

and theft in the last decade, the workshop attendees concurred on the importance of training multidisciplinary national teams in the Arab states to be adequately equipped for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage before, during and after crises. It was agreed to adopt an action plan, to be executed in 2016 together with ICCROM-Sharjah and its partners, that would foresee the creation of a database comprising the different inventories and archives of movable and immovable cultural heritage records in the Arab state, rendering it as a key resource in times of crisis as well as for research purposes. The workshop participants also agreed to dedicate exerted efforts for the creation of an emergency fund for cultural heritage salvage in the Arab region and to support the work of Arab states for the development and implementation of their local laws in conformity with international agreements and approaches.

**International Expert Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage**

**Dates:** 9–11 May, 2016

**Location:** Tunisia, Tunisia

Organized in cooperation with the Libyan Department of Antiquities and UNESCO, and with the support of the United States Embassy to Libya in Tunisia, this three-day workshop sought to identify practical actions to engage civil society, customs and security services in protecting Libya's numerous cultural heritage sites and in combating illicit trafficking through projects designed to safeguard the country's cultural assets.



Images from left to right: International Expert Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Roundtable on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities, organized with the Louvre Lens Museum







Together with Libyan stakeholders representing heritage sites, historic cities and civil society, with local and international experts, as well as several scientific missions in Libya and multiple international organizations, a priority action plan was devised by the participants to address four main areas of interest: archaeological sites, museum collections and archives, historic cities and intangible heritage. The plan stressed the need to enhance data and inventory management to include damage and risk assessment, using up-to-date technology and standards, institutional capacity building and the improvement of governance for heritage protection. Special emphasis was also given to the need to develop protection methods and systems for collections, archives, archaeological sites and historic buildings which also included the involvement of local communities, municipalities and government partners. The meeting concluded with a consensus to design and implement advocacy and outreach activities aimed specifically at engaging civil society institutions, schools and the media.

### Roundtable on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities

**Dates:** 20-21 January, 2017

**Location:** Louvre-Lens, France

The reconstruction or recovery of destroyed heritage assets poses technical, scientific and methodological questions, together with ethical, economic and political ones. Organized in partnership with Louvre-Lens Museum in France, and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Tourcoing, France, this symposium, based on first-hand regional and international

experiences, provided an opportunity for participants to discuss approaches towards heritage reconstruction by comparing examples from different time periods and regions. The event brought together representatives from international organizations including the European Commission, World Bank, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ALECSO, IRCICA and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, as well as other representatives from several governments and universities in France, Europe and the Middle East.

While the first day of the symposium was devoted to the introduction of the different viewpoints on post-conflict reconstruction through the presentation of case studies from Europe and the Middle East, the second day focused on the role of development agencies in reconstruction processes and strategy development for areas emerging from armed conflict. A round-table summarised the debates put forward in this symposium, and were featured in the pre-print proceedings that were made available in late 2017.

### Meeting on National Legislations in the Arab Region Aiming to Protect Cultural Heritage

**Dates:** 5-7 July, 2017

**Location:** Krakow, Poland

In response to the critical need of Arab States to protect their cultural heritage from deliberate destruction, massive looting, illicit trafficking and smuggling, in addition to the passing of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 – the first to be entirely devoted to cultural heritage protection in conflict zones, without geographical limitation, and for all types of threats – a meeting on the “Means to Strengthen Cultural Heritage Protection in the Arab Region: Legal and Policy Frameworks” was organized as a side-event to the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee.

For three days, legal and cultural heritage experts, together with representatives of international explored the opportunities and challenges of legal aspects related to the protection of cultural heritage. Focusing on legal, institutional, administrative and awareness-raising actions aiming for a long-term paradigm shift in the field of cultural heritage protection, at national and regional levels, the overall objective of the meeting was to develop a shared understanding of critical issues related to

cultural heritage protection in the Arab region. By examining the status of ratification and implementation of international legal instruments, and by looking at terrorist threats and their devastating impacts, relevant means and channels which could concretely influence cultural policies were investigated, providing tailored guidelines for the updating of national legislations to address gaps in legal provisions relevant to cultural heritage protection and management. On this occasion, experts also had the opportunity to identify partners and stakeholders, involved in cultural heritage protection, to create a solid network with in order to promote a change in the long-term.

The participants of the meeting agreed on a series of measures that resulted in an action plan with realistic and tangible steps, benchmarks and mechanisms engaging each country or partner institution to implement adequate cultural heritage protection. These were presented at a side event to Member States attending the World Heritage Committee Meeting.

### **Legal and Institutional Frameworks for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Arab and African Countries**

**Dates:** 22–24 October, 2018

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Following the 2017 meeting which was held in Krakow, Poland, an international meeting on "Enhancing Legal and Institutional Frameworks for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Arab and African Countries" was designed to review and record the current status of legal and administrative protection of cultural heritage, with some focus on illicit trafficking in conflict situations. Organized with support from the Swiss Government and the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development in the UAE, this meeting was an opportunity to discuss existing cultural policies and legal frameworks, in addition to their effectiveness in protecting cultural heritage from deliberate destruction. Devised with the aim of forming a working group that would



[...] From 2008 to 2011, in charge of the Euromed Heritage program, I closely associated ICCROM\_ATHAR. I have also had the honour of working in multiple symposia and workshops with ICCROM-Sharjah, including the workshops on the “Means to Strengthen Cultural Heritage Protection in the Arab Region: Legal and Policy Frameworks” held in Krakow, Poland, and the International Colloquium on the Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities, held in collaboration with Louvre-Lens. All the major themes and challenges in the field of heritage conservation were addressed, and in particular, the measures to be taken to protect cultural heritage from armed conflict, something which the MENA region has experienced as of late.

In recent years, ICCROM-Sharjah has continued its momentum, to become a world-class reference centre, both for the addressing key issues in the field of heritage conservation and for capacity building. We can rest assured that the next ten years will provide confirmation of these major achievements at the service of heritage and international cooperation [...].”

**Jean-Louis Luxen**  
President | Culture, Heritage & Development



7

**Image:**

Site assessment of a wreck from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD discovered in the Baia Salinredda, Sardinia, Italy © E. Trainito.

formulate and follow up on viable practical procedures, this meeting saw participants from Arab countries and Sub-Saharan Africa, along with representatives of international organizations, heritage departments officials, legal experts and representatives of regional and international organizations, including UNESCO, UNIDROIT and INTERPOL, come together. The participation of other countries from Africa in this meeting was effective in drawing similarities between the cases of the Arab countries and other countries in neighbouring regions.

Case studies on conservation legislative tools recently issued in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and UAE, were used to address methods of developing scientific and specialized capabilities, and stressed on the importance of establishing comprehensive national databases for museums' collections. The conclusions of the meeting provided basis to devise a practical action plan for short, medium, and long terms. This meeting addressed the legal and institutional frameworks, touching on all aspects of heritage management including underwater cultural heritage, historic urban landscapes and post-war recovery.

## International Meeting on "Historic Cities in Arab Countries"

**Dates:** 26–28 November, 2018

**Location:** Essaouira, Morocco

In cooperation with national and local authorities in Morocco and partnership with the Moroccan Society for Antiquities and Heritage (SMAP), this meeting aimed to become a platform for urban conservators to exchange their experiences in overcoming common challenges in managing Historic Urban Landscapes, and thus review the state of conservation and management of historic cities in the Arab countries. The meeting presentations were diverse in themes. Forty-three experts presented case-studies from 22 cities in 13 Arab countries, on general concepts such as the development of HUL and its management, as well as the post-war recovery in Mosul, Aleppo and Sana'a were inspiring for historic city managers. Benefitting from each other's experience, the meeting contributed towards the creation of a network of historic cities experts in the Arab region, considering the escalating challenges facing them.

## Regional Workshop on the Protection and Management of Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage

**Dates:** 28–31 January, 2019

**Location:** Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, UAE

In partnership with UNESCO and the New York University of Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), this workshop was organized to support future development of relevant programmes in the Arab countries. With experts and representatives of official cultural institutions in the Arab region, the participants of the workshop formed a regional working group that discussed strategies for the conservation and management of maritime and submerged cultural heritage aiming to raise the awareness of policy makers on the need to protect it, to ratify relevant international conventions, and to integrate them in national legislation in order to establish a policy framework relevant to the realities of the region.

After presenting the situation of maritime and underwater cultural heritage in their countries, as well as existing legal frameworks currently in place, the regional working group agreed on several recommendations in the areas of capacity building, fighting illicit trade and sustainable development.

### Workshop on Post-Crisis Recovery of Historic Cities in the Arab Region

**Dates:** 24–28 February, 2019  
**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Based on first-hand regional and international experiences of specialists from international organizations, including the World Bank, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, UN HABITAT, as well as practitioners and academics from the fields of cultural heritage, social and economic development, humanitarian assistance, conflict transformation and resilience, this workshop offered participants an opportunity to examine the challenges and opportunities, tools and methodologies for post-crisis recovery of cultural heritage in the Arab region, in addition to developing a framework to address the capacity building needs.

Through interactive group work sessions, participants reviewed tools for analysing the general context in several affected historic cities, in addition to identifying the steps to be taken in terms of post-crisis recovery implementation. Among the case studies discussed were Mosul in Iraq, Aleppo in Syria and Sana'a in Yemen, as well as other case studies and projects implemented by ICCROM and its partners in Sudan, Egypt and Bosnia. At the end of the workshop, participants devised an outline for a general methodological framework and decision-making process for post-crisis recovery of cultural heritage.

### The MEDINA Initiative

**Dates:** June – July, 2020  
**Location:** Online

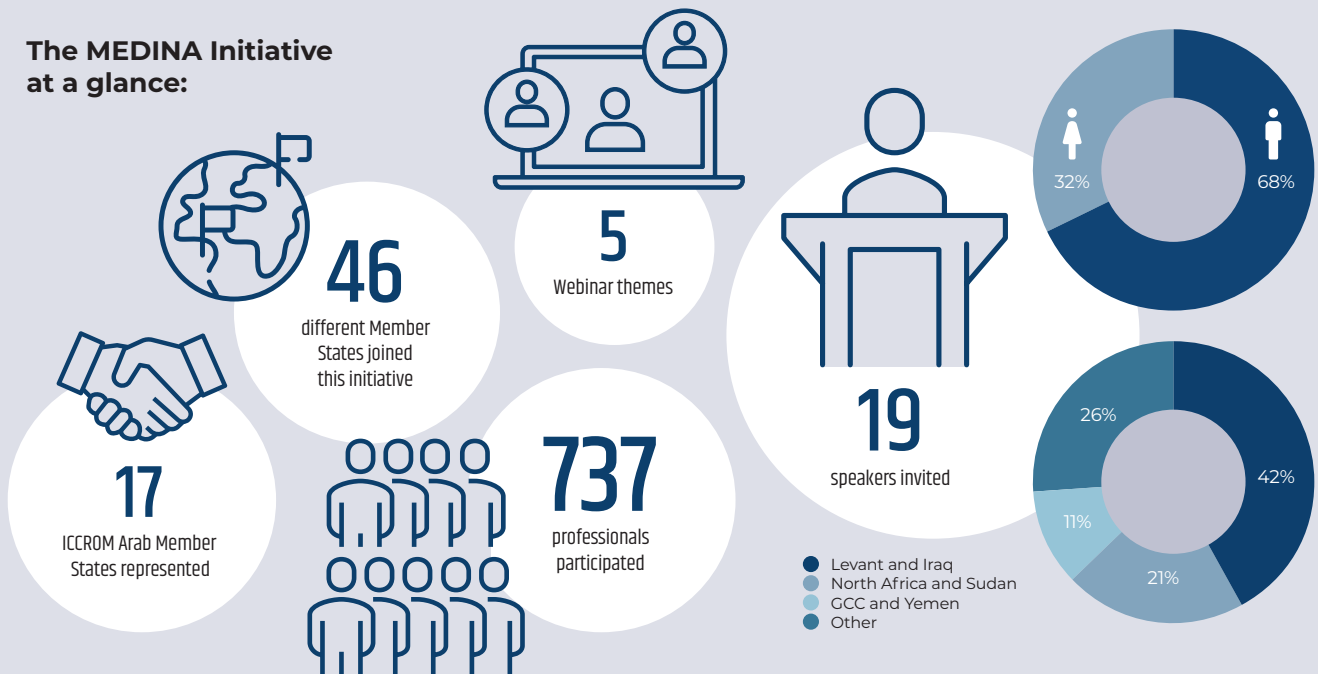
Recognising the essential role historic cities play in ensuring the continuity of community values, livelihoods and urban harmony, in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, new initiative titled “MEDINA” was launched to connect world expertise in urban heritage and spread the related knowledge. Consisting in a series of webinars, this initiative addressed the protection of historic cities in the Arab region, supported the enhancement of urban heritage management and highlighted the role of cultural heritage in sustainable urban development. The webinars in fact served as a platform for promoting the brainstorming and discussion of the current needs and priorities of the Arab region, and to later devise an effective plan of action.

This new initiative, through which urban artistic initiatives to support the creativity and wellbeing of local communities were encouraged, invited both international, regional and local practitioners and organizations working in urban heritage conservation, to discuss and address five main themes.

1. Urban Transformation of Historic Cities and Post-conflict Recovery Plans
2. Institutional Capacity in Managing Urban Heritage

→  
**Images from left to right:**  
 Essaouira, Marocco  
 Regional workshop on “Climate Change and Historic Cities in the MENA Region”

### The MEDINA Initiative at a glance:





## Regional workshop on “Climate Change and Historic Cities in the MENA Region: Integrating Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Adaptation and the Sustainable Development of Historic Cities

**Date:** 31 January – 2 February 2023

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

In the process of adapting to climate change by proactively preparing for the potential risks associated with global warming, within the framework of the MEDINA Initiative for the management of historic cities in the Arab region, a symposium on climate change adaptation in Arab historical cities was organized. Although it was envisaged to take place in late 2022, it was effectively implemented in early 2023.

This initiative provided an opportunity to analyse and understand the potential risks of climate change on the different climatic regions in the Arab region, raise awareness on the risks associated with climate change, and discuss how the traditional knowledge and practices of a community can help mitigate and adapt to the risks induced by global climate change. The ultimate goal of this Initiative was to encourage the authorities responsible for managing historic cities to prepare for the climate change emergency, while also researching the possibility of implementing relevant projects in the Arab region in partnership between ICCROM. In addition to experts, academic and research institutions, several UN organizations took part in this workshop (UNEP, UN-Habitat and UN-ESCWA).

