



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Arab Regional Centre for
World Heritage (ARC-WH)
under the auspices of UNESCO



منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترية والعلم والثقافة
المركز الإقليمي العربي
للتراث العالمي
تحت رعاية اليونسكو

ARAB REGIONAL CENTRE FOR WORLD HERITAGE (ARC-WH) — BAHRAIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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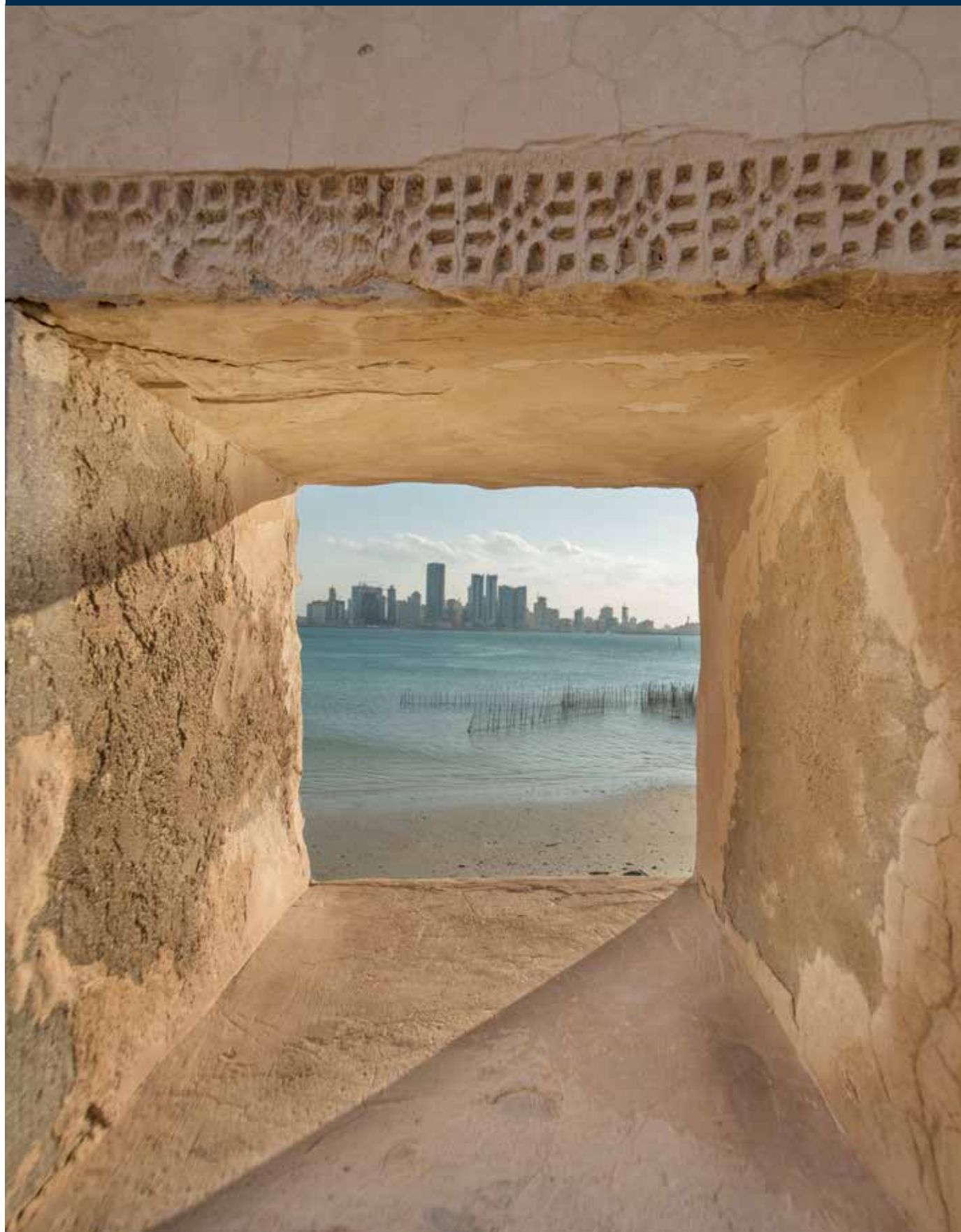


Medina of Tétouan, Morocco
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“The Centre increased its activities in 2018 and intensified its efforts to support the Arab State Parties by providing technical and financial support in the protection and management of Cultural and Natural World Heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. ”



CHAIRPERSON'S FORWARD

SHEIKHA MAI BINT MOHAMMED AL-KHALIFA

I would like to begin the 2018 Annual Report of the Arab Regional Centre for the World Heritage (ARC-WH) by expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has hosted ARC-WH since 2012 and continues to support its efforts in the protection of Cultural and Natural heritage in the Arab region.

I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to UNESCO for its ongoing support and partnership with ARC-WH, which has enabled it to continue its efforts in the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

The year 2018 was a year of major challenges for the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) and ARC-WH during which they took on important international and regional responsibilities at many levels, including hosting the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Manama in June and July.

That same year, many events were held in Bahrain after Muharraq was selected as the capital of Islamic culture, and I am pleased to note the effective role of ARC-WH in assisting and supporting these events throughout the year.

ARC-WH engaged in a number of activities during the World Heritage Committee by organizing several side-events and an exhibition, while attending Committee meeting sessions.

The Centre increased its activities in 2018 and intensified its efforts to support the Arab State Parties by providing technical and financial support in the protection and management of Cultural and Natural World Heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. It also assisted Arab States in the nomination and preparation in reviewing and updating Tentative Lists.

In 2018, ARC-WH organised seminars and capacity building workshops aimed at enhancing the understanding of heritage experts and regional site managers in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This was done in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and its key partners. ARC-WH participated in regional and international conferences to discuss the urgent challenges facing the Arab region.

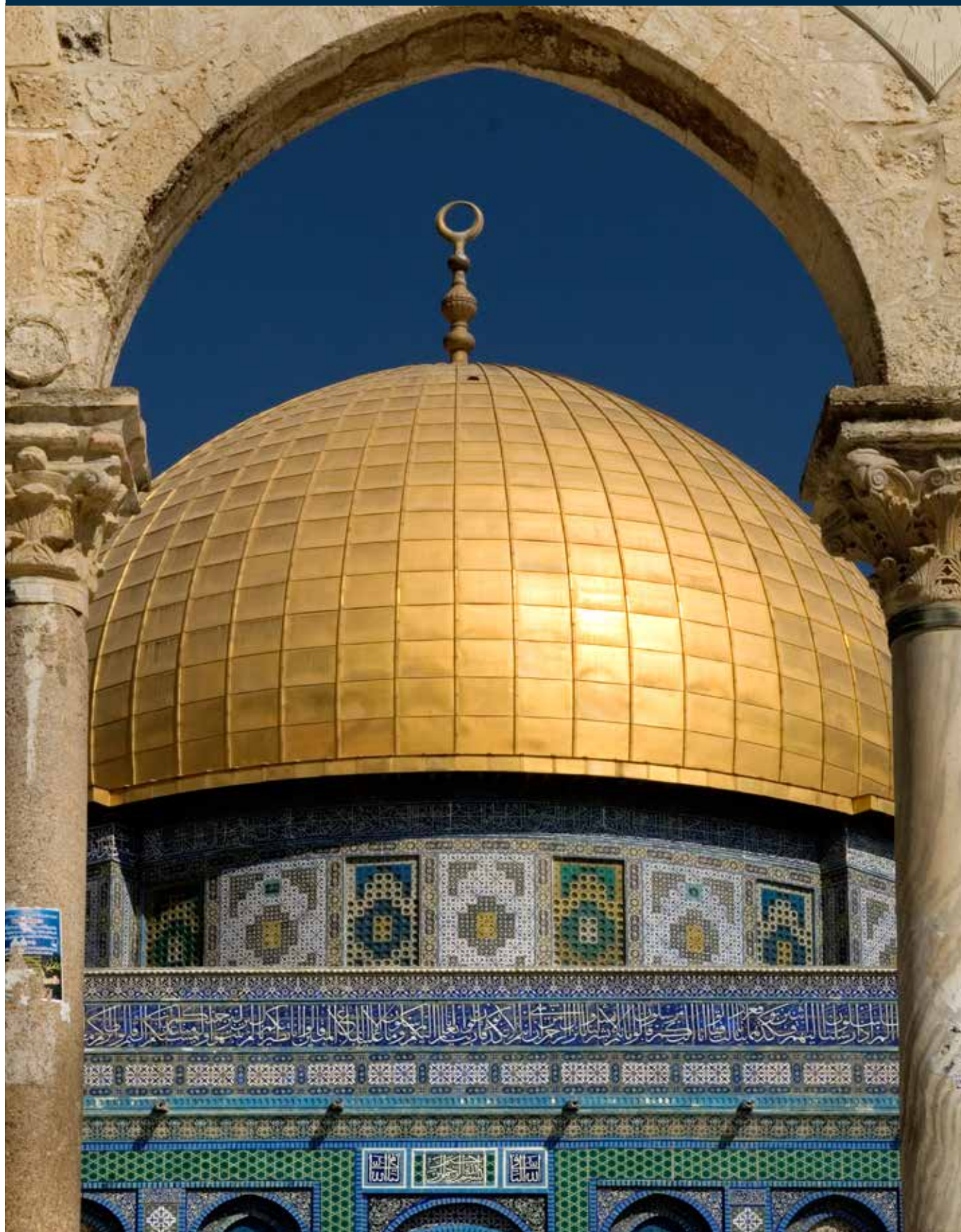
During 2018, ARC-WH started the implementation of the recommendations of its new strategy, including its documentation and awareness component. Through the use of traditional and modern channels of communication, ARC-WH was able to increase its scope of influence and outreach.

