

إيسيسكو
ICESCO

Heritage of the
Islamic World Centre



EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Concept note





Introduction:

The Islamic World has a rich cultural heritage that is characterized by remarkable architectural buildings, archaeological sites as well as manuscripts and living heritage. Despite their importance, most of these invaluable heritage assets face different challenges including urbanization, wars, abandonment, natural disasters, and climate change. The development of clear approaches is essential to create a viable management systems and applicable strategies, which can help in protecting and valorizing these assets. Moreover, this management plan will allow them to play a crucial role in achieving SDG's.

3

18% (211) of World Heritage places are in the Islamic World; more than thirty members have less than three sites on the list with nine countries having none. Yet 63% of the ones on Danger list are from this region (28% of the WH members). Thus, the main thrusts of this programme is to improve the management of the heritage sites and ensure that the number on the Danger list are reduced. At the same time preventing more to be added to the list from the region. It is equally imperative that more be added to the prestigious list to ensure that the Islamic World Heritage is properly showcased in its richness and diversity. Thus, this program is aimed not only to improving the heritage management systems in the ICESCO members but also promoting and profiling this rich heritage together with the reset of the world

Objectives

The main objective of this program is to introduce sustainable solutions for the problems facing the management of heritage assets in the Islamic world. Through executing innovative and applicable strategies and fostering collaboration with the international bodies with the same interest, we will achieve and ensure the long-term protection and preservation and promotion of these heritage assets for future generations and enhance their role in sustainable development agenda of UN. For the next biennium the main objectives are

- (a)** Improve the management of heritage places amongst ICESCO member states in order to limit and reduce Danger Listing.
- (b)** Assist Member States with removing sites from the Danger list
- (c)** Assist member states to nominate sites to both to World Heritage and Islamic World heritage list. These are mutually exclusive.
- (d)** Assist Member States with up-to-date adoption to AI and IT technology

Capacity Building Strategy

4

The strategic activities will be focused on building long term capacity in the region and individual countries, thus most of the activities will be based in a number of countries working together. Whilst individual country specific activities will be project based i.e., aimed at site on the Danger list or for nomination: The majority of sites on the danger list are in conflict zones and a few are due to management issues.

The programs and activities will therefore aim at ensuring better management of the heritage hence the need of capacity building in the member states. The strategic activities will focus on impact assessment; risk preparedness and mitigation.

To ensure better understanding of the Danger listed sites in the ICESCO members an in-depth research and study will be conducted in three months and this will inform the bases of an impactful program of activities.

The number of sites from ICESCO members on the world heritage list needs also to be increased given the richness and diversity of the heritage in the Islamic world thus a series of programmes and activities will be initiated to capacitate the nomination of more heritage places based on the Islamic Register.



Expected results:

- In the next biennium assist three Member states in inscribing assets to the Islamic World Heritage Register and the World Heritage List.
- Four Member states develop effective management systems
- Create a network of Islamic heritage experts. (professionals)
- Develop a programme to assist Member States to remove sites from Danger list

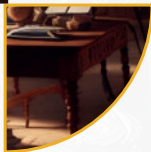
Indicators:

- Three inscribed sites in Islamic world on ICESCO and world heritage lists.
- Develop a programme aimed risk management at Heritage places
- Participation in rehabilitation of 3 heritage sites in state members of ICESCO.
- Two Capacity building workshops on heritage management
- Effective programme developed for assisting Member states with Danger listed sites to achieve the Desired State of Conservation status.

5

Partners:

- UNESCO offices in state members- ministries of culture and antiquities – ICCROM- ICOMOS- ICOM- Aga Ghan- Alef- Universities and heritage education institutions.
- Important to develop research synergies with local universities to deepen our understanding of managing heritage assets in the Islamic world.



Budget:

Activity	Proposed period	Expected results
Assist Member States to inscribe sites to Islamic and WHC	2024-2025	Three inscription proposals submitted
Capacity building on nomination	2024-2025	Two regional capacity building workshops in cooperation with UNESCO category two institution.
Impact/risk assessment at heritage capacity building	October/November 2024 and 2025	Two impact assessment workshops attended by 35 professionals from member states
Develop a programme to assist Member States with the WHC danger list	July 2024	Danger List Programme aimed at ICESCO members
Develop a database of Heritage Experts from ICESCO members	2024-2025	Functioning database of professionals
Contingency/meetings	2024-2025	Annual reports

6

Conclusion:

We can enhance the management of heritage assets in the Islamic world by adopting an all-round approach that entails building capacity, documentation, community participation, policy change, sustainable tourism, and international cooperation. If we all work together selflessly and dedicate ourselves to the cause, our invaluable cultural heritage will remain preserved for the betterment of both now and coming days.

Effective management of heritage assets:

- Heritage on Danger list
- Nomination and managing Heritage
- Heritage Impacts
- AI & IT in heritage

Programme at a glance



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