3. Managing Urban Heritage in its Natural Environment and Climate Change
4. Traditional Knowledge and Economics of Historical Cities
5. General Framework of MEDINA Initiative: Integration of Initiatives

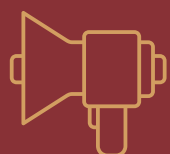
Addressing the current challenges that historic cities are facing, the importance of documenting traditional knowledge and geo-referencing using GIS, in addition to the importance of capacity building of local institutions and communities with the relevant knowledge and tools to further research in the relevant fields, the MEDINA also emphasized the importance of building partnerships with local stakeholders whose mandates are in line with the project goals. By the end of the webinar series, a list of priority areas pertaining to the issues of ownership of heritage, need for documentation, training and furthering education were highlighted, along with the next steps to be taken. The webinars not only provided the opportunity to address the importance of intangible heritage and the environment, but also the need to support local economies, humanising heritage and working closely with the youth.



All the MEDINA Initiative webinars are now online. [Click here](#), or scan QR code below.



# OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST DECADE



Outreach and Advocacy



→

**Images from left to right:**

Participants of the LACONA X Conference at the American University of Sharjah, UAE

ICCROM-Sharjah's Celebrating a Decade of Achievements Exhibition

## 7th World Archaeological Congress (WAC7)

**Date:** 14–18 January, 2013

**Location:** Dead Sea, Jordan

Co-organized with the University of Vienna, a session titled “Archaeology as a Target: Preservation and Heritage Identities in Times of Conflict” was devised to address a number of topics that focused on methodologies developed thus far by specialist organizations, with regards to the protection of archaeological heritage in times of crisis. ICCROM and its Regional Office in Sharjah organized a final workshop session aimed at following up on the 2012 Sharjah Initiative and at formulating an action plan focusing initially on key questions identified for this WAC theme. The workshop emphasised the challenges of the Arab region in protecting cultural heritage in times of crisis – building on the practical experiences and lessons learnt – and put forward a series of recommendations that were presented at the final session of WAC7 for the enhancement of national legislative measures aimed at the protection of cultural heritage in times of crisis, the development of institutional and communal capacity building programmes for preparedness, response and recovery, in addition to the to work with authorities and NGOs to provide standardised baseline information aimed at making informed decisions concerning required technical assistance, combating illicit trafficking of artefacts and understanding the patterns of conflict.

## Celebrating a Decade of Achievements

**Date:** December 2014 – December 2019

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Wanting to celebrate ten years of achievements in the field of cultural heritage protection, a poster exhibition was designed to highlight ICCROM-Sharjah's work in the Arab region, first as the ICCROM ATHAR Programme and then as a Regional Office. The exhibition collected photos of the past activities implemented and testimonials of course participants, in addition to the successful stories of the projects implemented as part the ICCROM-Sharjah's capacity building activities, selected within the framework of the course participants' home institutions.



## Lasers in the Conservation of Artworks

**Date:** 9–13 June, 2014

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

ICCROM-Sharjah hosted the biennial International Conference on “Lasers in the Conservation of Artworks” in its tenth edition (LACONA X). Aimed at promoting applied research relevant to the use of laser technologies in conserving cultural heritage for the benefit of professionals in conserving artworks, and heritage and archaeological works in the Arab world, the conference gathered researchers, conservators and conservation scientists, companies, architects, decision-makers and experts in laser-based techniques for the conservation of cultural heritage to share their latest projects and experiences.

With more than 180 professionals from all over the world attending the conference, the event became an ideal forum for networking among researchers and communication of new initiatives and projects, attracting more people involved scientifically in the field of preservation of cultural heritage to ICCROM. The conference discussed topics related to conservation projects where laser-based methods have been used in some aspect of conservation, cleaning, documentation or analysis, laser-based methods for imaging, 3D documentation and modelling.

Furthermore, topics on the documentation and examination of objects and structures and laser-based techniques for analysis and monitoring were also explored. The significance of this conference derives from the need to consolidate the relation between research and practical application in the field of conservation. Selected papers from the LACONAX Conference were published after a peer-reviewing process in a special volume of Studies in Conservation Journal in 2015.

### **ICCROM-ATHAR Exhibition at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee**

**Date:** 15–25 June, 2014

**Location:** Doha, Qatar

ICCROM- Sharjah attended the World Heritage Committee Meeting at its 38<sup>th</sup> Session, where it had the opportunity to hold side events highlighting its work in the Arab region, first as a programme and then as a Regional Office of ICCROM, through an exhibition in the Qatar National Convention Centre. The event was completed with a public lecture discussing the current situation and needs relevant to movable and built cultural heritage in the region, the

role of the Regional Office, in addition to the possible actions to be pursued to enhance international cooperation.

### **Highlights of Cultural Heritage in the Arab World Exhibition**

**Date:** 14 December, 2014 – 31 March, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Coinciding with the Opening Ceremony of ICCROM's Regional Office in Sharjah, was the inauguration of the premises' Central Exhibition Hall with an exhibition illustrating the richness and diversity of cultural heritage in the Arab world by presenting a variety of archaeological sites, historical monuments and traditional handicrafts.

The walls of the exhibition hall displayed a timeline that incorporated the most prominent historical monuments and periods in the Gulf, Levant, Mesopotamia, Al-Maghreb, the African Horn, and the Nile Valley, along with videos highlighting the history and culture of the relevant regions. The centre of the hall was dedicated to exhibiting selections from the heritage of the United Arab Emirates in the form of archaeological objects, architectural models and other traditional heritage.







### Heritage and the Youth Art Exhibitions

**Date:** 14 December, 2015 – 14 December, 2015

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

During the inauguration of the ICCROM-Sharjah premises, concurrently with the exhibition on “Highlights of Cultural Heritage in the Arab World”, two other exhibitions were hosted, both focusing on youth and heritage. While the first exhibited the artworks of students from local schools, between the ages of 9 -12, who took part in a competition depicting what cultural heritage meant to them, the second exhibition consisted of posters produced by university students depicting the different fields in which the Islamic World has contributed to world history.

### SOIMA 2015

**Date:** 3–4 September, 2015

**Location:** Brussels, Belgium

Today’s knowledge on the preservation and access of heritage is fragmented, often trapped in separate areas of expertise, thus presenting a huge challenge to those who wish to preserve and collect such material. ICCROM’s Sound Image Collections organized an international conference titled “Unlocking Sound and Image Heritage” with the aim of fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge

exchange, to ensure that audio-visual heritage is available in the future. Supported by twelve national and international cultural institutions working with such recordings, this event brought together over 200 creators, collectors, cultural heritage practitioners, policy makers, innovators and business leaders from over 40 countries.

With the urgent need to raise awareness and address the current needs and challenges related to the state of conservation and management of audio-visual cultural heritage in the Arab region, both at a national and regional level, ICCROM-Sharjah took part in this event. Through its participation in this conference, ICCROM-Sharjah highlighted a fundamental need to manage, digitise and conserve manuscripts, images, archives, videos, as well as microfilms that collectively form the basis of the national memory of the Arab culture. These facets necessitate the provision of means, structures, policies and technology to protect this cultural heritage and make it known to future generations to learn from, and to enhance dialogue and cultural understanding inter-regionally and internationally. To this end, side meetings were held with Ambassadors and representatives of the Embassies of Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Oman, and Yemen, where the delegates put forward strategic directions to safeguard the memory, especially of displaced peoples and present societies in the region.

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**Images from left to right:**

HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, visiting ICCROM-Sharjah’s Highlights of Cultural Heritage in the Arab World Exhibition.

Poster from the *Heritage and the Youth Art Exhibitions*.

Ms Farah Al Sabah at the *SOIMA 2015 Conference*.

### Best Conservation Practices in the Arab World

**Date:** 7-10 April, 2016

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Aiming to draw public attention to issues relevant to heritage conservation this project exhibition was held at the Heart of Sharjah as part of the Sharjah Heritage Days activities. This exhibition brought to the forefront conservation work accomplished in the fields of museums and urban heritage sites in the Arab region. In the exhibition, selected photos and posters presented the impact of conservation projects both socially and economically.

H.H. Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated this exhibition and awarded trophies to the exhibition participants whose projects brought to the forefront the conservation work accomplished in the fields of museums and urban heritage sites in the Arab region. In the exhibition, selected photos and posters presented the impact of conservation projects both socially and economically.

The exhibition presented 14 projects:

- Rehabilitation of the Old City Council Building in Damanhur, Egypt
- Urban Development of Al-Mu'izz li-Din Allah Al-Fatimi Street in Cairo, Egypt
- Conservation of Amra Palace Site, Jordan
- Conservation of Baalbek Archaeological Site, Lebanon
- Conservation of Tyre Tomb at the National Museum in Beirut, Lebanon
- Innovative Materials for the Restoration of Mosaic Floors at the Silene Roman Palace, Libya
- Visitors Centre at Volubilis Archaeological Site, Morocco
- Development and Management of Hisham's Palace, Jericho, Palestine
- Conservation Plan for the Destroyed Buildings in Historical Suakin, Sudan
- Rehabilitation of the Old Citadel in Damascus, Syria
- Inventory as Tool for the Rehabilitation of the Old City in Tunis, Tunisia
- Restoration and Revival of Ad-Dour temple in Umm Al-Quwain, UAE
- Restoration and Development of Bait Al-Ansari in Sharjah, UAE

- Restoration and Reconstruction of the Buildings Located in Al Qasimi District, Sana'a, Yemen

The project exhibition, which was held in the Heart of Sharjah as part of the Sharjah Heritage Days, provided also the opportunity to announce the launch of the biennial ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Conservation Practices.

### ART'17 – 12th International Conference on Non-destructive Investigations and Microanalysis for the Diagnostics and Conservation of Cultural and Environmental Heritage

**Date:** 7–9 March, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

Non-destructive analysis is a crucial method to achieve more successful and long-lasting preservation of works of art and environmental heritage. With the aim to promote education and competence in this field, the ART'17 was organized and held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, at American University of Sharjah.

Bringing together experts in non-destructive evaluation and material analysis served as the perfect opportunity to explore the impact of new technologies and state-of-the-art development of non-destructive testing equipment including X-ray instrumentation, sources, optics, detectors and accessories, laser spectroscopies, infrared and ultrasonic equipment and various microscopic equipment.

Tackling the different artistic, historic, environmental and technical problems faced in the profession of those who daily cope with degradation, conservation and restoration of different works of art, the technical and scientific programme included both short presentations and poster sessions that highlighted the application of NDT in a large number of important sectors, contributing to the continuous development of new scientific methods in the fields of preservation, reconstruction and diagnostics of cultural and environmental artworks.

### Accompanied by HH The Ruler of Sharjah, the former Prince of Wales (King Charles III) visits ICCROM-Sharjah

**Date:** 8 November, 2016

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

During the official visit to the United Arab Emirates, devised in order to promote the UK's partnership in the region in key areas regarding the preservation of cultural heritage, the former Prince of Wales, now King Charles III, was greeted by His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, at ICCROM's Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, UAE.

The Regional Office's work, dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the Arab region, was presented through the exhibition on "Best Conservation Practices in the Arab World", held earlier in 2016, in which selected projects were presented as examples of best conservation work accomplished in the fields of museums and urban heritage sites in the Arab region, and the impact of these conservation projects both socially and economically.

Following the exhibition, the former Prince of Wales and HH Sheikh Dr Sultan

bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, were introduced to first aid techniques used for the stabilization of objects during an emergency. This was done through a series of table-top exercises set up to demonstrate first aid techniques for the conservation of objects, discussing stages of a first aid plan in times of crisis, namely: salvage, stabilization, packing and storage. Exercises like these are used in ICCROM-Sharjah's course simulations, as provides participants with the opportunity to use all the skills for assessing and responding during complex emergency situations, acquired throughout a course. The visit concluded with their Royal Highnesses meeting with some of the participants of ICCROM-Sharjah's latest Regional Leadership Course on First Aid and Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, which took place in Sharjah from 4 – 31 October 2016. This course offered hands-on training aimed at preparing proactive cultural first-aiders, by exploring the tools and abilities needed to assess risks to cultural heritage and reduce the impact of such crises. Participants discussed what they learnt during the course and how they would implement the knowledge acquired upon their return to their home countries.

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**Image:**

HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, and the Former Prince of Wales, during a table-top exercises set up to demonstrate first aid techniques for the conservation of objects in times of crises.



### Seminar on Historic Cities of the Gulf Post-Oil Period

**Date:** 10–11 May, 2017

**Location:** Sharjah and Dubai, UAE

In cooperation with the Government of Sharjah and the Department of Architectural Heritage and Archaeology, of the Dubai Municipality, a two-day symposium was organized with the aim of analyzing the process of transformation that took place in Gulf historic cities. As the emerging cities in the Gulf are extreme cases in which the history of urban evolution can be reduced to a time period of a few decades, the production of oil and the liberalization strategies are to be considered the key forces driving the modern urbanization process in this subregion. Thus, as the challenges to conserving heritage in Gulf cities are unique and distinct, this two-day symposium analyzed the circumstances experienced in Gulf cities by interpreting and discussing their development and growth due to the discovery of oil.

Case studies were used to compare with other cities from around the world that did not have oil, and how oil influences the advancement of development, growth and prosperity. Participants provided their own concepts and visions for preserving the importance of cultural heritage in a pre-oil era and followed up on its subsequent development. A main outcome of the symposium is the publication of the proceedings, in which the recommendations concerning the evolving concept of authenticity and reconstruction in the Gulf region in order to protect its history and legacy are discussed and explored.

### "The Day After: Shadows of Heritage" Travelling Exhibition

First presented at the Egyptian Academy in Rome, during ICCROM's General Assembly Session in November 2017, this traveling photographic exhibition presented heritage sites before and after destruction due to conflict and war that took place in Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. Other editions of this exhibition formed part of other ICCROM activities during the 42nd Session of World Heritage Committee in Bahrain, and was hosted in Sidi Mohammed Bin Abdullah Museum in the Old City of Essaouira, Morocco in 2018, as well as at the Petra National Trust in Amman, Jordan in 2019.

### Africa Expert Meeting: Contribution to Africa Programme

**Date:** 9 January, 2018

**Location:** Rome, Italy

Fifteen professionals from various institutions met to discuss how best to design an impactful programme to support youth and its engagement in heritage in the African region. Taking inspiration from the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly from the development goals for sustainable cities and communities, gender equality, decent work and economic growth. Also invoked was the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 "The Africa We Want", which is committed to realizing Africa's full potential in development, culture and peace.

Held at the Egyptian Academy in Rome, potential directions were put forward in order to connect and inspire African youth with the possibilities of their rich heritage, including the use digital technologies, including social media, to promote heritage awareness and support creative industries. Furthermore, possibilities for engaging heritage as an economic asset to address poverty and unemployment among young people were also explored.

→ **Images from left to right:**

Former Prime Minister of Jordan HE Omar Razzaz and HRH Princess Dana Firas at the 2019 Exhibition the Day After: Shadows of Heritage, Amman, Jordan.

1st Arab Forum - A Regional Vision to Preserve and Promote Cultural Heritage.