With confidence, we hope that the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage will continue to progress next year and further its activities in supporting the Arab States in the preservation and safeguarding of our cultural and natural heritage.

Her Excellency
Sheikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa

Chairperson of the Governing Board

“For the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, 2018 was the year of continuity, new challenges, high expectations and fulfilment.”



*Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls
© Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)*

INTRODUCTION BY THE DIRECTOR

DR. SHADIA TOUQAN

For the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), 2018 was the year of continuity, new challenges, high expectations and fulfilment. As with previous years, the team of ARC-WH continued to build on the Centre's experience and knowledge accumulated over the years since its official launch in 2012 to expand its outreach in the region, and to strengthen its partnerships and to meet new expectations and responsibilities with the usual enthusiasm, dedication and effectiveness.

In 2018, while ARC-WH continued to fulfil its obligations under its mandate as a Category 2 Centre (C2C), it also met new responsibilities including preparing for and managing the Period Reporting meetings for the Arab Region in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre (WHC). One introductory meeting was held in July and the first meeting for Focal Points in Arab region was held in December. Two meetings for site managers were planned for 2019.

In addition to finalising the Centre's newly developed strategic plan, endorsed by the GB in 2017, ARC-WH started in earnest to implement its main recommendations, particularly strengthening the cultural component within its programme, with clear results and effectiveness, while continuing the implementation of activities under the natural heritage component.

The Centre also remained committed to providing support to State Parties in the region through specialised capacity building and training programmes to ensure the successful implementation of the 1972 WH Convention. However, one of the most significant interventions in this respect is the launch of a capacity building project for local professionals in the region, in partnership with ICOMOS, to increase and enhance the participation of regional professionals in the assessment and evaluation of heritage sites for nominated sites and to enable them to assist their own countries and others in post-inscription management and protection of World Heritage sites.

When the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting in Manama, ARC-WH endeavoured to participate through a series of side events, including Heritage Urban Landscape, post conflict reconstruction, and "heritage and water" combined with a special exhibition on traditional water systems in the region. During this major event, the team also initiated a number of meetings with partners, affiliates and State Party delegations to enhance existing collaborations and open up new channels for cooperation.

Within its information and documentation component, ARC-WH conducted a series of lectures and presentations by regional experts on major World Heritage cities in the region installing an exhibition, at the Centre, on these cities and another on traditional water system in Arab countries. Meanwhile, the Centre is extending its outreach and communication activities through its website and social media with great impact.

In response to the changing and increasing needs for protection of World Heritage sites in the region, particularly in view of the threats facing a number of major inscribed heritage sites, ARC-WH is consolidating and developing its cooperation with professionals and officials in the region to ensure that the required support is provided effectively.

The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage would not have been able to fulfil its obligation and achieve its objectives successfully in 2018, without the continued guidance and encouragement from H.E. Sheikha Mai Al-Khalifa, the Chairman of the Governing Board. The Team and Management of ARC-WH also greatly appreciate the support and cooperation of the World Heritage Centre and all members of the Centre's Governing Board.

Dr. Shadia Touqan

Director of the Arab Regional Centre
for World Heritage

BACKGROUND

The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. It was established by the Kingdom of Bahrain on February 2010 as an autonomous and independent legal entity at the service of Arab Member States to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the region.

The main objective of the ARC-WH is to support efforts of Member States to achieve a credible and balanced representation of the region's cultural and natural heritage on the World Heritage List, promote better protection and management of such World Heritage properties, mobilise regional and international financial support for these purposes, and raise awareness of World Heritage in the region.



Archaeological Site of Cyrene, Libya
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To strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States by providing information, knowledge, and advice to Member States and facilitating coordination and cooperation among stakeholders at the international, national and local levels for the benefit of World Heritage sites in the region.

TOTAL NUMBER OF
WORLD HERITAGE
SITES IN THE
ARAB REGION

84
SITES

OBJECTIVES

- Improve the representation of the Arab States properties on the World Heritage List.
- Create a network of local and regional experts in the region.
- Mobilize regional and international financial support for the preservation of properties.
- Increase and promote awareness of World Heritage in the region.
- Disseminate information, initiatives and programmes concerned with the World Heritage Convention.

PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

To maintain ARC-WH's mandate in supporting Arab States parties in achieving a credible representation of World Heritage in the region, and ensuring the protection and safeguarding of properties and sites, ARC-WH Programmes and Activities follow the strategic objectives of the World Heritage Convention's Five Cs:

**CAPACITY BUILDING
CONSERVATION
COMMUNITY
COMMUNICATION
CREDIBILITY**

ARC-WH's efforts in conservation and dissemination of knowledge has increasingly spread and diversified through the use of communication and collaboration with its main partners, and has strengthened ARC-WH's efforts in the effective training of heritage professionals in the management of World Heritage properties.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMME

The Cultural Heritage Programme (2018-2022) builds upon ARC-WH's Strategic Plan, and is designed to implement its overall strategic objectives and respond to the particular needs of the cultural heritage field in the Arab region. The programme lays out the main outcomes that ARC-WH seeks to achieve in three components:

Strengthen capacity to identify, protect and manage World Heritage properties in the region.

Responds systematically to the specific needs of protecting cultural heritage in the region by focusing on particular areas;

Building expertise to protect and manage cultural World Heritage.

PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

TABÉ'A –NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMME

TABÉ'A (nature in Arabic) is the regional partnership programme between ARC-WH and IUCN, for natural World Heritage in the Arab States region with the aim to enhance natural heritage conservation and monitoring systems. The programme was launched by IUCN in 2008 in response to the pressing needs of Arab States, stakeholders and sites within the Arab region, and is implemented in close coordination with IUCN World Heritage Programme.

The number of natural sites currently listed in the Arab region is the smallest of any of the UNESCO regions by a considerable margin. The TABÉ'A Programme's mission is to address the underrepresentation of the natural heritage of the region on the World Heritage List by providing capacity training on the preparation of nominations, as well as the monitoring and managements of natural heritage sites.

THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION STIPULATES IN ARTICLE 5 THAT IN ORDER TO:

"To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavour, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

a. to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes;

b. to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;

c. to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;

d. to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and

e. to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field."





Old Walled City of Shibam, Yemen
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CAPACITY BUILDING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

With 22 out of the 84 World Heritage sites in the Arab region in danger, ARC-WH strategically designed its technical training programmes and workshops to meet the emerging needs of the region and increase the capacities of Arab State Members, regional stakeholders and site managers to mitigate further damages.

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE JUSTIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

**SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
CAPACITY BUILDING**

ARC-WH participated in a training workshop with the management office responsible for the preparation of Nomination files in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, on the procedures and implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The workshop focused on the concepts of integrity, authenticity, and the criteria for evaluating the potential OUV of cultural properties.

Participants discussed requirements of management systems, protection, and monitoring of cultural heritage sites, and examined case studies to increase their understanding of the requirements of the Operational Guidelines with regard to the submission of Nomination files.

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FOUR NATURAL COMPONENTS OF THE AHWAR WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

**JANUARY
IRAQ
CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION**

Inscribed in 2016, the Ahwar of Southern Iraq is a mixed serial property made up of seven components—cultural and natural—and is also one of the world's largest inland delta systems found in an extremely hot and arid environment.

From January to July, ARC-WH provided technical assistance, support and capacity-building activities to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Iraq, and to various Iraqi institutions and regional stakeholders responsible for the effective management and protection of the Ahwar's four natural components.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE CONSERVATION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE KASBAH OF ALGIERS, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

**21-23 JANUARY 2018
ALGIERS, ALGERIA
CAPACITY BUILDING**

ARC-WH was invited by WHC and the Algerian government to participate and assist in the International Meeting of Experts on the Conservation and Revitalization of the World Heritage Site of the Kasbah of Algiers. This meeting was held in Algiers, Algeria from 21 to 23 January 2018 and addressed key issues related to the conservation and management of the property in order to propose an integrated and coordinated approach to the revitalization of the Kasbah of Algiers.

Participants visited the Kasbah during a field visit that organized by the Ministry of Culture, to observe and study the various challenges threatening the property.

Given the expertise of ARC-WH in the field of urban heritage conservation, and as the only category two centre operating in the field of World Heritage in the Arab region, ARC-WH was invited to present the case and themes of revitalization and rehabilitation of the City of El Quds.

CAPACITY BUILDING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MECHANISMS AND CONCEPTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

28 JANUARY - 4 FEBRUARY

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION

ARC-WH organized a workshop from 28 January to 4 February on Mechanisms and Concepts of the World Heritage Convention and Risk Management and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites for heritage professionals and experts from Palestine and Libya, with the participation of ICCROM-ATHAR Sharjah Centre, based in UAE.