### Forum for Arab Cultural Heritage

Aiming to encourage a dialogue for the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage in the Arab world, ICCROM-Sharjah has been organizing, thanks to the patronage of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, the Arab Cultural Heritage Forum – a biennial annual think-tank conference designed with the intent of developing philosophical principles and approaches, based on local and regional perceptions. Through its thematic sessions, discussions and daily workshops, experts from different cultural fields are invited to discuss and examine concepts related to the essence of tangible cultural heritage conservation in the Arab Region, as well as the influences on conservation strategies, approaches and practice. The Forum in fact creates the opportunity to identify regional challenges and pose significant questions that advocate relevant approaches for the conservation of cultural heritage. The recommendations of each Forum are published to document and disseminate its outcomes for a wider benefit to professional communities, policy-makers and the public.

■ “A Regional Vision to Preserve and Promote Cultural Heritage”  
- the 1st Arab Forum

**Date:** 6–8 February, 2018

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

More than 150 experts from around the world gathered to take part in this Forum that focused on the notions and perceptions of cultural heritage in the Arab Region, the reasons that motivate societies to preserve it, the threats it faces and the development of strategies to protect it. During the Forum’s sessions, participants agreed on the significance of preserving cultural heritage in the Arab world for communities to ensure the continuity of past traditions, the need to highlight its diversity and to consider it as a source of richness that forms part of the value, legal and educational systems in the Arab states.

The outcomes of the Forum constituted a framework for the development of heritage conservation policies in the Arab region, which were presented at the 2018 Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Arab States, held in Cairo.

Want to learn more about the Forum? [Click here](#), or scan QR code below.



## OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

### ■ “Authenticity, Community and Conservation in the Arab Thought” - the 2nd Arab Forum

**Date:** 9–10 November, 2020

**Location:** Online

Due to the pandemic, the 2nd Arab Forum, which was originally planned to take place in early 2020, was postponed and held online. Local, national and international academics, students, historians, architects, archaeologists, conservators, and other culture and heritage professionals participated in the event. The interactive online sessions of this edition of the Arab Forum, called for the promotion of the significance and meanings of cultural heritage by various means, thus formulating a vision and future steps to enhance the notion of “authenticity” in regional and diverse world contexts. Discussions also stressed the importance of integrating heritage into sustainable urban development and adopting the concept of cultural diplomacy as a means of building peace.

The Forum, which promoted communication and dialogue between people and cultures, explored the means for engaging diverse communities in conservation and post-disaster recovery projects. Additionally, it also

served as an opportunity to analyze the role of museums and education in making cultural heritage more understandable and relevant to the public.

### ■ "Rethinking the Future of Islamic Arts and Heritage" – the 3rd Arab Forum

**Date:** 17–18 November, 2021

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

ICCROM-Sharjah together with the Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Muslim and Arab Sciences at the University of Sharjah, organized the 3rd Arab Forum on “Rethinking the Future of Islamic Arts and Heritage”, held at the University of Sharjah on 17 November and at the UN Hub at the Expo Dubai on 18 November 2021. Theoretical and practical perspectives were discussed to explore the diverse nature of Islamic arts and heritage, with a specific focus on inter-disciplinary nature of the field. In addition, the Forum explored various case studies on the preservation and presentation of Islamic heritage, exploring the bridging, dialogue-promoting, and unifying role of Islamic arts and heritage in inter-ethnic and inter-religious contexts, while investigating the role of museums in building communal awareness in Islamic artistic legacies.





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**Images from left to right:**

"Rethinking the Future of Islamic Arts and Heritage" – the 3rd Arab Forum.

ICCROM-Sharjah MEDINA Initiative exhibition of historic cities in the Arab region.

## Protecting the Past

Protecting the Past was an international conference and workshop co-organized by ICCROM-Sharjah and the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) Project, in cooperation with regional partners in MENA region. The purpose of holding this conference was to move beyond describing the threats facing the cultural heritage of the region and focus on understanding them. In addition to examining new approaches and projects for heritage protection, the conference also served as an opportunity to bring together international stakeholders to share knowledge, confront pressing global heritage challenges and explore new heritage protection opportunities in MENA region – promoting a debate and discussion on a varied threats to cultural heritage sites, while facilitating the communication between different groups, thus enhancing regional understanding of the issues.

### ■ 2018: From Digital Documentation to Heritage Management in the MENA Region

**Date:** 4–6 December, 2018

**Location:** Sharjah, UAE

With the additional collaboration with Art Jameel, the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) and support of the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, Barakat Trust and Bonzai Agency, the 2018 edition of this conference held at ICCROM-Sharjah explored how digital documentation can be embedded in the heritage management practices of the MENA region. Academics, national heritage stakeholders, professionals and NGOs were invited to share their research, experience and views on how digital documentation has changed or should change heritage management approaches in the MENA and adjacent regions – facilitating opportunities for different stakeholders to formulate strategies aimed at preserving cultural heritage sites and developing strategic partnerships within the MENA region.

### ■ 2019: People, Communities, Heritage

**Date:** 10- 13 December, 2019

**Location:** Agadir, Morocco

The 5th edition of this international conference, focused on exploring how heritage professionals and institutions can work together with individuals and communities in the protection, conservation and recovery of cultural heritage to which they are socially or spatially connected, and in decision-making processes about this heritage. Highlighting the role that a local community plays in recovery and resilience of cultural heritage, the importance of cultural heritage in society, and how heritage is perceived and interpreted by local communities. Speakers at the conference also discussed how local communities can benefit from new technologies for documentation, interpretation, protection and conservation of their local heritage, and how these tools are responding to local needs.

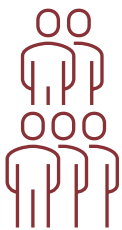
### ICCROM Side Event at the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting, Azerbaijan

**Date:** 30 June – 10 July, 2019

**Location:** Baku, Azerbaijan

At the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting, ICCROM organized a side event in which the activities delivered by its Regional Office in Sharjah were presented, with particular attention given to its MSc programme in Conservation Management and its Award for Good Conservation Practices in the Arab region. To mark the launch of MEDINA Initiative – an initiative for institutional capacity building aimed at improving and supporting management systems for effective conservation and management of historic cities in the Arab region – the side event was followed by the inauguration of an ICCROM-Medina exhibition of historic cities in the Arab Region.

Comprised of 16 posters representing 14 historic cities in 13 member states from the Arab region, which are either on the World Heritage List or on the tentative list, the posters provided brief information on history, significance, risks, as well as management systems of these historic cities. The exhibition received support from partner universities and official heritage institutions in Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen.



861

professionals attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Arab Forum

205

professionals attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Forum online and 105 in-person

### ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Practices in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management in the Arab Region

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, ICCROM-Sharjah launched the first cycle of the Arab Region Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation, in August 2017 and concluded for the first time in February 2018. This biennial award programme seeks to honour and reward outstanding work that contributes to the protection and vitality of tangible cultural heritage in the Arab world.

The Award, not only highlights the good practices in conservation and management of cultural heritage in terms of technical skills employed, but also the social and economic impacts of the project on local

communities - recognizing individuals, teams and organizations responsible for creating successful cultural heritage conservation projects and acknowledging the complex challenges they face, all while promoting the sharing of knowledge and experience for the mutual benefit of the wider community.

#### Winners of the Award:

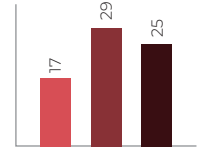
##### 2017 – 2018 Edition

Based on the criteria of the Award for this edition, the project of the Revitalization of the Historic Centre of Beit Sahour, submitted by the Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Bethlehem was chosen to receive the Grand Prix of the ICCROM-Sharjah Award for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab region.

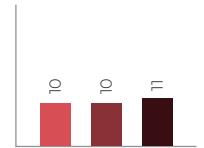
The Jury decided to give a certificate of

#### Award for Good Practices

■ 2018 ■ 2020 ■ 2022



Applications received



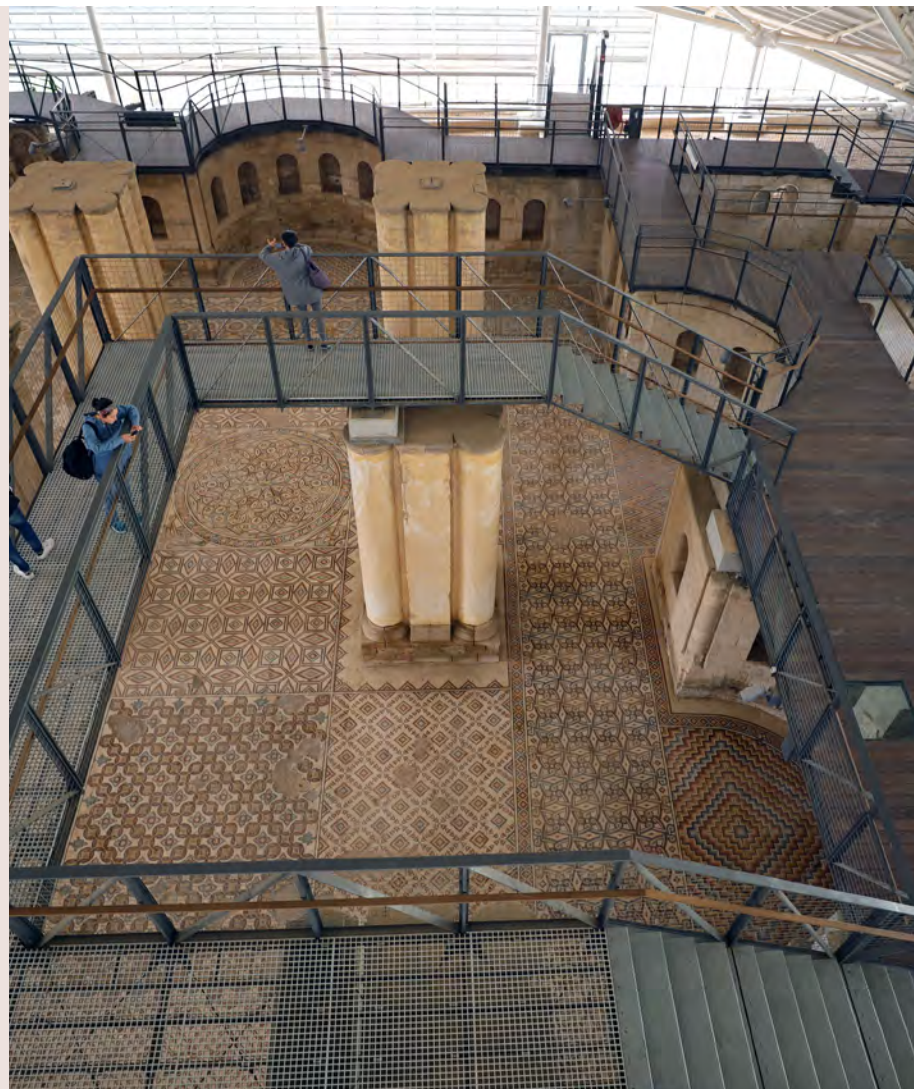
Countries that applied



[...] In emerging economies, as the case in the Arab World, conservation of historic sites and monuments are often overlooked, neglected or worse sabotaged in favour of economic and urban developments. When ICCROM-Sharjah Award started giving notice to best practices in Architecture and Urban Conservation, no doubt that this pioneering act raised awareness to the importance of heritage conservation. The Award does not only acknowledge aesthetic and professional values, but most importantly the projects' impact on environmental sustainability, community development, economic valorization, cultural continuity, among much needed goals. The Award became prominent in radiating fresh energies and new motivations for individual practitioners, institutions and governments when dealing with heritage sites, monuments, archival documents and museums. While continuing its important efforts; positive aspirations, movements and actions continue to rise and flourish [...].”

**Dalila ElKerdany**

Architect and Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, Cairo University, Egypt







[...] This Award, by allowing to share these projects in the academic environment, improves the level of Arab expertise in the field of cultural heritage conservation and sheds light on the various sectors of our Arab cultural heritage. But above all, it opens the gates for new projects to be implemented following the achievements of successful projects, and consequently improving conservation practices for the best, and this indeed, is one major contribution ICCROM-Sharjah can be proud of [...].”

**Jean Yasmine,**  
Conservation Architect  
Nominated for the 2017 Award for  
Beaufort Conservation and Presentation  
project (CDR-DGA), Lebanon  
Recipient of the 2022 Grand Award  
for the Beirut Assist Cultural Heritage  
(BACH) project (DGA), Lebanon

appreciation to the research project on the ruins of Dar Omar Basha in Damascus. This work was carried out in the difficult circumstances of Damascus, where its architectural and artistic elements were being destroyed.

#### Jury Members:

- Rasem Badran, Architect and Founder of Dar Al-Omran, Jordan
- Tarek Waly, Architect and Founder of Waly Center Founder, Egypt
- Suad Amiry, Founder and Director of the Riwaq: Centre for Architectural Conservation, Palestine
- Salma Samar Damluji, Professor at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Murad Abu Taflika, Professor of Culture at the Architecture Department, Blida University in Algeria
- Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority, UAE

#### 2019 – 2020 Edition

For this edition of the Award, the Jury decided to give two Grand Awards, one for the category of Heritage Sites and Buildings and one for the category of Collections in Cultural Institutions. The “Rehabilitation of Souk al-Saqatiya” in Aleppo, Syria, a project funded and

implemented by the Aga Khan Development Network, was selected by the Jury as winner of the first category, for adopting a participatory approach that led to a model achievement. The project effectively succeeded in rehabilitating a popular marketplace by drawing upon a high-quality sustainable restoration work within the reconstruction project – local cadres and contractors were in fact trained during the rehabilitation of the Souk. The winner the Grand Award for Collections in Cultural Institutions category was the project on “Digitizing and First Aid to Documentary Heritage of the ‘Manuscripts Collection of the Great Omari Mosque Library’” from Gaza, Palestine. The efforts undertaken by this project to preserve Palestinian identity and its intangible heritage through modern scientific means of maintaining the Great Omari Mosque Library, were found to be outstanding, especially since the project was implemented despite the difficult humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip.

#### Honorary Awards:

- “Al-Ouneh Project for Heritage Sites: Rehabilitation and Revitalisation of the Old town of Hajja, Qalqilya”, Palestine - Honorary Award for Excellence in Community Work
- “Bayt Yakan: Heritage, Development,

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#### Images from left to right:

Photo of the *Sheltering and Protecting Hisham's Palace's Mosaic Floor in Jericho Project, Palestine*

Jean Yasmine, professor at the Lebanese University Center for Restoration and Conservation, accepting the ICCROM-Sharjah Award Grand Prize on behalf of the Beirut Assist Cultural Heritage (BACH) from HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

Community & Sustainability" in Historic Cairo, Egypt - Recognition of Excellence Award for Private Initiatives

- "Restoration of the Ancient Nabatean Flood Control System" in Petra, Jordan - Recognition of Excellence Award for Archaeological Sites
- "Abydos Temple Paper Archive Project" in Egypt - Honourary Award for the Museums and Documentation Category

**Jury Members:**

- Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority, UAE
- Zoubeir Mouhli, Architect and Urban Planner, Tunisia
- Dalila ElKerdany, Architect and Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, Cairo University, Egypt
- Ammar Khammash, Principal Architect and Founder of Khammash Architects in Amman, Jordan
- Sami Angawi, Founder and Director of Hajj Research Centre, Saudi Arabia
- Adila Laidi-Hanieh, Director of the Palestinian Museum, Palestine



[...] We therefore look to ICCROM-Sharjah as an active reference point in the Arab region in the field of conservation, and the ICCROM-Sharjah Award as the ultimate recognition of the excellence of our projects that fall within the category of best practices for preserving our heritage, especially because it stresses the impact that these projects may have on society, as well as the importance of community participation in conservation processes as a means to achieve sustainability and deepen the impact, thus setting a standard for preserving our heritage in the Arab region [...].”

**Amal Abuelhawa**  
 Programme Manager | Jerusalem's Old Cities Revitalization Program (OCJRP) Welfare Association (Taawon), Palestine

**2021 – 2022 Edition**

The third edition granted the Grand Award to two projects, one for the Beirut Assist Cultural Heritage (BACH) project, Lebanon, and another for the rehabilitation and restoration of residential courtyards and historical buildings in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem, Palestine.

**Special recognitions were given to:**

- Sheltering and Protecting Hisham's Palace's Mosaic Floor, Jericho
- Revitalization and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage of Al Qarara Village, Gaza
- Digital Documentation of Historical Documents, Jerusalem
- Collart-Palmyra: A comprehensive project on the Baalsahamīn temple in Palmyra, Syria

**Jury Members:**

- Sultan Sooud Al-Qassemi, Founder of the Barjeel Art Foundation in Sharjah, UAE
- Ulrike Al-Khamis, Director and CEO of the Aga Khan Museum, Canada
- Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority, UAE
- Stefano De Caro, Archaeologist and Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM, Italy
- Amra Hadžimuhamedović, Director of the Centre for Cultural Heritage, International Forum Bosnia
- Salah M. Hassan, Director of The Africa Institute, Sharjah, UAE
- Jad Tabet, Architect and Honorary President of ICOMOS, Lebanon

**ICCROM-Sharjah Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young**

The ICCROM-Sharjah Award event of 2020 also coincided with the announcement of the winners of the **Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young**, a new competition designed to raise awareness on tangible and intangible heritage in the Arab region among the young generations. This regional competition on heritage and sustainable development for school students aged between 9 and 15 years, also served as an opportunity to promote the idea of heritage preservation through art. The award categories for this competition were four, namely: Drawing, Folkloric Dance, Photography and Awareness Film.

Want to learn more about ICCROM-Sharjah Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young? **Click here**, or scan QR code below.





“

[...] I would like to thank His Highness Shaikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, and ICCROM-Sharjah and the Lebanese National Commission for organizing this award and choosing my work as a winning prize. The photo resembles Lebanese heritage from old houses to traditional clothing and morning socialization. I encourage young children like me to preserve, protect and promote their heritage because it resembles their identity [...].”

**Ibrahim Ibrahim**, Al Rawda Secondary School, Lebanon, Winner of Photography Category, Young Award 2020

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**Images left to the right:** Winner of the Photography Category of the Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young'20.

#### Winners of the first cycle of the Award 2019-2020

- For the Drawing Category: Reem Saif Saeed Al Shehhi, Lubna Bint Habbab Elementary School, Fujairah, UAE
- For the Photography Category: Al Rawda Highschool, Lebanon
- For the Folkloric Dance Category: Al-Daheha Dance of Qasr Al-Hallabat School, Jordan
- For the Awareness Film Category: Dania Al-Amrat, Al Wardieh Mixed Elementary School, Jordan

#### Winners of the 2nd cycle of the Award 2021-2022

- For the Drawing Category: Sarah Hassan Al Hosani, Al Amal School for the Deaf, UAE, and Al Yasar Al Masry, Omar Bin Al Khattab College School – Al Makassed Islamic Charitable Association, Lebanon
- For the Photography Category: Ghala Abdel Rahim Mahmoud Al Raheel, Bayouda Al Sharqiya Mixed Secondary School, Jordan
- First place in folk dance: Group performance of “Our Old Street” by Al Takadum School for Basic Education, Libya
- For the Awareness Film Category: Group project “A Story of Joy from the Heart of the Badia” by Qasr Al Hallabat Al Gharbi Mixed Secondary School, Jordan

#### The Protection of Cultural Property: Strengthening and Implementation in Time of War and Peace

**Date:** 1 October, 2021 – 31 March, 2022

**Location:** Dubai, UAE

Capitalizing on EXPO's 2020 motto “connecting minds, creating the future”, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a panel discussion with ICCROM-Sharjah was organized to discuss how the protection of cultural property can be reinforced and implemented in times of armed conflict and peace. This event provided a unique opportunity to address and discuss the importance of preserving and protecting cultural property to move confidently to better and more peaceful future, by ensuring that cultural property is respected, preserved and protected both in peacetime and at war. Discussions explored the protection offered by international humanitarian law to cultural property and in particular the role of the ICRC in this regard, along with measures to be pursued by states and other concerned organizations, in preserving and protecting cultural property at peace and how they could contribute to strengthening its protection when at war.

## Swiss Pavilion Celebrates Tolerance and Inclusivity Week at Expo 2020

**Date:** 16 November, 2022

**Location:** Dubai, UAE

The Swiss Pavilion explored tolerance through the lens of cultural heritage preservation at the EXPO 2020 Dubai's Tolerance and Inclusivity Week, highlighting how past heritage helps create a better future. In addition to ICCROM-Sharjah, experts from Switzerland, ALIPH Foundation and the Middle East took part in a panel titled "Inspiration from the past for a better future: how can preserving cultural heritage safeguard tolerance in our societies?", in which the research of the Collart-Palmyra Project from the University of Lausanne was highlighted. The project consisted of a digital restoration of the Baalshamin Temple in Palmyra, Syria, thanks to the materials recovered from the archives of the Swiss archaeologist Paul Collart who documented the site between the 1930s and 60s.

## Memory and Memories of Palmyra

**Date:** 26 March, 2022

**Location:** Dubai, UAE

"Memory and Memories of Palmyra" was the closing event at the Swiss Pavilion at Expo 2022 in Dubai, UAE. InZone's Geneva and Azraq teams featured as speakers presenting the 4th edition of an Arabic Booklet on Palmyra, published in the context of the Collars-Palmyre project. The booklet explored a social programme that benefits displaced Syrian communities, including the refugees in Azraq Camp in Jordan, in addition to the multicultural aspects of the ancient city on the Silk Road. By taking into consideration the importance of textile and fashion in the iconography of

Ancient Palmyra, the members of the project produced canvas for embroidery workshops with designs inspired by adornments from the destroyed Temple of Baalshamin.

During this event, a special session was organized, in which the results of others workshops on digital art called «Zoom around Palmyra», carried out with the IULM University - Milan in the Azraq Refugee Camp, in the context of the Collart-Palmyre project were discussed. The presentation of the project introduced a larger dialogue on heritage and memory for educational purposes, in which ICCROM-Sharjah took active part in the discussions, enhanced by the participation the GeCo Laboratory of the Università degli Studi di Firenze and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Experts dwelt on the meaning of virtual and real reconstructions and their significance for the people of Syria. With video testimonials of young Azraq residents who benefited from the "Zoom around Palmyra" digital art workshop, had the audience take part in a vibrant discussion on the value of higher education in preserving collective memory – paving the way to a wider dialogue on the role of heritage and memory for educational purposes.

## Climate change and Cultural Heritage: Arab Region Priorities with ICOMOS Jordan

**Date:** 18 April 2022

**Location:** Online

Implemented by ICCROM-Sharjah in cooperation with ICOMOS Jordan, this webinar was the outcome of a recommendation put forth in the "Culture for a Sustainable Future in the Arab Region" session held by ICCROM-Sharjah, in the framework of ICCROM's "Climate.Culture.Peace" Conference 2022. By showcasing case studies from several Arab countries – including Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Iraq, Sudan, Tunisia, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt – this webinar aimed to enhance the understanding of the current state and challenges of cultural heritage in the Arab region, while summarizing the key priorities and monitoring mechanisms to promote the integration of cultural heritage in climate change policies. Particular focus was given to exploring sustainable traditional practices and knowledge which provide nature-based solutions, developed and adapted by communities over the years to create a better future for humanity and the planet.

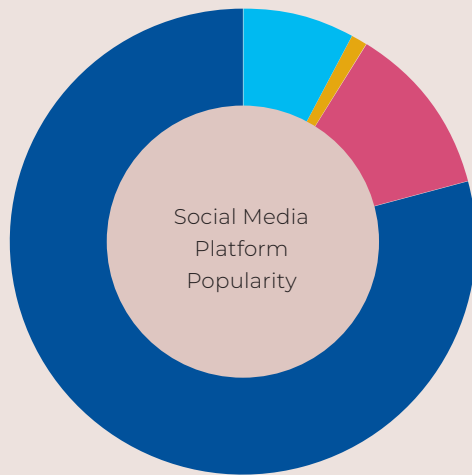


**Images to the left:**  
Site of Palmyra, Syria.

Want to learn more about Memory and Memories of Palmyra? **Click here**, or scan QR code below.



## ICCROM-SHARJAH ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



8,4%

Joined in November 2012



0.6%

Joined in September 2020



11.6%

Joined in January 2018



79.4%

Joined in February 2016



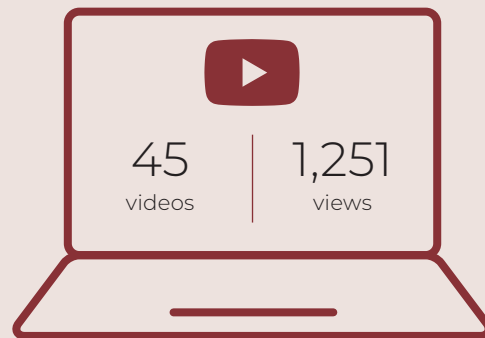
38%

increase in Facebook page visits in 2022 since previous year

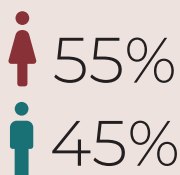


51,2%

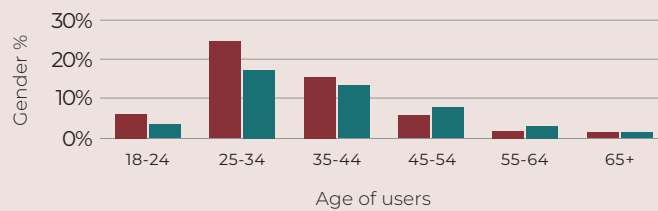
increase in Instagram profile visits in 2022 since previous year



### Gender of social media followers:



### User breakdown age average:



### Top 5 followers:

- UAE
- Egypt
- Saudi Arabia
- Iraq
- Jordan

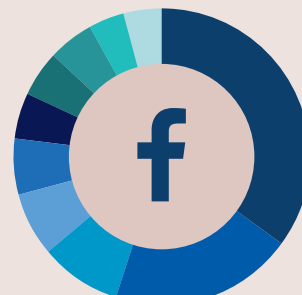


### Top 5 followers:

- UAE
- Egypt
- Palestine
- India
- Italy

### Top countries of Facebook followers:

- Egypt **35%**
- Syria **20%**
- Algeria **9%**
- Jordan **7%**
- Morocco **6%**
- Libya **5%**
- Palestine **5%**
- Tunisia **5%**
- Iraq **4%**
- UAE **4%**



# OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST DECADE



Field Projects and Advisory Services



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**Images from left to right:**

Initial architectural recording of the Al Midfa wind Tower, prior to structural conservation, Sharjah, UAE.

Consolidation of Ed-Dor Temple, Umm Al-Quwain, UAE.



Responding to the diverse cultural heritage needs of the Arab region, ICCROM-Sharjah, at the request of Member States, provided technical advice and consultation through pilot projects. These model projects, of strategic nature for the region, were financed by Member States or other partner institutions and organizations.

**Ed-Dor Temple Restoration Project, Umm Al-Quwain, UAE**

**Dates:** 2015 – 2016

Located on the coastal desert of the Emirate of Umm Al-Quwain (UAE), the Ed-Dor Temple, dating roughly two millennia, underwent a unique conservation project. The deterioration, which resulted mainly from natural erosion caused by wind and rain, led to the collapse of some of the temple's walls and the decay of its plaster. This condition called for immediate intervention for restoration and preservation, and as a result, a cooperation was established together with the National Council for Tourism and Antiquities (NCTA), Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Umm Al-Quwain's Department of Antiquities and Heritage and the Sharjah Institute for Heritage, to save the temple from complete destruction.

Following an initial phase in which ICCROM-Sharjah's experts assessed the condition of the building materials of the temple and selected samples from the stone, plaster and mortar materials to be analyzed for their chemical composition, a second phase of the project commenced in 2016, in which ICCROM-Sharjah was responsible for the supervision and

execution of the restoration works, utilizing the longstanding expertise of its experts in the field. State-of-the-art nanotechnology was utilized to restore this temple dedicated to the Semitic sun god Shamash. In order to promote and increase local skills and expertise working in the field of restoration in the UAE, local professionals were also engaged in the restoration works of the Ed-Dor Temple – allowing them to train and acquire skills relevant to archaeological restoration alongside the international experts involved in this intensive restoration project.

**Consolidation of the wind tower of Ibrahim Al Midfa House in the Heart of Sharjah, UAE**

**Dates:** 2016 – 2017

Working in cooperation with the Sharjah Institute for Heritage, ICCROM-Sharjah completed structural consolidation studies needed to consolidate and preserve the traditional wind tower (barjeel) of the Ibrahim Al Midfa house in the Heart of Sharjah. This wind tower, which was in a dangerous leaning state, is exceptional from an architectural point of view due to its unique cylindrical design. In order to provide the best international expertise for the development of structural consolidation studies compatible with the conservation of historical and heritage sites, the project has been carried out by ICCROM specialists in structural engineering. The consolidation programme of the wind tower also included a sophisticated monitoring system that was installed to monitor the wind tower, followed and analyzed regularly by the specialists.

## Western Sudan Community Museums Project: The Recovery of Museums in Conflict Areas

Dates: 2018 – 2020

Developed and managed by ICCROM-Sharjah together with the General Corporation for Antiquities and Museums in Sudan (NCAM) since 2018, thanks to the generous financial support received from the British Council in addition to the Government of Sharjah, the project addressed a range of emerging issues relevant to the role of museums and heritage collections in helping rebuild peace and social cohesion by involving the local community in museum spaces.