The workshop kept in line with the "Policy For the Integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention" adopted by UNESCO's General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention at its 20th Session in Paris.

1ST INTEGRATED WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT MANUAL WORKSHOP

30 JANUARY TO 1 FEBRUARY 2018

IUCN HEADQUARTER,
GLAND- SWITZERLAND

CONSERVATION; CAPACITY
BUILDING; CREDIBILITY;
COMMUNICATION; COMMUNITY

As part of the joint ICCROM-IUCN project for the World Heritage Leadership programme, ARC-WH participated in a workshop held from 30 January to 1 February 2018 at IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, to review the existing World Heritage management manuals and to establish a timeline for the production of the new manuals.

The updated manuals will provide effective methodologies for site management, and will include a focus on a people-centred approach that promotes the engagement of local communities and stakeholders.

UPSTREAM SUPPORT TO EGYPT FOR NATURAL HERITAGE

PROJECT PARTNERS: IUCN
MED, EGYPTIAN MINISTRY FOR
ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS, WHC,
UNESCO CAIRO.

6 -8 FEBRUARY 2018

CREDIBILITY; CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2016, the State Party of Egypt requested that ARC-WH assist in the revisions of natural sites on its Tentative List of natural properties for potential nominations to the World Heritage List.

Following this request, ARC-WH partnered with IUCN-Med to implement the project, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment. The project included a workshop that took place in Cairo from 6 to 8 February 2018, and brought authorities and key stakeholders responsible for natural conservation in Egypt, together. The aim objective was to establish a task force to revise and improve the representation of natural heritage sites on the Tentative List.



23RD CONFERENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE ARAB WORLD

18-21 APRIL 2018

AMMAN, JORDAN

**CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION;
CAPACITY-BUILDING**

ARC-WH was invited by ALECSO, organized in collaboration with Department of Antiquities in Jordan, to participate in the 23rd Conference on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Arab World, held in Amman, Jordan from 18 to 21 April 2018. ARC-WH presented an overview on the preparation and mechanisms of the Nomination file process, along with the Nomination format and content for the submission of sites on the World Heritage List.

The legal framework and protection of cultural property was also explored in the context of the 1954 Hague Convention, as well as the two main protocols that address the varying mechanisms of the Convention.

WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES FOR SITE MANAGERS OF SANGANEH MARINE NATIONAL PARK AND DUNGONAB BAY

24-27 APRIL 2018

PORT SUDAN, SUDAN

CAPACITY BUILDING

From 24 to 27 April 2018, a workshop was held at the World Heritage site of "Sanganeh Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay" to increase national and local capacities of regional stakeholders responsible for the management of the site. Participants included environmental stakeholders, members from academic institutions, government representatives, and members of the local community.

The involvement of the local community was especially important since the local population living in the surrounding areas of the Dungonab reserve, including those living on the island of Makor, have experienced socioeconomic difficulties that have affected their access to basic services.

WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE TOOLKIT (EOH)

26 APRIL 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

**CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION**

ARC-WH initiated its regional training programme World Heritage Management effectiveness – The Implementation of the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit (EoH) on 26 April 2018 which is composed of three workshops that target site managers from 12 Heritage sites in the Arab Region.

These workshops introduced a variety of tools that increase effectiveness of World Heritage site management by identifying gaps and factors that affect site, and how these issues can then be adequately addressed. The EoH Toolkit also helps determine the main values and attributes of World Heritage sites by implementing a site-based monitoring system to achieve enhanced management effectiveness.

CAPACITY BUILDING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY OF THE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE AND BOUNDARIES CLARIFICATION

22- 26 JULY 2018

CAIRO, EGYPT

CONSERVATION; CAPACITY
BUILDING

A training workshop on Retrospective Inventory and Boundaries Clarification was organized by ARC-WH, in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Cairo and the AWHF in Cairo, Egypt. The workshop, held from 22 to 26 July 2018, targeted heritage professionals and site managers of World Heritage sites from the States Parties of Egypt and Libya.

Various concepts of the World Heritage Convention were addressed in relation to the Retrospective Inventory that help to ensure a site's OUV is documented, thereby allowing for effective monitoring of the state of conservation.

Participants also visited the World Heritage site of "Memphis and its Necropolis- the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur" where they examined the management of the site, its main attributes and identified data that could be potentially included in the site's Retrospective Inventory.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE (EOH) TOOLKIT

TRAINING FOR MANAGERS OF CULTURAL, NATURAL AND MIXED SITES IN THE ARAB REGION

1-7 SEPTEMBER 2018

PETRA, JORDAN

CONSERVATION; CAPACITY
BUILDING

ARC-WH launched the training programme on Management Effectiveness of World Heritage Sites in Petra, Jordan from 1 to 7 September, to enhance the management-effectiveness skills and knowledge of site managers in the Arab region. A total of 11 participants from ten Arab States attended the workshop and tested their overall capacities in the areas related to management needs and processes.

The EoH toolkit was initially designed to support the management and assessment of natural sites. However, due to the growing need to develop both cultural and natural interlinkages, especially from the perspective of management of World Heritage sites, a more holistic approach was implemented.

During the workshop, participants visited the World Heritage site of Petra where they used a "hands-on" approach to study the aspects of monitoring and access control issues. A group discussion was also held regarding the TABE'A Report III, which will focus on Culture-Nature Interlinkages and Impact of Conflict in the Arab Region.



Ancient City of Qalhat, Oman
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**TRAINING WORKSHOP ON
HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF WORLD
HERITAGE SITES**

23-27 SEPTEMBER 2018

MUSCAT, OMAN

**CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION**

ARC-WH, in collaboration with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture in the Sultanate of Oman, alongside ICCROM and IUCN, organized a training workshop in Muscat, Oman from 23 to 27 September 2018 on the topic Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) concepts in the field of the World Heritage Convention.

A total of 11 Arab States attended the workshop to increase their understanding of concepts and mechanisms of the World Heritage Convention, including conservation, management and protection. Participants were introduced to the ICOMOS HIA Guideline and the IUCN EIA Advice Note, as methods to apply to the recently inscribed World Heritage site, "Ancient City of Qalhat", in Oman, which was the main case study during the workshop.

**MARINE WORLD HERITAGE EXPERT
MEETING**

9-12 OCTOBER 2018

**DUNGONAB AND SANGANEH,
SUDAN**

**CONSERVATION; CAPACITY
BUILDING**

ARC-WH attended the Marine World Heritage Experts Meeting of "Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park" organized by the Marine World Heritage Programme of WHC, in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Khartoum and the Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture, in Port Sudan, Sudan.

The meeting took place from 9 to 12 October 2018 and aimed at improving the capacities of locals and federal authorities through the exchange of ideas to assist in the development, implementation, and management of the site's OUV. ARC-WH will provide support for the authorities responsible for the review of the integrated management plan of the site (2018-2023), and has also agreed to facilitate the translation of the management plan into Arabic.





CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ARC-WH's Strategic Plan (2018-2023) for regional heritage conservation and sustainable development is at the heart of its strategy, with the objective of strengthening the capabilities and understanding of regional heritage specialists to provide them with the knowledge and expertise needed in the field of World Heritage conservation.



ESTABLISHING A MAN AND BIOSPHERE (MAB) RESERVE IN BAHRAIN

14-17 JANUARY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) combines socioeconomic development and education to improve people's livelihoods by promoting innovative solutions that are beneficial for local communities and are environmentally sustainable.

ARC-WH, in partnership with the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), organised a MAB workshop at its headquarters in Manama, Bahrain from 14 to 17 January 2018, to potentially establish a MAB reserve in Bahrain.

Participants were introduced to the MAB Programme as an instrument for sustainable conservation and development, which was then followed by the Nomination processes and designation process of the MAB Reserves. Workshop participants also reviewed various sites for potential designation as UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves, including six of Bahrain's natural protected areas.

A field visit to Mashtan Island and the Hawar Islands was then conducted to assess endemic flora and fauna native to these islands as potential case studies for the application of the MAB Programme.

MITIGATION OF HURRICANE IMPACTS ON ENDEMIC AND THREATENED PLANTS OF SOCOTRA ARCHIPELAGO

2018

HOMHIL AND FERMHIN, SOCOTRA
CONSERVATION; COMMUNITY

In 2018, ARC-WH started to provide extensive support to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of Socotra, Yemen, in order to implement the International Emergency Assistance financed by the UNESCO World Heritage Fund with the objective of establishing two regeneration plant nurseries for the iconic endemic flora of the globally renowned natural World Heritage site of the Socotra Archipelago, which became threatened by the destructive impacts of two cyclones that struck the island in 2015 and 2018, as well as the overgrazing from goats and construction projects.

The on-going project is implemented in two areas, Homhil and Fermhin, which were both critically damaged by the hurricanes. Two fenced plant nurseries with irrigation systems are being installed with the active involvement and training of a team of local community members who not only install the nursery, but are also trained in their documentation and long-term maintenance in order to allow a sustainable natural regeneration of the targeted threatened plant species.

COORDINATION MEETING WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS OF BAHRAIN

23 APRIL 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION

In partnership with BACA, ARC-WH organized a coordination meeting with local stakeholders involved in the management of the city of Manama, to provide them with information about the ongoing work and studies be conducted on the safeguarding of Manama's urban heritage.