While the first phase of the project focused on the restoration of the historic buildings of the Khalifa House in Umm Durman, the Sheikan Museum in El Obeid and the Darfur Museum in Nyala, through the cooperation of local and international experts, the second roll-over phase focused on the completion of the efforts attained in previous years for the protection of the museum buildings and collections. This second phase was characterized by on-the-job training in conservation, including the recording and cataloguing of museum objects. This led to the protection of the approximately 20,600 artefacts hosted by the three museums. The project also foresaw the completion of a heritage survey in Darfur – the first survey in decades on the local craft traditions. The work included building institutional capacities and completing an exhibition, in collaboration with the British Museum, to recover cultural heritage from Sudanese museums following the conflict of the last decades.

By adding facilities and purposes to the museum, such as libraries, children educational centres, cafeterias and popular celebration spaces, the three selected museums for this project have become cultural destinations and gathering places for the local communities. Through the creation of new displays, exhibitions and a series of training workshops, educational and cultural events, communities were able to not only gain the knowledge and skills required to protect their cultural heritage, but also learnt how to engage with its living heritage. As a result of these activities, a series of 52 short films were developed and collected to be shown in the museums with the aim to understand and promote the local Sudanese culture. In addition to a new exhibition being set up, communication platforms and digital



presentations of the restoration work carried out on the three museums, a new project to survey and document the popular heritage of the Darfur region was launched in collaboration with local universities. This helped promote cultural activities digitally and on social media platforms, linking those responsible for the project with local institutions such as universities, as well as documentation and study centres capable of providing further support and extend their reach.

Furthermore, as part of ICCROM's commitment to the Sudan project, technical advice on photogrammetry and/ or surveying was given the National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) who had local survey teams active in different remote cultural heritage archaeological sites in Sudan. The team of surveyors were trained on the methods of aerial photo scanning using drones and methods for processing the collected data to produce topographical plans. The surveying included the sites of: Shoba Mosque, Shoba Small Palace, Shoba Large Palace, Uri Upper Palace and City, Uri Lower Palace and Mosque, Palace Mountains, Fasher Museum, Geneina Museum, Sheikan Museum, Darfur Museum, Khalifa House Site, Um Derman Forts, and Um Derman Gate.

Throughout the implantation of the project, and following its completion, several events were organized by ICCROM-Sharjah to celebrate the importance of this project in adopting a holistic integrated people-centred approach for the protection of cultural heritage, by means of which cultural heritage plays a crucial role in the peace building and recovery of a country in a post-conflict situation. An exhibition and subsequent workshop showcasing the project's achievements and lessons learnt, was complemented by two webinars celebrating the diverse and rich living heritage of Sudan, exploring its history with the communities, and its role in post-conflict recovery.

### Exhibit of Films from Sudan:

- Western Sudan Community Museums: Post-conflict Recovery of Living Cultural Heritage
- Camel Culture
- Life on the Move
- Whirling Dervishes
- Darfur Women's Museum
- Ali Dinar's Summer Palace



60

people trained through 9 capacity building activities

26

resource people form ICCROM-Sharjah's network were involved in this training initiative

262

participants joined cultural events organized as part of this field project - 65% women 35% men





### Project for the Revival, Recovery and Reconstruction of Al-Nuri Mosque and its Leaning Minaret in Mosul, Iraq

**Dates:** 2019 – ongoing

Building on previous research and missions undertaken by ICCROM-Sharjah in 2018 and 2019, ICCROM, in partnership with UNESCO, developed a two-year capacity building programme for the reconstruction and recovery of the historic city of Mosul. With the aim of strengthening expertise of both local young professionals and craftspeople, the programme activities were designed to empower the local population with practical on-the-job training, allowing the selected participants of the initiative to actively participate in the reconstruction of their own city's historic landmarks and houses.

and social historical context of these buildings, providing a space for the local community to receive vocational training and hold seminars as needed, and eventually also become a place to sell local handicrafts. This project created an opportunity to readapt these traditional houses for new functions, and allow city museums to become an integral part of the development of historic urban environments and visitors experience. After thorough architectural and structural surveys, while following international guidelines but adapted to the local context, a methodology for the restoration work to be carried out was developed. All activities set out by the project were implemented respecting the authenticity of the existing structures, thus allowing for the safe removal of previous interventions that disturbed the architectural system and originality of the buildings, and proceeding for a restoration using traditional materials and techniques whenever possible. Historical evidence was gathered in form of records, documents and photos from different archives of governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Heritage and Culture and National Archives, and complemented by incorporating information from the multiple interviews with Royal family members who previously lived and grew up in these houses.

### Renovation and Conservation of Royal Historic Houses: Bait Sayid Nadir and Muzna, Muscat, Oman

**Dates:** 2018 – ongoing

Continued support was provided to the Oman National Museum for the Rehabilitation of Royal Houses in the Old Muscat. This project foresaw the conservation and structural consolidation of two historic houses of the Royal Family, which was to be followed by the housing of new cultural experiences that reflected the political



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**Images from left to right:**

Recording of community intangible heritage by local filmmakers, trained by ICCROM-Sharjah as part of the WSCM Project.

Restoration of the Royal Historic House of Bait Sayid Nadir, Muscat, Oman.

### Restoration of the Ancient Aflaj in Al-Dhaid

**Dates:** 2021 – 2022

The aflaj, or water channel systems, in eastern Sharjah are a testament to the resilience and perseverance of its ancient inhabitants, to irrigate crops and provide water to support their families. As part of ICCROM's commitment to the Government of Sharjah and its heritage institutions, technical advice and recommendations were given to the Sharjah Urban Planning Council "Mobadra", for the restoration works to be carried out on the ancient water channels in Al-Dhaid city, in order to revive the aflaj by reactivating its water flow system, from the source to the farms.

Following an extensive and comprehensive multi-disciplinary study, which included a cultural value assessment performed to consider the scientific and historical importance of the site, the approach for conserving, presenting and interpreting this project was selected and implemented under the supervision of ICCROM-Sharjah. Particular attention was given to identifying the appropriate restoration materials to use in order to preserve the authenticity of the property. The restoration and maintenance of heritage remains in the vicinity of the aflaj, which included a tower, fort and palm plantation system, was also incorporated in this project. The conservation

of the structures on site followed the well-established guidelines, charters and national laws. Subsequent to an initial phase of detailed documentation, including hand sketches, photographs, photogrammetric and laser scans for 3D models, the dimensions and materials used, along with their execution of original workmanship, were recorded.

The aflaj system in Al-Dhaid has cultural value due to the importance it holds in the local community. Upon the completion of this ongoing restoration project, the site will be presented to local residents and visitors, who will be able to visit the farms and explore the irrigation systems in place. This experience will be enhanced by means of a dedicated museum space inside the fort, in which the oral heritage of the aflaj will be transmitted to present and future generations.

### Developing Guiding Principles for Restoration and Conservation of Built Heritage in the UAE

**Dates:** July – December, 2015

At the request of the National Council of Tourism and Antiquities (NCTA) in the UAE, with the aim of researching and drafting general guidelines for the restoration and conservation of cultural heritage in the UAE, a workshop was organized with the participation of representatives from all

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**Images from left to right:**

Part of the aflaj in Al-Dhaid, following the restoration completed in 2022.

Historical houses in Beirut after the explosion of August 2020.



the Arab Emirates. ICCROM-Sharjah coordinated, facilitated and provided technical advice to the National Council of Tourism to draft these initial guidelines, which will be followed by the development of more detailed instructions for the restoration, rehabilitation and conservation of cultural heritage properties in the UAE – sharing the international experience of restoration and conservation with the Arab Region.

### **Devising a Management Plan for Tyre, Lebanon**

**Dates:** 2021 – 2022

Following initial meetings with the UNESCO-Beirut Office, ICCROM, through ICCROM-Sharjah, was called to provide assistance to the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) in Lebanon, for the development of the existing management plan for the World Heritage Site of Tyre, into a more comprehensive long-term plan. This request came in a response to the recommendations put forward in the World Heritage Committee Decision: 34 COM 7B.57 / 2010, Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299) to achieve effective management and a robust plan for Tyre. In order to enhance the management skills of those drafting the plan, and in view of the ongoing COVID-19, a proposal was drafted. Structured around milestones and deliverables that provided the foundations for the management planning for Tyre, in support of the Directorate General of Antiquities team, a series of online workshops were developed to address the needs and gather information from the those directly working on the site, advancing and building of consensus around a new management plan and launch its implementation.

### **Online Training in First Aid of Cultural Heritage following the explosion in Beirut**

**Dates:** August, 2020

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the request of the Lebanese Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), a series of online training sessions were organized, together with the FAR Programme of ICCROM, to provide first aid to the damaged heritage collections and buildings in Lebanon after the explosion that took place in Beirut on 4 August 2020. The series, composed of 3 webinars, provided the opportunity to share ICCROM's know-how for on-the ground



stabilization, salvage and temporary storage for both movable and immovable heritage. The webinars also served as a platform to discuss prioritization and cost estimation, as well as the continuation of intangible heritage, community engagement and livelihood regeneration.

### **Developing of Curricula for Yemeni Universities on Conservation of Architectural and Urban Heritage**

**Dates:** 2013 – 2015

An agreement between the Social Fund Department (SFD), the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education in Yemen, and ICCROM-Sharjah was signed on 31 October 2013 in order to provide specialized technical support for the integration of heritage in university curricula in Yemen at an undergraduate level. The faculties of architecture and history teach ancient architecture and traditional building materials, but they don't address cultural heritage conservation in systematically methodologies. Designed for students and mid-career professionals coming from the fields of architecture, engineering, urban planning and design, this project was developed so that students could be familiarized with the concept of conservation, international conventions and techniques to be used. Starting with a survey of curricula at local, regional and global levels, a comparative analysis was carried out, and based on the data gathered, a curriculum for Sana'a University was developed and proposed. The course programme included practical exercises and training by competent heritage craftsmen.

# OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST DECADE



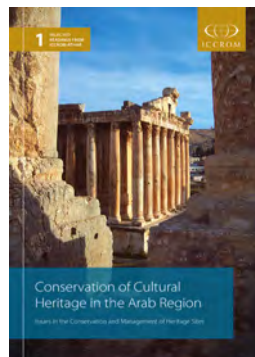
Knowledge dissemination



## Knowledge Dissemination: Breaking language barriers

Firmly believing that knowledge is indeed the future of our heritage, significant efforts were committed to continue sharing knowledge and broadening access to the field of cultural heritage preservation in the Arab region. From training manuals to conservation guidelines, and from symposia proceedings to translations of existing resources, charters and conventions, a variety of new publications were released. These efforts not only improved the accessibility to knowledge, but also provided the opportunity to address information gaps between research, policy and practice. .

### New resources developed:



#### Selected Readings from ICCROM-ATHAR Volume I: Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Arab Region

This book is a result of valuable contributions from instructors who took part in the ICCROM's ATHAR Programme Core Regional Courses. The subjects included in this first series range from theoretical approaches to the conservation of cultural heritage sites to the implementation of techniques and management approaches for the safeguard of immovable heritage for future generations.

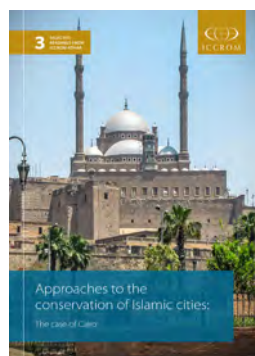
🌐 Available in Arabic and English



#### Selected Readings from ICCROM-ATHAR Volume II: Conservation of Historic Buildings in Muharraq

Addressing the conservation process of building materials, with special emphasis on Muharraq, Bahrain, this publication examines the different methods of analysis, diagnosis and treatment of historic building materials commonly found in the Gulf region and beyond.

🌐 Available in Arabic



#### Selected Readings from ICCROM-ATHAR Volume III: Approaches to the Conservation of Islamic Cities – The Case of Cairo

This book examines in depth the conservation history of a pearl of Islamic built heritage, the Historic City of Cairo, to serve as a guideline for cultural heritage professionals. The author, Hossam Mahdy, former ICCROM fellow, presents an alternative view of the relationship between Islam and heritage. In support of this, the author applies a range of conservation theories to advance solutions for a hypothetical conservation of a medieval Islamic gate structure in a modern city setting. The exercise is designed to help conservation specialists think through the possibilities for the sites for which they are responsible, in full awareness of the cultural and other assumptions that underlie those decisions.

🌐 Available in Arabic and English

### Selected Readings from ICCROM-ATHAR Volume IV: Ed-Dur temple restoration project

This publication describes in detail, the restoration and conservation work carried on the temple and surrounding altars of Ed-Dur archaeological site located in Umm Al-Quwain, UAE, a project carried out by ICCROM-Sharjah in collaboration with the National Council of Tourism and Antiquities.

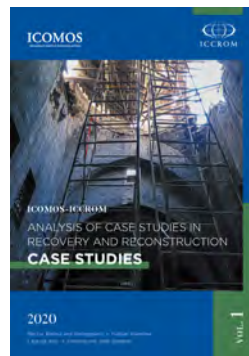
 Available in Arabic



### Analysis of Case Studies in Recovery and Reconstruction Proceedings

This joint ICOMOS-ICCROM publication brings together results of research work, as well as the voices and experiences of experts and practitioners working in the field. Published in two volumes with an accompanying report, the publication includes 11 case studies addressing post-trauma recovery and reconstruction.

 Available in English



### Introducing Young People to the Protection of Heritage Sites and Historic Cities

A first of its kind, this publication, intended for school teachers, aims to raise awareness in the conservation of cultural heritage in the Arab region, making young people sensitive to the importance of the heritage situated in their region thus involving them in its protection and care. It is a guide that offers principal notions on conservation practices and management of both archaeological sites and historic towns, and underlines the threats facing cultural heritage today, in addition to containing information, ideas and practical activities to help teachers to introduce this theme in schools and school curricula. Although it was specifically developed for pupils of an age group that ranges between nine and twelve years old, schoolteachers may adapt it for various age groups as necessary. It is hoped that experiences from other courses held, for example, on museums or natural sites will lead to developing a series of reference materials for teachers to promote heritage protection on a wider scale.

 Available in Arabic and English



### Guiding Principles for Restoration and Conservation of Built Heritage in the UAE

With the aim of generating homogenous guidelines for the protection of cultural heritage in all the Emirates – as each Emirate followed its own perspective on the methods of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage – this glossary was developed and to provide conservation key terms which cater for the conservation needs on the local level.

The glossary targets three different categories of terms, namely related to technical conservation, archaeology and museums. It is hoped that this glossary will be later standardised for use in the wider context of the Gulf region.

 Available in Arabic





1st Forum



2nd Forum



## Proceedings of the 1st and 2nd Arab Forum for Cultural Heritage

These proceedings present case studies pertaining to the topics of the first and second Arab Forum for Cultural Heritage, that respectively took place in 2018 and 2020. While the first forum focused on addressing and discussing issues regarding the notion of cultural heritage in the Arab region – the challenges it faces and the development of strategies that would contribute to its protection – the 2nd raised significant questions regarding authenticity and contemporality, highlighting the role of cultural institutions in engaging the community, focusing on the socio-cultural dimensions of living heritage and the enhancement of cultural dialogue by comparing global, regional and local perspectives.

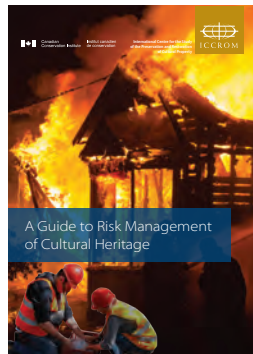
Available in Arabic



## Western Sudan Community Museums Project

With the successful completion of the Western Sudan Community Museums Project, this publication presents a detailed account of the implementation of the project executed by ICCROM-Sharjah, together with the General Corporation for Antiquities and Museums in Sudan (NCAM), thanks to the generous financial support received from the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund. It highlights integrated actions ranging from conservation of historic museums and collections to education and the role of museums as social hubs in building peace in conflict areas.

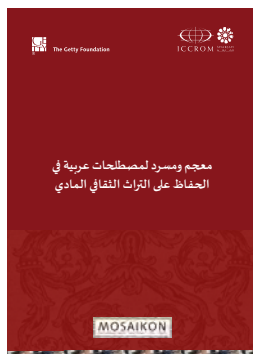
Available in Arabic and English



## A Guide to Risk Management of Cultural Heritage

The method presented in this booklet has been refined over many years through an international course developed by CCI and ICCROM, as well as by its application in numerous case studies by CCI, ICCROM and colleagues around the world. The manual presents how adopting a risk management approach will help professionals in the field determine the priorities for preventive conservation and decide between options to address them.

Available in Arabic and English



## Glossary of Arabic Terms for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage

This glossary of cultural heritage conservation terminology, intended for conservation professionals working in the Arab region, is a preliminary document distributed to invite discussion and comments. It complements a glossary of technical terms published in "Readings in the Conservation of Mosaics" (see below).

Available in Arabic-English and English-Arabic

### Readings in the Conservation of Mosaics

Using a selection of essential texts from the last 30 years, this ICCROM-Getty publication illustrates the key issues and concepts in the field of archaeological mosaic conservation. It begins with a historical and technical overview of the mosaic heritage of the region, with many illustrations, and includes summaries of the key charters and conventions on conservation of cultural heritage. The multilingual glossary contains over 230 terms, 40 of which are also defined in a lexicon.

 Available in Arabic



### ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Practices in Cultural Heritage Conservation in the Arab Region - 1st and 2nd Cycle

These publications highlight the good practices in conservation and management of cultural heritage in terms of technical skills employed, as well as social and economic impacts on local communities of the shortlisted projects of the 1st and 2nd Cycle of the ICCROM-Sharjah Award - now available on our dedicated webpage for the ICCROM-Sharjah Awards.

 Available in Arabic and English



1st Cycle

### LACONA X International Conference Proceedings

The publication of the proceedings of the LACONA X Conference, features a selection of research key to the continued development and adoption of laser-based methods in conservation and documentation of historic artwork. The publication is freely available online, in open access format, in a dedicated Special Issue of Studies in Conservation, the premier journal of the International Institute of Conservation of Artistic and Historic Works (IIC).

 Available in English



### Proceedings Pre-prints of the International Colloquium on the Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities

These pre-prints feature a selection of articles based on the interventions and contributions presented by the speakers at the symposium. Organized in collaboration with the Louvre-Lens Museum, the symposium examined the actions of international organizations in the post-conflict reconstruction of historic cities, along with the state of theoretical developments in this field.

 Available in printed version only







### Urban Conservation and Reconstruction in the Arabian Gulf – Seminar Proceedings

Throughout history many historical cities and sites have been burned down, looted and demolished due to natural and human disasters. Cities in the Gulf, after the discovery of oil in particular, went through a very rapid development which led to a boom in both construction and population. With no legislation to protect their historic areas, many historic buildings were demolished either because they were dilapidated or because of the new town planning. Produced in collaboration with the Dubai Municipality, this publication, available in electronic format, aims to explore and discuss important recommendations concerning the evolving concept of authenticity and reconstruction in the Gulf region in order to protect its history and legacy.

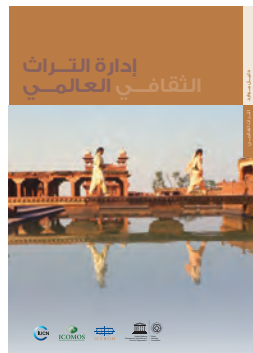
🌐 Available in Arabic and English



### The Police Guide to Approaching Movable Cultural Properties in the Event of Fires and Explosions

This guide is intended to enable users to coordinate multi-sectoral first response and rescue initiatives, including damage and risk mitigation and the prevention of looting, vandalism, and illicit trafficking of affected cultural property in case of an emergency, particularly in case of fire or explosion incidents. It is designed for use within the local context of Sharjah and carries the potential for wider adoption at the national level.

🌐 Available in English



### Translations into Arabic:

#### Manual for Managing World Cultural Heritage

The concept of 'management' emerged comparatively late in the forty-year history of the World Heritage Convention. But the requirement to achieve the outputs and outcomes of successful management – identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of heritage of Outstanding Universal Value – has been there from the outset. Over the years, achieving these ends has become more complex because of the increasing pressures of the modern world and also because of the widening range of what can be inscribed on the World Heritage List, for example, rural cultural landscapes. These new challenges, along with other factors, have led to some pressing needs. It is in this light that the Resource Manual for Managing Cultural World Heritage has been produced to help States Parties manage and conserve their heritage effectively and protect values, in particular the Outstanding Universal Value (hereafter 'OUV') of their World Heritage cultural properties.



ICCROM-Sharjah's growing library is an essential resource for researchers and students. Effective collaboration and inter-loan agreements are being pursued to provide access to various beneficiaries of our programmes.”

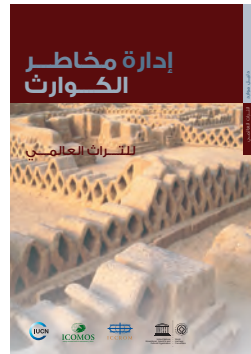
### Manual for Activities Directed at Underwater Cultural Heritage

This Manual explains the thirty-six Rules of the Annex to the 2001 Convention entitled “Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage”. These Rules present a directly applicable operation scheme for underwater interventions. Over the years they have become a reference in the field of underwater archaeology. In addition to elaborating on the ethical principles, the Manual offers a series of guidelines concerning: project design; preliminary work; the formulation of project objectives, methodologies and techniques; fund raising and management; project scheduling; competence and qualification requirements; conservation and site management; documentation procedures; safety standards; environmental considerations; reporting; curation of project archives; and dissemination. This Manual is endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.



### Manual on Managing Disaster Risks

The manual is primarily aimed at site managers, management teams and the agencies and organizations that have a direct stake in the management of a heritage property. It can also be adapted and applied by other stakeholders, depending on their mandate and responsibilities. The manual focuses on one approach to the principles, methodology and process for managing disaster risks at cultural and natural World Heritage properties. This manual is a key reference to courses now being introduced by ICCROM on the subject. Member states in the region have benefited from this publication in Arabic as literature in this area is limited.



### Protective Shelters for Archaeological Sites

One of few publications by the MOSAIKON Project and the British School in Rome to address the issue of protective shelters, is a translation of published proceedings of a symposium, held in Italy in September 2013, aimed at improving the care and preservation of ancient mosaics in the greater Mediterranean. Using the archaeological site of Herculaneum as an “open classroom”, this book records the results of the week-long symposium Hoping that it will further the discourse regarding protective shelters for archaeological sites and offer heritage practitioners some guiding principles when faced with sheltering decisions.



### CCI’s “Framework for Preserving Heritage Collections”- A Poster Publication

This poster, intended as a quick reference tool for heritage professionals, provides the latest details on the agents of deterioration, threats they pose to museum collections, as well as practical advice on appropriate preventive measures – making it an invaluable reference for all staff members within heritage institutions.

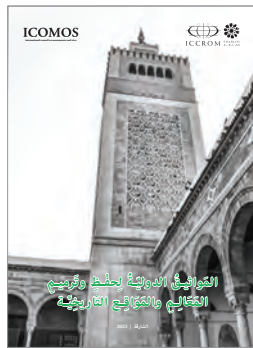




### First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis - volume A and B

This two-part publication was created for the various actors involved in an emergency. It provides a practical method and a set of ready-to-use tools for securing endangered cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. The user-friendly workflows help readers to plan and implement coordinated cultural rescue and risk reduction operations that involve local communities, heritage custodians, emergency responders and humanitarians.

🌐 Also available in English and French among other languages



### International charters for the preservation and restoration of monuments and sites

This publication is a compendium of 22 ICOMOS Charters, made available for the very first time to an Arabic readership.



### Warsaw Recommendations on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage

This Arabic translation comprises a comprehensive set of principles concerning the process of urban reconstruction and rebuilding of historic buildings or complexes of buildings destroyed as a result of armed conflicts or natural disasters. It was devised at a conference held by the Government of Poland with UNESCO, in which ICCROM took an active part.

🌐 Available in Arabic



### RE-ORG: A Method to Reorganize Museum Storage

More than 55 000 museums exist in the world, and typically 90% of their objects are in storage rooms. As collections grow, financial resources continue to dwindle, leaving museums struggling to ensure that their treasures in storage are adequately looked after and accessible. RE-ORG is a method developed by ICCROM and the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) that responds directly to this issue. This field-tested methodology has now been captured in a four-part kit, which walks professionals through the process of transforming their museum's storage area and regain control of their collection.

# OUR PARTICIPATION WORLDWIDE

## N. AMERICA



YEAR	EVENT
2014	▪ “Heritage in Peril: Iraq and Syria”, New York, USA
2016	▪ Fitch Colloquium “Preservation and War”, Columbia University, New York, University
2017	▪ Panel discussion on "Heritage Documentation in Times of Conflict", Ottawa, Canada
2019	▪ Terra 2021 Steering Committee Meeting, Santa Fe, New Mexico

## EUROPE



YEAR	EVENT
2017	▪ 13th Conference of the ICCM Foundation Barcelona, Spain
	▪ External Expert Consultations for the Office of the Prosecutor’s Policy on Cultural Property, The Hague, Netherlands
	▪ Seizing the Moment to Protect the Middle East’s Cultural Heritage, London, United Kingdom
2018	▪ International Conference on "The Challenges of World Heritage Recovery", Warsaw, Poland
	▪ “Post-Conflict Recovery of Urban Cultural Heritage”, Berlin, Germany
	▪ UNESCO World Bank Event on “Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery”, Paris, France
	▪ European Working Meeting on Illicit trafficking in Cultural Property, Weisbaden, Germany
2019	▪ Paphos Shelters Experts Meeting, Paphos, Cyprus
	▪ Keynote speaker at the Institute of Historic Building Conservation Annual School in Nottingham, United Kingdom
2023	▪ 2nd Conference of Ministers of Culture on high-quality Baukultur in Europe, Davos, Switzerland

## AFRICA



### YEAR

### EVENT

- 2018**
  - Egyptian Awards Ceremony, Cairo, Egypt
  - "Protecting the Past International Conference", Agadir, Morocco
  - ALECSO Meeting on "Architectural and Urban Heritage Observatory in Arab World", Tunis, Tunisia
  - MOSAIKON Lab establishment at the site of Tipaza, Algeria

## ASIA



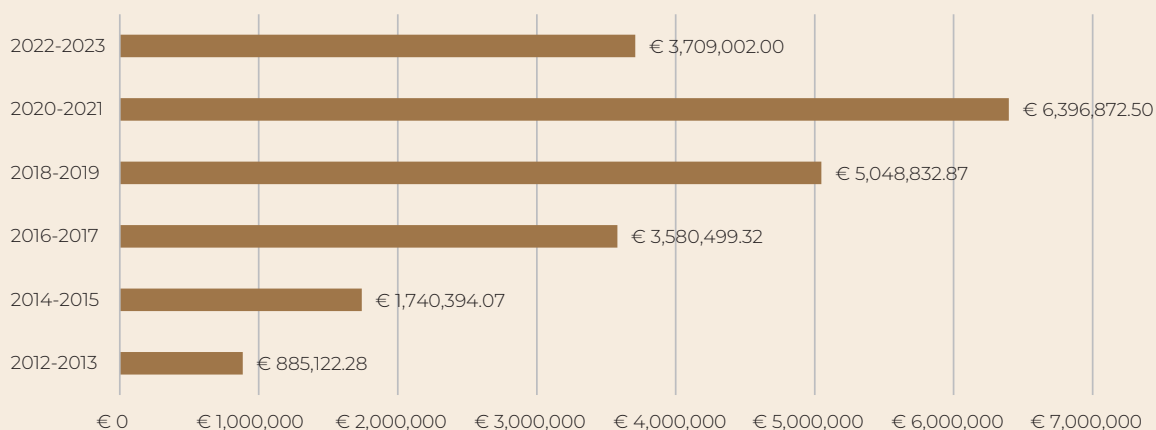
### YEAR

### EVENT

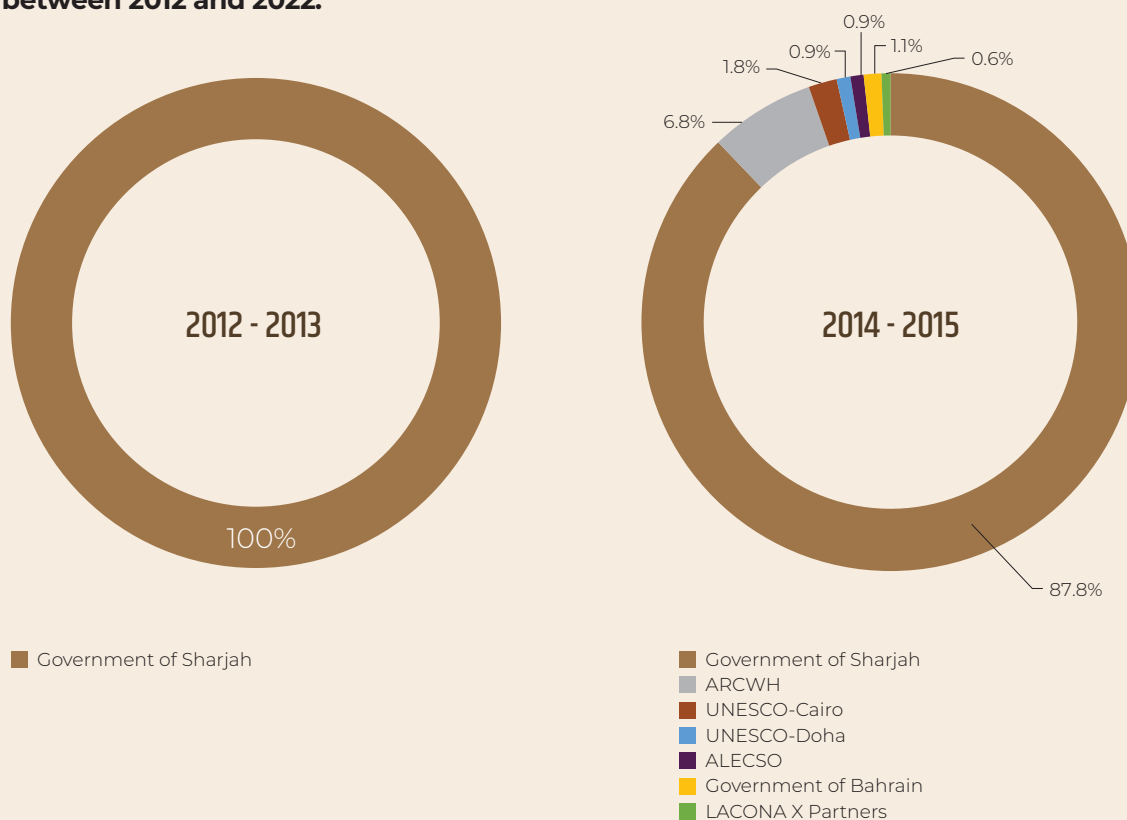
- 2017**
  - NY Times Qatar - Art for Tomorrow (Boundaries, Identity and the Public Realm), Doha, Qatar
  - Culture Summit 2017, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2018**
  - Technical Committee Meeting of the Al-Nouri Mosque Project, part of the 'Reviving the spirit of Mosul Project', Erbil, Iraq
  - "Regional Conference on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Arab World", Amman, Jordan
- 2023**
  - ALIPH Forum 2023, Abu Dhabi, UAE
  - Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia, Xian, China