The main outcomes of the meeting were the strengthening of cooperation amongst local stakeholders, and greater understanding of the importance of communicating with BACA before any new developments are authorized in the city. It was also agreed that a workshop would be organized for engineers and staff working on Manama's development to ensure they receive training on the themes of heritage protection.



WORKSHOP ON THE WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION PROCESS OF URBAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IN BAHRAIN

**14 MAY 2018
MANAMA, BAHRAIN
CAPACITY-BUILDING**

In collaboration with BACA, ARC-WH organized a workshop on the World Heritage Nomination process and the technical requirements for the safeguarding of urban cultural heritage in Bahrain on 14 May 2018.

During the workshop, ARC-WH gave an overview of the Nomination process for the submission of cultural heritage properties on the World Heritage List. BACA also presented its work and efforts in safeguarding the built heritage in the capital governorate to the representatives of the Municipality of Manama, and discussed how both BACA and the municipality can better coordinate their actions in the future to protect the urban heritage of Manama and other districts in Bahrain.

COORDINATION MEETING WITH STATE PARTY OF IRAQ, MINISTRY OF CULTURAL

**2 JULY 2018
MANAMA, BAHRAIN
CONSERVATION**

During the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, a bilateral meeting was held on 2 July 2018, at the UNESCO Village in Bahrain, between ARC-WH and the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities of Iraq and the Permanent Representative of Iraq to UNESCO.

The State Party of Iraq and ARC-WH discussed partnership and collaboration through the provision of technical assistance to the State Party of Iraq to increase the capacities of heritage professionals to safeguard the cultural and historic heritage of Iraq. The main outcomes of these discussions included a road map for future ARC-WH actions and activities in Iraq, and the establishment of a MoU between the Ministry and ARC-WH to facilitate cooperation between both parties.

GHUBA MANGROVES RESTORATION PROJECT ON SOCOTRA ISLAND

**OCTOBER 2018
SOCOTRA
CONSERVATION; COMMUNITY**

ARC-WH, in collaboration with Friends of Socotra (FoS) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of Socotra, Yemen, launched the "Ghuba Mangroves Restoration Project on Socotra Island" initiative in October. The project is implemented by the local Socotri NGO called Al Tamek Association for Protection of the Mangrove Tree, which was created to shed light on the importance of mangrove restoration on the Island.

The project aims at restoring and rehabilitating lost mangrove ecosystems in a targeted area on the north coast of Socotra in order to support the mitigation and minimisation of damaging coastal erosion. These ecosystems serve as crucial climate change mitigation measures, since they are considered one of the most effective carbon sinks.

Additionally, this vital ecosystem provides a habitat for various endemic bird species, such as the Socotra Warbler and Socotra Cisticola, as well as shellfish and reptile species, and it serves as a productive nursery for marine animals. This on-going project aims at instilling a sense of the value of mangrove conservation and their surrounding environment in the local community and their youth, providing them with an opportunity of sustainable involvement and ownership.



Aflaj Irrigation System of Oman, Oman
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CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT



EXPERT MISSION VISIT TO MANAMA

14-17 OCTOBER 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; CREDIBILITY

In collaboration with BACA, ARC-WH invited an expert of world heritage sites to assess the urban development of Manama from 14-17 October 2018. The mission included multiple site visits around the Manama area to examine the overall state of conservation, and to help to identify threats that needed to be addressed. Moreover, meetings were held with various stakeholders, including representatives from the civil society and local authorities to discuss recent protection and conservation efforts of Manama's heritage.

Field visits to the Pearling Path in Muharraq and Qal'at al- Bahrain were also organized to review the current state conservation of both World Heritage sites.

INTEGRATING CULTURAL HERITAGE INTO CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING ON SOCOTRA

25 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2018;

21-24 OCTOBER 2018

CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION

As part of a two-year programme funded by the British Council, and which is implemented in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh and the Freie Universität Berlin, ARC-WH held two training workshops under the name of Integrating Cultural Heritage into Conservation and Development Planning on Socotra, for participants from the local community of Socotra with the guidance of international experts in the fields of cultural heritage documentation, archaeology, sustainable tourism and botany, in Manama, Bahrain.

The workshops aimed at enhancing the awareness and skills of the Socotri participants in the conservation and documentation of cultural heritage of the Socotra Archipelago – a UNESCO World Heritage site designated since 2008 for its outstanding natural value – and to establish a cultural heritage database that integrates biodiversity conservation and development planning.

The first course took place from 25 February to 1 March 2018 and consisted of lectures and

practical exercises to incorporate a comprehensive understanding of cultural heritage preservation and documentation techniques, such as the study of archaeological structures, photography and audio-visual documentation skills.

During the second workshop, which took place from 21 to 24 October 2018, participants advanced their knowledge and understanding in sustainable tourism, the production of short documentary films, and cultural heritage documentation such as archaeological surveying.

Following these hands-on trainings, the participants returned to Socotra in order to conduct extensive documentation missions throughout the Archipelago – thus far a pioneer initiative shedding light on the richness of the cultural heritage of this globally infamous natural World Heritage site.

ARC-WH also collaborated with a team of experts to publish a study on 'Documenting a threatened rock art site on Socotra, Yemen'. The team discovered drawings, symbols, rock art and signs dating back to the 1st century BCE (BC) and 8th century CE (AD). As a result of this discovery, the workshop focused on the documentation of rock art and how to effectively protect the physical evidence of the archipelago's cultural history.

THIRD CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING OF ARAB STATES

Periodic Reporting is at the forefront of conservation monitoring mechanisms of the World Heritage Convention. Once regional reports are examined by the World Heritage Committee, Action Plans are then prepared, thereby providing strategies and goals that can be implemented by States Parties to increase conservation efforts.



TRANSLATION OF THE PERIODIC QUESTIONNAIRES AND REVIEW OF THE HANDBOOK FOR SITES MANAGERS PUBLICATION

JUNE 2018

COMMUNICATION; CONSERVATION;
CAPACITY BUILDING

ARC-WH translated Section I and Section II of the questionnaire of the Third Cycle Periodic Report (a vital tool utilized by WHC to collect regional reports from States Parties) to Arabic. The questionnaires are completed by focal points and site managers in one of the two official languages (usually English or French) of the World Heritage Convention. The Arabic translation will allow for a better understanding of the questionnaires and the involvement of all concerned stakeholders. The data compiled will be examined by the World Heritage Committee to provide recommendations to States Parties which will then be formulated into Action Plans for more effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the regional level.

Additionally, ARC-WH also reviewed the Periodic Reporting Handbook for Site Managers (2018-2024), which was previously translated from English to Arabic by WHC, to ensure that the correct technical terms were applied. By translating these sections of the questionnaire and reviewing the Handbook Arabic version, ARC-WH is bridging the communicative gap and creating a more accessible survey that can be utilized by Arab focal points and site managers.

INFORMATION SESSION CONCERNING THE THIRD CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING OF THE ARAB STATES

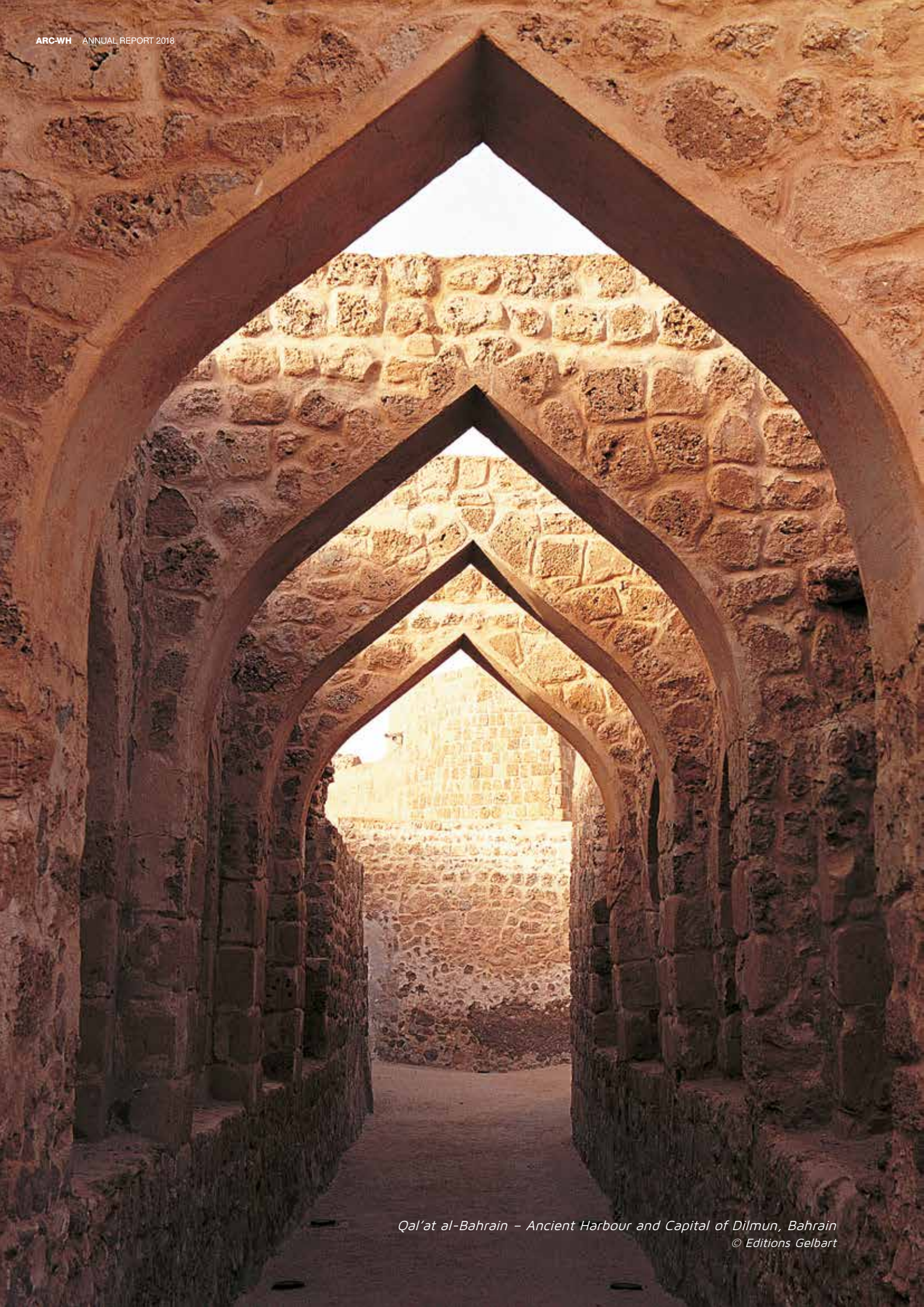
1 JULY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN
COMMUNICATION