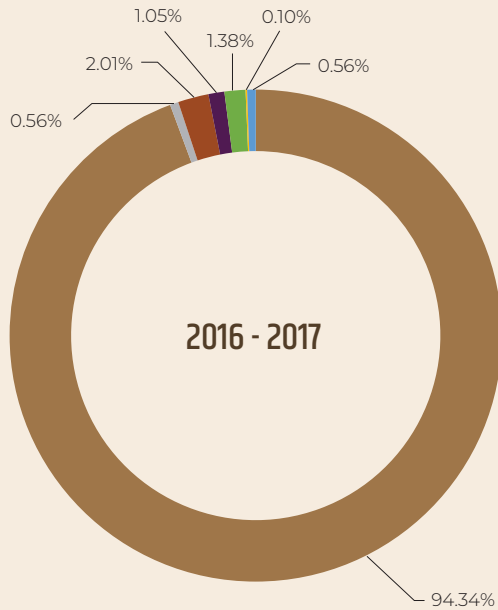
# FINANCIALS

Over the last ten years, ICCROM-Sharjah dedicated efforts to its financial improvement – existing partnerships were consolidated and new ones created. Thanks to the unwavering support and commitment of Member States, foundations and other donors, ICCROM-Sharjah continued to persevere in its mission to protect cultural heritage in the Arab region.

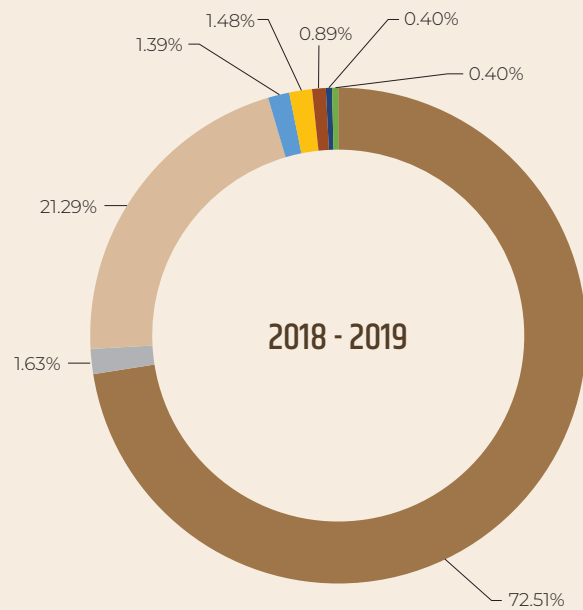


## Funds raised for the implementation of ICCROM-Sharjah activities between 2012 and 2022:

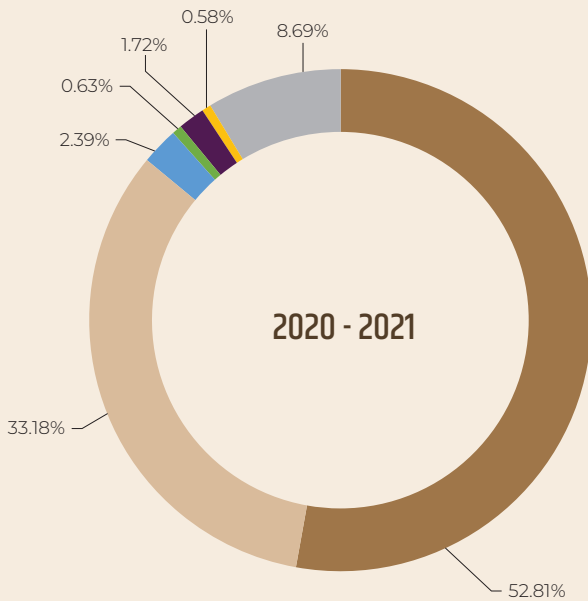




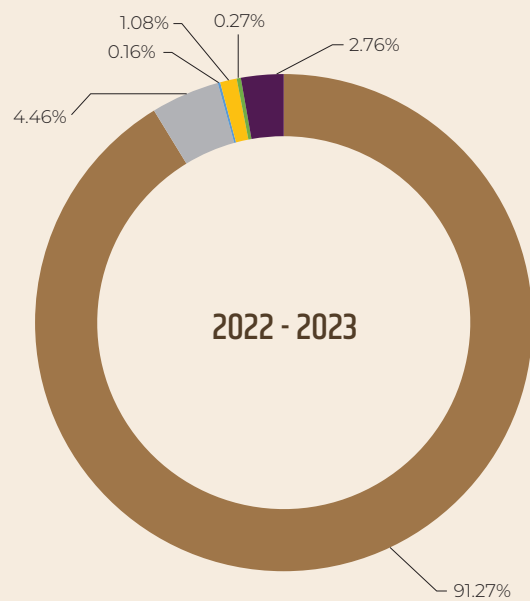
- Government of Sharjah
- UCL-Qatar
- US Government
- Prince Claus Foundation
- UNESCO-Iraq
- Welfare Association, Palestine
- Louvre-Lens Museum, France



- Government of Sharjah
- Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland
- Cultural Protection Fund, British Council
- The National Museum of Oman
- Getty Conservation Institute
- EAMENA Project of the University of Oxford & GHF & Art Jameel
- La Société Marocaine d'Archéologie et du Patrimoine (SMAP)
- UNESCO-Beirut

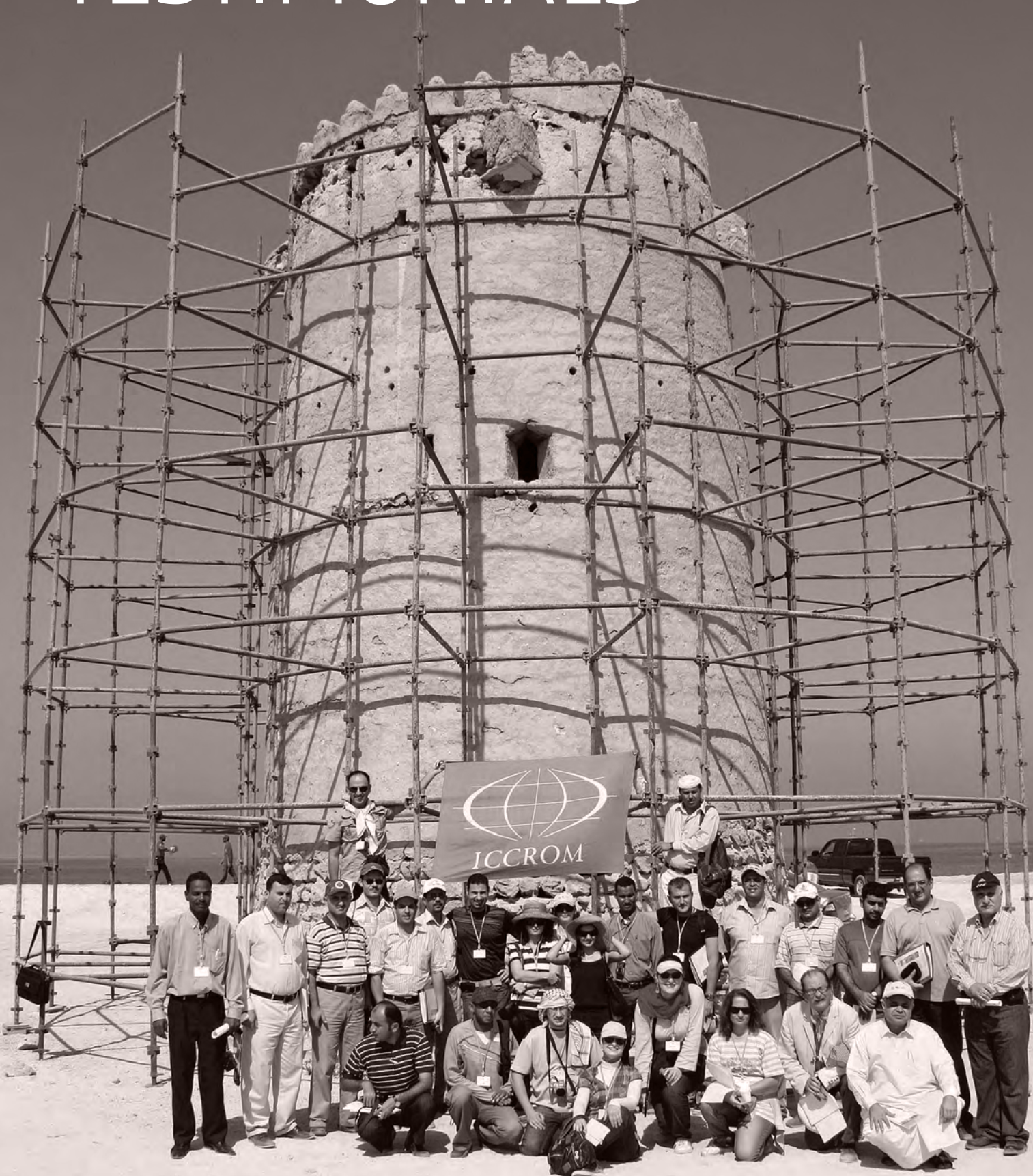


- Government of Sharjah
- UNESCO-Iraq
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- ALECSO
- Sharjah Institute for Heritage
- ZeeArts Gallery
- The National Museum of Oman
- Getty Conservation Institute
- Cultural Protection Fund, British Council



- Government of Sharjah
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- ALECSO
- Sharjah Institute for Heritage
- ZeeArts Gallery
- The National Museum of Oman

# TESTIMONIALS





"Among the most beautiful experiences of my years at ICCROM, is certainly that of having seen the birth and growth of the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Conservation Centre (UAE), with which the international organization founded by UNESCO in Rome, marked a turning point in its history. For ICCROM, the challenge at hand was that of "thinking globally", thus maintaining its tradition as an international training institution aimed at spreading scientific principles of cultural heritage conservation with the same methodological approaches and with a sole spirit of dialogue across the world, while having to act "locally", to pursue maximum effectiveness by adapting its programmes to the different regional needs. This challenge, very difficult for an organization that despite the large number of its member states is actually very small, found an entirely positive solution in the MENA region, at a historical moment in which, to the traditional problems of conservation concerning lack of personnel, means, natural cataclysms, etc., were added those resulting from an absolutely dramatic social and political situation, both on a domestic level and internationally, due to wars, social conflicts and terrorism. Thanks to the generous support of the HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi and to the strong commitment of the staff led by Dr Zaki Aslan, in just a few years ICCROM-Sharjah developed extensive training programmes that, in collaboration with the main academic and scientific institutions, along with the NGOs active in the area, addresses all major heritage issues concerning the region, while preserving the spirit of ICCROM and UNESCO."

**Stefano De Caro**  
**Director-General of ICCROM from 2011 to 2017**

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"The successful story of the creation of ICCROM-Sharjah  
When the 2008 financial crisis hit, the extra budgetary funding for the ATHAR Programme was reduced. In an effort to alleviate the situation, with the agreement of ICCROM's Council, possibilities were discussed with the Office of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, who agreed to host in Sharjah, and financially support, the ATHAR training courses that had had an enormous success in the Arab region. Subsequently, in order to have a more permanent presence of ICCROM in the Arab region, the generous welcome of His Highness, his strong support in offering a site for a permanent capacity building entity mainly addressing young experts from all Arab countries, were manifested by his commitment to offer a new building in the Sharjah University City and the creation of a Sharjah Annex to ICCROM's headquarters in Rome. This result was warmly welcomed by ICCROM's General Assembly in 2011 following a decision of Arab Ministers of Culture of the same year at their meeting in Doha, on a proposal made by the United Arab Emirates. Later on, the new extended ICCROM building in Sharjah was inaugurated in 2014, in the presence of the Director General of ALECSO and my successor, Dr Stefano De Caro, Director-General of ICCROM at the time, who pursued this path so that, today, we are able to celebrate ICCROM-Sharjah's achievements under the continued leadership of Dr Zaki Aslan, and support of Dr Webber Ndoro, ICCROM's current Director General."

**Mounir Buochenaki**  
**Director-General of ICCROM from 2006 to 2011, and**  
**Advisor for Cultural Heritage (UNESCO-ICCROM-ARCWH)**

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"The capacity building activities offered by ICCROM-Sharjah since 2012 aimed at promoting the preservation of cultural heritage in Arab countries have given a unique opportunity to Arab professionals in this field to acquire an exhaustive and interdisciplinary knowledge of the issues related to the conservation of cultural heritage. This has contributed to the creation of a network of professionals within the Arab world who can - during their professional careers - share their experience in order to strengthen their knowledge related to regional problems and thus develop solutions specific to the environment in which they operate.

Furthermore, with the translation into Arabic of multiple manuals and books, ICCROM-Sharjah has greatly contributed to the accessibility of technical and scientific information and publications. This has not only increased the awareness of all stakeholders involved in the field of heritage conservation, but also laid the groundwork for the development of sustainable and comprehensive long-term conservation policies in the Arab world."