During the 42nd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, ARC-WH hosted a meeting on 1 July 2018 that was attended by the chief of the Arab States Unit at WHC, a number of Arab ambassadors and nineteen Arab States that have ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

The meeting discussed the latest developments of the Periodic Reports' Questionnaire administered by WHC that provides an overall assessment of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, as well as the state of conservation and management of the 84 World Heritage sites located in the Arab region.





THIRD CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING OF ARAB STATES



THIRD CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING INFORMATION MEETING

12-14 NOVEMBER 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

**COMMUNITY; CONSERVATION;
CAPACITY BUILDING**

From 12 to 14 November 2018, ARC-WH and WHC, in collaboration and with BACA, organized the first regional meeting on the issue of Focal Points for World Heritage in the Arab States during the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting, held in Manama, Bahrain.

Participants were divided into three working groups to complete Sections I and II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaires, and were assisted by resource persons from ARC-WH, WHC, ICOMOS and IUCN to offer further clarification and insight.

The meeting also highlighted technical issues and difficulties faced during the completion of the questionnaire, as well as possible solutions to be considered by the WHC during the next periodic reporting cycle. A site visit to Qal'at al-Bahrain was organized in order for the focal points to identify threats faced by the property, and in turn, provide suggestion of conservation measures that could be implemented by the Bahraini authorities.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF WORLD HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS IN THE ARAB REGION FOR CULTURAL AND MIXED SITES

ARC-WH and ICOMOS worked closely together in 2018 to further their efforts in conservation and capacity building in the shared spirit of heritage preservation. ICOMOS, a non-government organization based in Paris, France, is one of the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee. Its primary role is to advise the Committee on the evaluation of nominated properties for potential inscription on the World Heritage List, monitor the state of conservation of properties, and review submitted requests by State Parties for International Assistance.



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF WORLD HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS IN THE ARAB REGION FOR CULTURAL AND MIXED SITES

9-13 DECEMBER 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION

From 9 to 13 December 2018, ARC-WH, alongside ICOMOS, and in partnership with ICCROM and IUCN, conducted a pilot workshop entitled Strengthening Capacities of World Heritage Professionals in the Arab Region for Cultural and Mixed sites at ARC-WH in Manama, Bahrain.

The course focused on the mechanisms and concepts of the World Heritage Convention, as well as the technical evaluation missions and Reactive Monitoring Missions undertaken by the Advisory Bodies. Moreover, comprehensive discussions and modules of the various procedures and regulations of the World Heritage Convention, its Operational Guidelines, and the state of conservation of sites were presented to the participants.

TOTAL NUMBER OF
WORLD HERITAGE
CULTURE SITES IN
THE ARAB REGION

76

CULTURE
SITES





ENHANCING ARC-WH CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMME

In 2018, ARC-WH Cultural Heritage Programme integrated the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030 SDGs) alongside the concepts and scope of the Policy Document of the World Heritage Convention, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly. The adaptation and introduction of these concepts into the Cultural Heritage Programme was an important step and contributed to the development and training of heritage professionals, students and local communities with over ten activities that included capacity building and training workshops, public events, exhibitions, and informative documents published by ARC-WH.

Two main references were used in the planning and application of the 2018 Cultural Heritage Programme, namely the outcomes of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and the new Strategy of ARC-WH, which was adopted by the Governing Board of ARC-WH during its seventh meeting.

- A workshop was organized for Libyan and Palestinian heritage professionals, with the participation of ICCROM-ATHAR SHARJAH, to address gaps related to knowledge and understanding of the World Heritage Convention concepts and mechanisms. Particular attention was given to increasing awareness on the perception of the World Heritage List in Danger and building capacities of professionals with regards to risk preparedness and management.
- To ensure that Management Effectiveness Assessments are better incorporated in broader monitoring and evaluation processes in the future, the Cultural Heritage Programme collaborated closely with the TABE'A Programme in developing a training programme of an adapted version of the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit (EoH). A total of three workshops were organized to enhance the management effectiveness assessment, understanding and the application of over ten natural, mixed and cultural landscape sites in the Arab region.

- Two thematic programmes were initiated in 2018 and addressed the challenges identified in the ARC-WH Cultural Heritage Strategy, and in the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise;

The first focused on the Safeguarding and Promoting Cultural Landscapes in the Arab States and was initiated by an exhibition, entitled "Heritage of Water" portraying crucial roles played by oasis landscapes on a global and regional scale.

The second, Promotion and Protection of Urban Heritage in the Arab Region was launched with an exhibition on Historic Islamic Cities, which was accompanied by a series of public lectures on various World Heritage Cities from across the region, and was held at ARC-WH.

- A training course on the completion of the Retrospective Inventory for Cultural World Heritage Sites was held in 2018 to enhance the monitoring and conservation of World Heritage sites, notably sites that require better documentation. This course targeted the State Parties of Egypt and Libya. The training programme was jointly organized by ARC-WH and AWHF following the recommendations of the Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres, held in February 2018 in South Africa.

- As highlighted in ARC-WH revised strategy, the review and harmonization of Tentative Lists are one of the gaps that ARC-WH needs to develop. Following an official request sent by BACA, ARC-WH Cultural Heritage Programme undertook a full-fledged plan of activities to assist the Kingdom of Bahrain in revising its Tentative List.

- ARC-WH reinforced its action in the region by collaborating with ICOMOS and initiating a capacity building programme to train experts from the region on how to conduct technical evaluation missions and Reactive Monitoring Missions.

- Following the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee to provide assistance to the Arab States in the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, ARC-WH Cultural Programme, in collaboration with WHC and the Advisory Bodies, organized the first regional meeting for focal points in the Arab region in November 2018.



Medina of Tunis, Tunisia
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PROMOTING & PROTECTING WORLD HERITAGE IN THE ARAB REGION

An ongoing year-long exhibition of Islamic Historic Cities located in the region was launched at ARC-WH in 2018. Iconic pictures visually translated the great significance of these cities, and how, through the centuries, they have come to embody the urbanized environments that have housed collective communities. The timeless cities featured represent a large majority of sites on the World Heritage List belonging to the Arab region, and present the remarkable ways in which social-cultural, geographic and climatic elements have shaped the various manifestations and forms of Islamic Arab cities.





Al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madâin Sâlih), Saudi Arabia
© Editions Gelbart

URBAN HERITAGE (HISTORIC ISLAMIC CITIES)

Islamic World Heritage Cities



RESTORATION AND REVIVAL OF THE OLD CITY OF NABLUS

2 FEBRUARY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

COMMUNICATION; CONSERVATION

During the workshop on Mechanisms and Concepts of the World Heritage Convention, held at ARC-WH for Palestinian and Libyan experts and professionals in the field of heritage, Samir Rantis, a participant in the aforementioned workshop, presented a public lecture on 1 February 2018 about the "Restoration and Revival of the Old City of Nablus".

The public presentation discussed the achievements of the Jerusalem Programmes for the preservation and revitalization of the Old Town.



MEDINA OF FEZ

18 APRIL 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION

On 18 April 2018, Medina of Fez, a city that once held tremendous influence over the architectural development in Northern Africa from the 12TH to the 15TH centuries, was examined and discussed by Professor Mouhsin Al Idrissi Al Omari. He described Medina of Fez as a city that reflects the fusion of ancient techniques in the arts of construction and decoration as indicated by its cultural and urban design that is shared by many other Arab-Islamic cities.

During his presentation, Professor Al Omari gave an overview of the characteristics of this city's ancient features, and its similarity to the other historic Arab-Islamic cities, describing Fez as an open-air museum filled with monuments and unique elements of Morocco's architectural heritage.