**Isabelle Doumet-Skaf**  
**Conservator & ICCROM-Sharjah Expert, Lebanon**

## TESTIMONIALS

“The establishment of ATHAR Programme was a significant and innovative initiative in 2004. It has consolidated ICCROM’s activities in the Arab region, responding to the needs to safeguard its rich heritage. From 2005, training programmes were organized in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, followed by conservation courses for Palestinians, Iraqis and Yemenis. From 2014, courses and workshops were organized regularly in Sharjah, where the ATHAR Programme was offered a base for all Arab States, becoming the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Conservation Centre (ICCROM-Sharjah).

Over the past decades, UNESCO and other international organizations have recommended guidelines for the integrated and sustainable conservation of cultural and natural heritage. It was essential to well interpret and apply these guidelines for proper conservation of heritage. Here, ICCROM-Sharjah has had a vital task in assisting the region in the development and application of shared management approaches while taking into account the specificity of each place. In addition to training, workshops have joined cultural heritage leaders to discuss critical issues such as earthen architectural heritage, underwater and industrial heritage, mosaics, museums, and climate change. The Arab Region possesses heritage associated with ancient traditions of different origins in a variety of environmental contexts, and ICCROM-Sharjah has become a crucial partner to join forces to further common safeguarding efforts.”

**Jukka Jokilehto**  
**Special Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM**  
**Professor Emeritus at the University of Nova Gorica**

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“Decade of collaboration with Sharjah–UAE

It gives me great pleasure to see the publication of this report on ten years of collaboration between ICCROM and Sharjah (UAE). The origins of the ICCROM Regional Office in Sharjah lie in a re-orientation of ICCROM’s worldwide activities at the start of this millennium. In 2000 only one member of ICCROM’s professional staff was not of European or North American origin. The Arab world was one region that merited a programme dedicated to its own needs and strengths – the ATHAR programme was the result, initiated in the Arab world following the appointment of Dr Zaki Aslan to ICCROM’s staff. For many years Sharjah was among the venues for ICCROM professional development courses and technical collaboration. Its transformation into a long-term regional office with regular staff and facilities was due to the support of the Ruler of Sharjah, His Highness Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, and reflected his enthusiasm for promoting education, art and culture at national and international levels. As this report demonstrates, ICCROM’s regional office has, in its ten years of activity, made a substantial contribution to saving, conserving and publicising the cultural heritage of the Arab world. I wish it all continuing success.”

**Nicholas Stanley-Price**  
**Director-General of ICCROM from 2000 to 2005**

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“The ICCROM-Sharjah Centre has been an exceptional partner to the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in many activities related to the cultural heritage of the Arab region. In the last ten years, ICCROM-Sharjah has played an especially crucial role in MOSAIKON, an initiative of the GCI, Getty Foundation, ICCROM and the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM), that is dedicated to improving the conservation and management of archaeological mosaics in the Mediterranean region. As a project partner, ICCROM-Sharjah has collaborated in building capacity, translating key texts, and supporting a community of practice that will be MOSAIKON’s enduring legacy. We are grateful to ICCROM-Sharjah and its talented staff for all we have accomplished together these many years and look forward to fruitful collaboration in the future. ‘

**Jeanne Marie Teutonico**  
**Associate Director, Getty Conservation Institute**



We at Sharjah Museums Authority are very pleased to have had the wonderful opportunity to work closely with ICCROM-Sharjah since its very early days and throughout the past 10 years. Together, we have initiated and completed many successful initiatives and projects including conferences, research, capacity building and more. ICCROM-Sharjah has been a great supporter for all our endeavours in areas of cultural heritage preservation. We are also very proud of the ICCROM supported Masters Programme recently launched at the University of Sharjah, where Sharjah Museums Authority is a partner providing academic and research support for the museum studies track of the program. We look forward to continuing this partnership with ICCROM Sharjah in the years to come.

**Manal Ataya**  
**Director General, Sharjah Museums Authority**

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"Sharjah a unique and so needed place to train professional working in Arabic countries  
In the 1950's, the training of the staff working for the conservation and restauration of cultural heritage, both movable and immovable, was taught in few European countries.

At the request of its numerous Members States, which did not have the possibility to train their own staff, in 1958 UNESCO created in Rome – thanks to the generosity of the Italian Government – the center that today we call ICCROM.

Nearly 10 years later, more training places opened in Europe, but they were not enough to face the situations in all continents. For this reason, UNESCO planned a large campaign with the objective to establish a network of regional centers, one for each region of the world. To this end, for Central America the Churubusco Center was established in Mexico, for Latin America the Cusco Center in Peru, for Sub-Saharan African countries the Jos Center and the Niamey Center in Nigeria. For Arab countries, it was not until 1975, that the Iraqi Government welcomed the Baghdad Centre.

Yearly courses were provided with the support of ICCROM. The activities were increasing, and I have had the chance to teach in Baghdad for 4 consecutive years, and observe the rapid development of the place where I met many professional colleagues which became friends. In 1980 because of the Iraq-Iran war, the Baghdad Center originally supported by UNESCO closed and unfortunately never reopened despite the necessity to provide professional training in the region.

To fill this gap and following a feasibility study based on concrete actions, the offer made in 2011 to ICCROM and Arab Member States by UAE through HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, to create a new Center for Arab countries was more than welcome. Since then, the Sharjah Center has not only run numerous activities in Sharjah, as the Baghdad Center did in late 70s, but extended its activities to serve all countries across the Arab region. Long life to this so needed and unique place!"

**Gaël de Guichen**  
**Special Advisor to the Director-General of ICCROM**

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"In 2008, when I joined an ICCROM-Sharjah course, I was a focal point for the Arab Region at IUCN-World Heritage. The course provided me with the skills required to effectively manage IUCN World Heritage programme. It gave me the opportunity to apply what I had learned along with the knowledge I gained through my studies, and translate them into practice. I realised how theories could be taught practically to trainees, especially since our programme focused on building the capacities of heritage professionals. Finally, one of the significant takes for me was the exchange and communication with other professionals from the Arab Region – the exchange of knowledge and being open to the diverse cultures of countries, was a key source of my success in my career managing the IUCN-Tabe'a programme that covers 19 Arab countries."

**Haifaa Abedalhaleem**  
**Co-Convenor | OurWorldHeritage Initiative**

## TESTIMONIALS

"This MSc programme is pioneering in terms of design, content, uniqueness, and diversity. It blends scientific theory and practice with strategies adopted by international conventions in management and conservation of cultural heritage, with a focus on the heritage issues within the Arab context. The lectures have been geared by a very high-level of expertise by ICCROM, UoS and other international institutions dedicated to supporting this outstanding program. The entire programme encouraged our sense of responsibility as promising site managers who should uphold and guarantee the best conservation and management of cultural heritage sites, and protecting their value while taking into account the global dynamic development of sustainability, participatory approaches, urbanism, interpretation, management of change, among other very important topics."

**Ziad A. H. AbuOwda**  
**Acting Director | Conservation Department of the**  
**General Administration of National Registry | Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Palestine**  
**MSc Alumni | Class of '22**

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ICCROM's interest in the mosaic conservation sector dates back several decades, and was concretised with the creation of the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM) in the 1970s. Furthermore, about fifteen years ago, four international institutions: ICCROM, the Getty Institute for Conservation, the Getty Foundation and ICCM decided with the heritage professionals of the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean rich in mosaics, to set up the MOSAIKON programme. It consisted in developing together, a strategy for the conservation and protection of mosaics whether in situ, deposited, exhibited or stored. ICCROM, through its ICCROM-Sharjah Centre, played an important role in identifying problems and developing actions in the various countries, always in close collaboration with the national institutions. Originally designed to undertake one-off actions, the MOSAIKON programme has now been running for more than a decade. The main activities cover various specialized training courses intended for site and museum managers on the one hand and technicians in the restoration and conservation of mosaics on the other. Regular meetings with heritage Directors General of the 13 partner countries made it possible to follow the evolution of the various projects. ICCROM-Sharjah has played an essential role in the development of various activities, especially in their implementation. To highlight is the publication of a book which brings together, for the first time, the main articles on the conservation of the mosaic translated into Arabic. It was also at ICCROM-Sharjah, where the first meetings with Arab universities took place, in order to introduce the teaching of heritage conservation into the university curriculum. It was a founding act to promote the culture of heritage conservation in Arab countries.

**Aicha Ben Abed**  
**MOSAIKON Regional Coordinator**

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"The creation of the ICCROM-Sharjah Regional Conservation Centre is a major event for the world of heritage conservation. Tribute must be paid to the authorities of the Emirate of Sharjah and to the officials of ICCROM for this initiative. Congratulations must also be extended to the Director, Zaki Aslan, and his team, for the implementation of an impressive program. From 2008 to 2011, in charge of the Euromed Heritage program, I closely associated ICCROM\_ATHAR. I have also had the honour of working in multiple symposia and workshops with ICCROM-Sharjah, including the workshops on the "Means to Strengthen Cultural Heritage Protection in the Arab Region: Legal and Policy Frameworks" held in Krakow, Poland, and the International Colloquium on the Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities, held in collaboration with Louvre-Lens. All the major themes and challenges in the field of heritage conservation were addressed, and in particular, the measures to be taken to protect cultural heritage from armed conflict, something which the MENA region has experienced as of late. In recent years, ICCROM-Sharjah has continued its momentum, to become a world-class reference centre, both for the addressing key issues in the field of heritage conservation and for capacity building. We can rest assured that the next ten years will provide confirmation of these major achievements at the service of heritage and international cooperation."

**Jean-Louis Luxen**  
**President | Culture, Heritage & Development**



"In emerging economies, as the case in the Arab World, conservation of historic sites and monuments are often overlooked, neglected or worse sabotaged in favour of economic and urban developments. When ICCROM-Sharjah Award started giving notice to best practices in Architecture and Urban Conservation, no doubt that this pioneering act raised awareness to the importance of heritage conservation. The Award does not only acknowledge aesthetic and professional values, but most importantly the projects' impact on environmental sustainability, community development, economic valorisation, cultural continuity, among much needed goals. The Award became prominent in radiating fresh energies and new motivations for individual practitioners, institutions and governments when dealing with heritage sites, monuments, archival documents and museums. While continuing its important efforts; positive aspirations, movements and actions continue to rise and flourish."

**Dalila ElKerdany**  
**Architect and Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urban Design**  
**Cairo University, Egypt**

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"ICCROM-Sharjah opens the path to merging the aspects of teaching cultural heritage preservation with the development and execution of major conservation projects into an amazing event: the biennial Award for Good Conservation Practices in the Arab world.

By recognizing and rewarding the most outstandingly executed projects in various fields of cultural heritage preservation, ICCROM-Sharjah raises the awareness of Arab young professionals working in this field, promoting a methodology for achieving good practices in the conservation and management of cultural heritage. From monuments to archaeological sites, to living and urban heritage, to museums and archives, the spectrum of cultural heritage is wide and diversified. This Award, by allowing to share these projects in the academic environment, improves the level of Arab expertise in the field of cultural heritage conservation and sheds light on the various sectors of our Arab cultural heritage. But above all, it opens the gates for new projects to be implemented following the achievements of successful projects, and consequently improving conservation practices for the best, and this indeed, is one major contribution ICCROM-Sharjah can be proud of.

Today, the ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Conservation Practices in the Arab World has become one of the most prestigious awards worldwide. Arab experts are very enthusiastic about participating in the event as it becomes an opportunity to showcase of their expertise and excellence. ICCROM-Sharjah has undoubtedly become a key platform for sharing such experiences."

**Jean Yasmine,**  
**Conservation Architect**  
**Nominated for the 2017 Award for Beaufort Conservation and**  
**Presentation project (CDR-DGA), Lebanon**  
**Recipient of the 2022 Grand Award for the Beirut Assist Cultural**  
**Heritage (BACH) project (DGA), Lebanon**

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"As practitioners in the field of preserving cultural heritage in historic cities, we clearly see the effective impact of the distinctive efforts carried out by ICCROM-Sharjah, especially in disseminating knowledge and making it available to a wide audience, by holding capacity-building activities, workshops and forums that discuss issues affecting our historical and cultural heritage in the Arab region – a region exposed to destruction, loss and disasters. Needless to say, that ICCROM-Sharjah has become the go-to centre for disseminating best practices for the conservation and management of historical sites, while aiming for their sustainability.

We therefore look to ICCROM-Sharjah as an active reference point in the Arab region in the field of conservation, and the ICCROM-Sharjah Award as the ultimate recognition of the excellence of our projects that fall within the category of best practices for preserving our heritage, especially because it stresses the impact that these projects may have on society, as well as the importance of community participation in conservation processes as a means to achieve sustainability and deepen the impact, thus setting a standard for preserving our heritage in the Arab region.

## TESTIMONIALS

At the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program - Welfare Association, we eagerly competed for the honour of receiving this recognition from ICCROM-Sharjah, whose methodology and excellence we appreciate and respect. We had the honour to receive the Grand Award, in 2022, for our project, which was implemented during the years 2017-2022 to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of residential and historical buildings in the vicinity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Not only has this process affected us deeply, but it also gave us the incentive to commit more efforts in the preservation of our historical heritage in Palestine. Our thanks go to HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah for his patronage in this important event and his continued interest in cultural heritage protection in the Arab region. Our thanks are also extended to Dr Zaki Aslan, for his management and distinctive vision in the development ICCROM-Sharjah's activities, which resulted in ICCROM-Sharjah becoming a distinguished centre for the conservation of cultural heritage in the Arab region – including its wide geographical spread and the different cultures it encompasses. "

**Amal Abuelhawa**  
**Programme Manager | Jerusalem's Old Cities Revitalization Program (OCJRP)**  
**Welfare Association (Taawon), Palestine**

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"I would like to thank His Highness Shaikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, and ICCROM-Sharjah and the Lebanese National Commission for organizing this award and choosing my work as a winning prize. The photo resembles Lebanese heritage from old houses to traditional clothing and morning socialization. I encourage young children like me to preserve, protect and promote their heritage because it resembles their identity".

**Ibrahim Ibrahim**  
**Al Rawda Secondary School, Lebanon**  
**Winner of Photography Category, Young Award 2020**

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"This programme helped me widen the vision that I had about conservation, especially its management. As we can't expect an architect or conservator to be able to do the management without any knowledge about it, the same applies to a manager that has nothing to do with the field of heritage and conservation. The bottom line is that this approach of training specialists to become managers is a very interesting step in my career."

**Farah Hadji**  
**MSc Alumni, Class of '22**





## To find out more

If you would like to know more about ICCROM-Sharjah or interested in supporting our work, please contact:

Tel: +971 (0)6 555 2250

Fax: +971 (0)6 555 2213

P.O. BOX 48777, Sharjah, UAE

Email: [athar-centre@iccrom.org](mailto:athar-centre@iccrom.org)

Website: [www.iccrom.org](http://www.iccrom.org)





ICCPROM-SHARH ACADEM 2012-2022