JERUSALEM: A CITY ON EARTH BUT ITS ROOTS ARE IN HEAVEN

9 MAY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

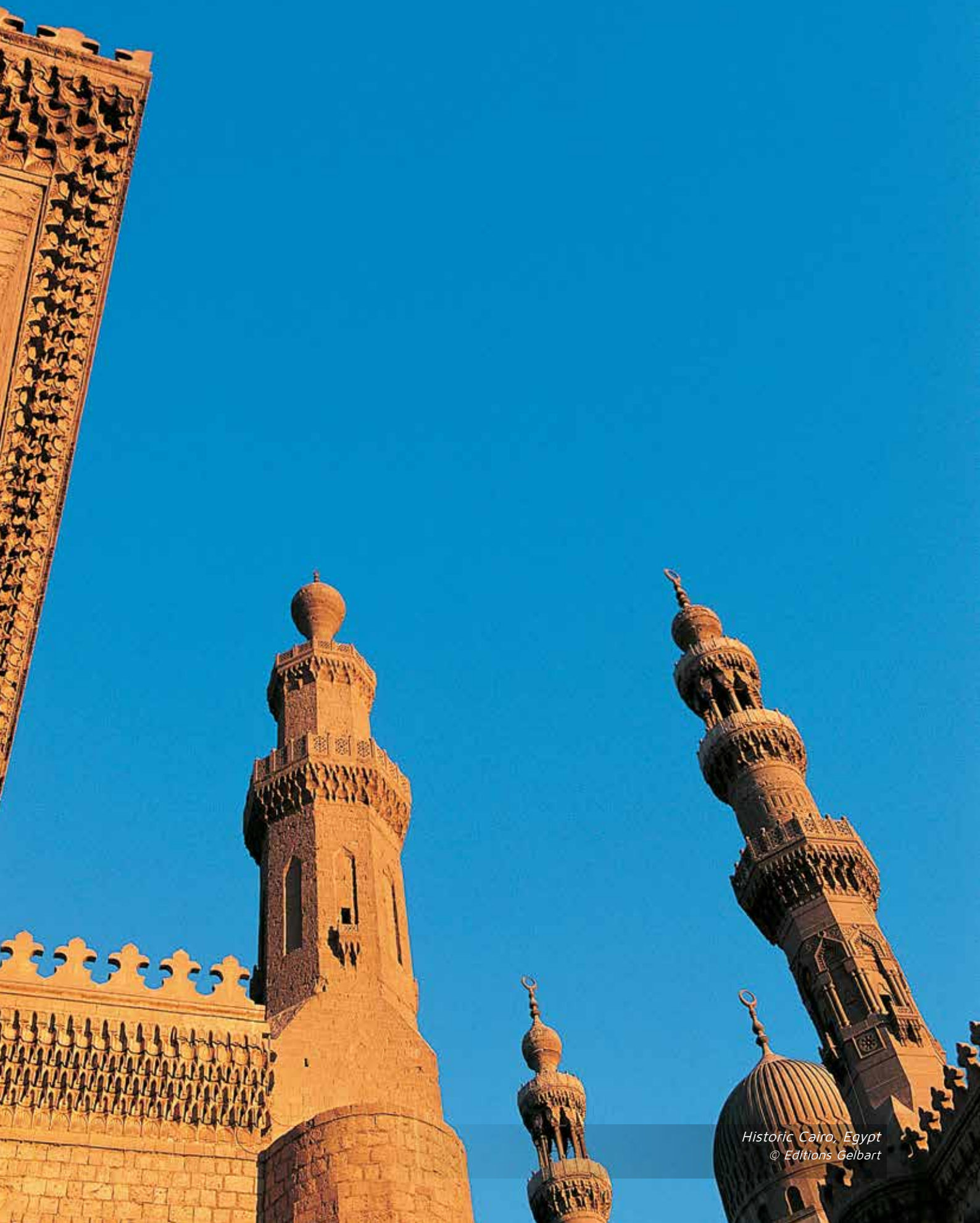
COMMUNICATION; CONSERVATION

Dr. Yusuf Natsheh, an internationally recognized specialist in the fields of history and architecture of Jerusalem, and a lecturer at Al-Quds University, gave an extensive lecture on Jerusalem: A City on Earth but its roots are in heaven - an overview of its history, legacy and architecture, which highlighted the composition of Jerusalem's urban fabric, as well as the need to further document this historic city.

The lecture was held at ARC-WH on 9 May 2018 and explored one of the most symbolic sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list: the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls. Professor Natsheh's detailed account of the ancient city's surrounding valleys, hills and mountains transported many of the listeners into the unique cultural heritage of Jerusalem and its many textures that have created its iconic urban fabric over the centuries.



Medina of Marrakesh, Morocco
© Editions Gelbart



Historic Cairo, Egypt
© Editions Gelbart

URBAN HERITAGE (HISTORIC ISLAMIC CITIES)

Islamic World Heritage Cities



RECONSTRUCTION OF BUILT CULTURAL HERITAGE: IMPACTS ON IDENTITY AND MEMORY

28 JUNE 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION

In conjunction with the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, on 28 June 2018 ARC-WH organized a panel and invited a number of experts from the World Heritage Centre, the International University of Sarajevo Director Centre for Cultural Heritage, the Department of Archaeology in Damascus University, and ICOMOS, to discuss critical topics that encompass reconstruction, post-reconstruction, challenges faced during post-conflict, and the lessons learned following conflicts in various areas of the world.

The context of the Arab region was discussed at length during the side-event meeting and drew attention to several issues that need be taken into consideration during the initial stages of recovery in countries and specific sites affected by conflict.

THE URBAN AND VISUAL IDENTITY OF JEDDAH

18 SEPTEMBER 2018

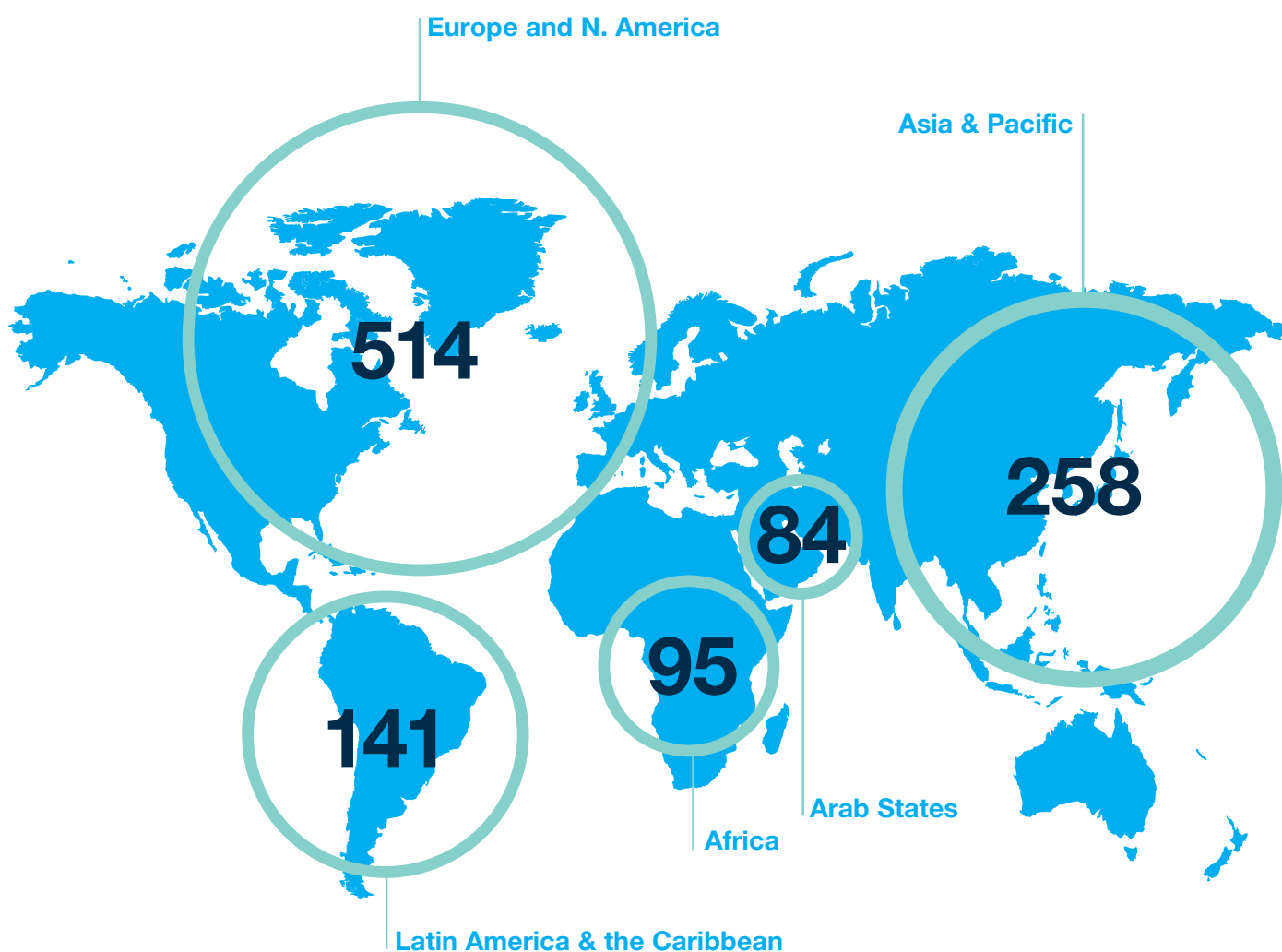
MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION

Dr. Mishari bin Al Naeem, a professor of architectural criticism at the Department of Architecture at the Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University, was invited to ARC-WH on 18 September 2018 to discuss the Urban and Visual Identity of Jeddah.

Centuries ago, Jeddah was established as a major trading route and landing harbour for millions of Muslim pilgrims. Both goods and pilgrims travelled through this historic city to enter the Gate of Makkah, a path walked by generations from every corner of the globe, bringing their cultural influences with them. These influences are made evident by the diverse typology of Jeddah's buildings and have continued to stand as architectural relics in the modern era.

NUMBER OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES BY REGION







Old City of Sana'a, Yemen
© Editions Gelbart

SAFEGUARDING & PROMOTING CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN THE ARAB STATES

Cultural landscapes are the expressions of traditional practices and sustainable uses of natural resources by local communities. The spectrum of sites found in the world represents and reflects the symbiotic interactions between people and their surrounding environment, and has resulted in some of the most extraordinary landscapes.

SUPPORTING THE STATE OF PALESTINE IN THE FINALIZATION OF THE BATTIR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

APRIL 2018

PALESTINE

CAPACITY BUILDING;
CONSERVATION

The State Party of Palestine sought the advice from ARC-WH for the review and finalization of the Management Conservation Plan (MCP) for the property "Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir", inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014.

ARC-WH worked with two consultants specialized in cultural landscape management within the World Heritage Framework, and the Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism (MoTA) of Palestine.

A field mission to the World Heritage property was conducted to verify the current management conditions, and to discuss the MCP with the Management Conservation Plan Team. During the mission, areas of improvement were identified, and meetings with representatives from the local community were held, as part of the assistance provided by ARC-WH.

The text review and site visit resulted in revisions of various chapters of the MCP, resulting in the submission of the MCP to the World Heritage Centre, before its final submission to the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Bahrain in June 2018.

22
SITES
IN
DANGER

TOTAL NUMBER OF
WORLD HERITAGE
SITES IN DANGER IN
THE ARAB REGION

HERITAGE OF WATER

Water has been at the epicentre of many local Arab communities established in arid and semi-arid environments in close proximity to water, including wetlands, seas, lakes, and rivers. Not only is water a crucial component to their survival, but it has played a significant role in the formation of cultural traditions, customs and practices.

The importance and development of cultural heritage in these communities was explored during two side-events held at the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Bahrain by ARC-WH and its partners.



HERITAGE OF WATER: TRADITIONAL WATER SYSTEMS IN THE ARAB WORLD

26 JUNE 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION;
CREDIBILITY

The Knowledge Research Centre featured a panel discussion on ways in which the sustainable use of water has carved and transformed the cultural heritage landscape of Arab region. The panel discussion was then followed by an exhibition that portrayed the discussion – The Heritage of Water-Oasis Landscape – featuring photographs of various forms of oases that exist in the Arab region, including the traditional manmade systems that sustainably utilize water in sites often located in arid environments.

HERITAGE OF WATER II: CULTURAL PRACTICES IN WETLANDS AND WORLD HERITAGE SITES

29 JUNE 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; CREDIBILITY;
COMMUNITY

Following the side-event held under the same topic of Traditional Water Systems, on 29 June 2018, ARC-WH, IUCN, and AWHF jointly organized a panel discussion on the Heritage of Water: Cultural Practices in Wetlands and World Heritage Sites. International experts in the field of natural and cultural heritage discussed the vital role water plays in cultural practices in water-dependent communities.

Along with discussions, the report Rapid Cultural Inventories of Wetlands in Arab States – which applies the methodology suggested by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and deploys the Ramsar Guidance on Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands – was launched.

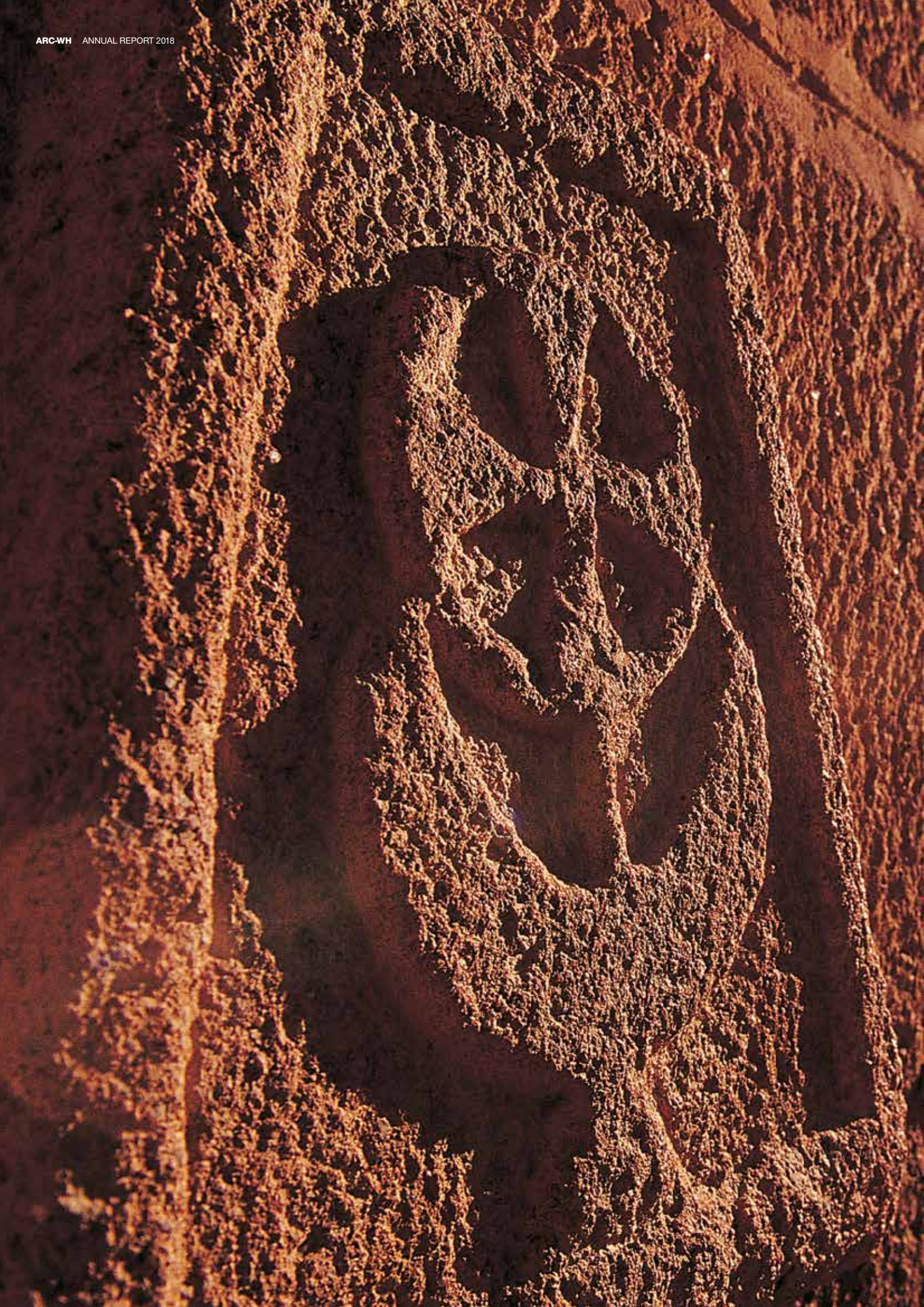
The assessment sheds light on the importance of cultural values and practices – in particular Ramsar Site and World Heritage Properties and wetland areas – highlighting the powerful role that cultural practices play in wetland conservation and use. The publication was launched by ARC-WH and Ramsar, with assisted funding provided by MAVA.

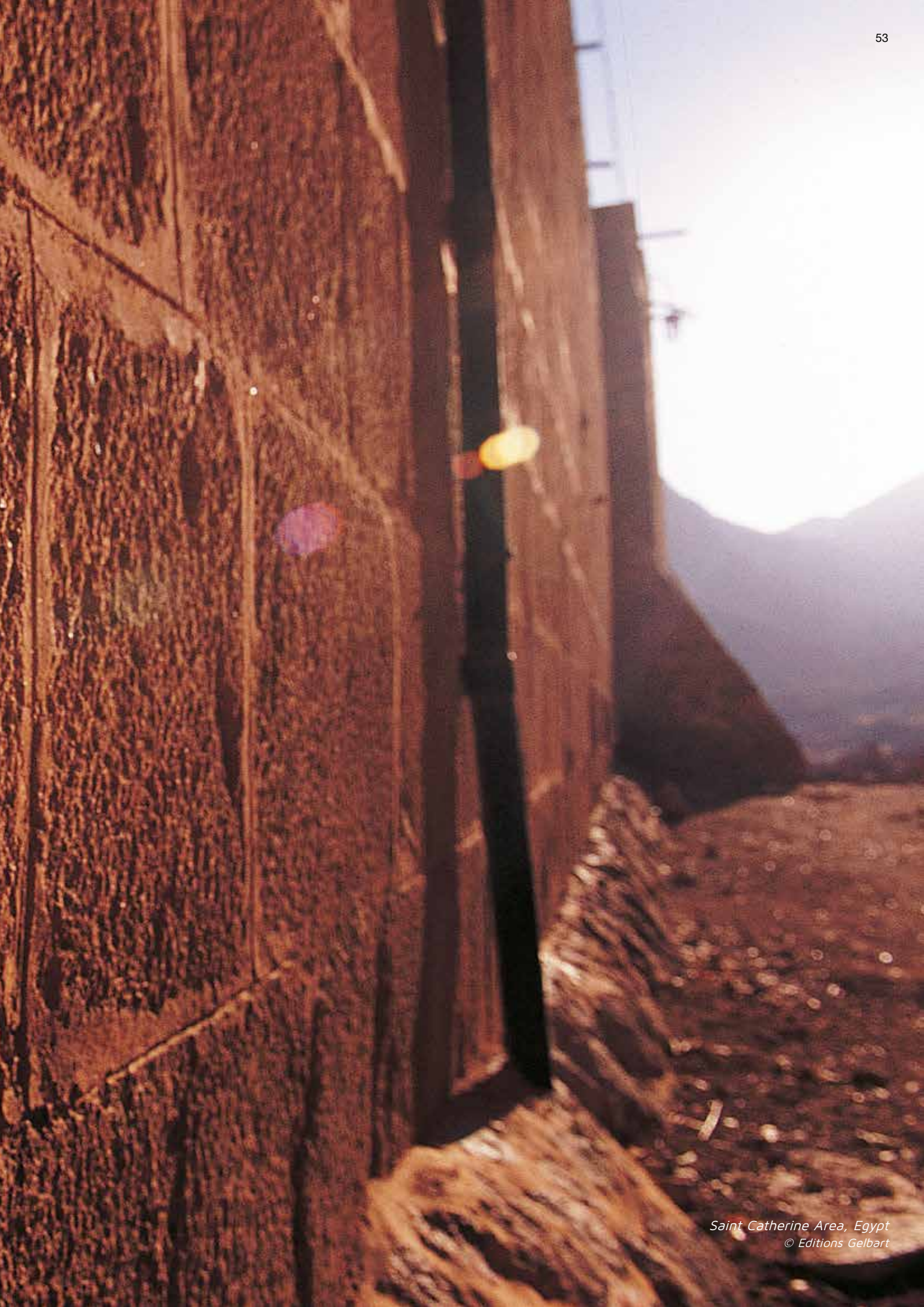


The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities, Iraq
© Mudhafar Salim

TOTAL NUMBER OF
WORLD HERITAGE
MIXED SITES IN THE
ARAB REGION

03
SITES





RAISING AWARENESS: COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

The provision of knowledge and the dissemination of information of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, including its processes of conservation and policies, is a main component of ARC-WH mission to increase overall awareness. This includes the translation of vital publications and educational resources into Arabic, as well as providing an Arabic website for Arab States and regional stakeholders.

Social media has also proven to be an effective tool in raising awareness. The international community now has immediate access to updates on ARC-WH's activities, and of World Heritage properties located in the Arab region.

ARC-WH LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

SPRING 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

COMMUNICATION

ARC-WH launched its new website in Arabic, English and French. The new design was personalized to users' needs, and is more accessible than its predecessor with many new features and updates, creating an easier platform for the dissemination of information, access to publications (in Arabic and English), news and multimedia. The website is also mobile-responsive. This was a critical addition to the new website since a majority of users prefer to access websites on their smartphones instead of their desktop.

Alongside its new website, ARC-WH developed its communication strategy and has successfully increased its visibility on social media platforms, thereby establishing a digital dialogue with its followers.

LAUNCH OF RAPID CULTURAL INVENTORIES FOR WETLANDS IN THE ARAB STATES

FEBRUARY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

COMMUNICATION; CONSERVATION

In February 2018, ARC-WH organized a Rapid Cultural Assessment for six Arab States: Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania and Tunisia, Iraq and Yemen. This rapid assessment applied the methodology suggested by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and implemented the Ramsar Guidance on Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands.

The selected countries were identified by the Ramsar Secretariat, IUCN and ARC-WH as being representative for the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions in general terms and relevant for the assessment scope specifically. The assessment is fundamentally linked to the global Sustainable Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Basically, the assessment was designed to promote the complementary relationship between the objectives and principles of the two Conventions in a regional setting.

STUDENTS FROM NYU ABU DHABI VISIT ARC-WH

13 MARCH 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

COMMUNICATION; COMMUNITY

On 13 March 2018 a group of students from NYU Abu Dhabi visited the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage. During their visit, ARC-WH's cultural and natural programmers gave informative presentations, explaining ARC-WH's strategic role in the Arab region, and the relevance of the 1972 World Heritage Convention.



Old Town of Ghadames, Libya
© Editions Gelbart

RAISING AWARENESS: COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

WORLD HERITAGE MEETING TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS

13 MAY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN
COMMUNICATION

On 13 May 2018 ARC-WH and BACA organized a workshop for local journalists to prepare them for the upcoming World Heritage Committee Meeting which subsequently took place from 24 June to 4 July 2018.

The workshop discussed the Committee's regulations, website, side-events, terms and other relevant points. The journalists were also familiarized with the World Heritage Convention, its main concepts and principles. A follow-up meeting was held on 20 June 2018 as refresher course, and included information regarding natural World Heritage.

TRANSLATION OF IUCN'S WORLD HERITAGE OUTLOOK

2018

CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION

IUCN's World Heritage Outlook provides a comprehensive global assessment capable of identifying the most pressing conservation issues faced by natural and mixed World Heritage sites. By assessing the status of a site, challenges can be effectively addressed to improve management efforts.

ARC-WH translated the main pages of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook and the state of conservation outlook assessments of all natural World Heritage sites in the Arab region from English to Arabic, to provide more support for better management for properties in the region.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AT RISK- PREVENTION, PRESERVATION AND POST-DISASTER REHABILITATION

8- 9 OCTOBER 2018

BERLIN, GERMANY

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE;
CONSERVATION

The Archaeological Heritage Network and the Federal Foreign Office held a two-day conference on Cultural Heritage at Risk – Prevention, Preservation and Post-Disaster Rehabilitation, in Berlin, Germany from 8 to 9 October 2018. The conference examined aid and protection measures implemented in regions affected by natural and manmade disasters, particularly in the intentional destruction of World Heritage sites located in Syria and Iraq. Participants also discussed the effects of changing climate patterns, urban encroachment and expansion of cities, all of which were considered as risks to cultural heritage.

ARC-WH was amongst other representatives such as UNESCO, ICOMOS, the German Archaeological Institute, and the Gerda Henkel Foundation, as well as universities and other German based cultural preservation experts.



WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS VISIT ARC-WH

11 NOVEMBER 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

COMMUNICATION; CONSERVATION

World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) empower and offer young adults with the opportunity to learn and apply conservation efforts towards World Heritage sites. Under theme of Empowering the Commitment to World Heritage, the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) visited a total of 50 World Heritage properties and sites inscribed on the Tentative List in 28 different countries, including Bahrain, from June to December 2018.

During their time in Bahrain from 9 to 21 November 2018, the volunteers visited the country's two World Heritage sites and participated in seminars, including one held at ARC-WH on 11 November to increase their knowledge and understanding of the World Heritage Convention and ARC-WH's mandate to protect sites across the region.

ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY

18 DECEMBER 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

COMMUNITY; COMMUNICATION

As Arabic is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, World Arabic Language Day has been celebrated on 18 December every year since 2012, in commemoration of the day in 1973 when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted Arabic as the sixth official language used by the UN.

The Arabic language comes in a variety of dialects and artful forms, from intricate calligraphy to expressive poetry and philosophy, and to celebrate this dynamic language, ARC-WH invited speakers and guests to its headquarters in Manama, Bahrain, to sing, recite and discuss a language used by over 290 million people. This year's theme was Arabic Language and Youth to demonstrate the connection between Arabic's contributions to culture and knowledge, and the youth of today.

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION: STRENGTHENING TIES

ARC-WH worked closely in 2018 with non-profit organizations, its main partners, institutions and individuals who share our passions for heritage conservation. Bolstering old partnerships, and creating new ones, ARC-WH has continued to establish regional and international cooperation in the promotion and protection of World Heritage.

MAIN PARTNERS, AGREEMENTS & INVOLVEMENT



MOU SIGNED BETWEEN ARC-WH AND PETRA NATIONAL FUND

JUNE 2018

A MoU was signed between ARC-WH and Petra National Fund (PNT) on 26 June 2018 towards the common goal of World Heritage preservation activities to be implemented over a period of two years. As per the MoU, potential activities would include educational activities, advocacy campaigns for cultural heritage promotions.

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN ARC-WH AND ICOMOS

14 MARCH 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; CAPACITY BUILDING

On 14 March 2018 ARC-WH and ICOMOS signed a MoU, establishing a general framework for the areas of collaboration and understanding that includes a list of activities and training programmes. The document also included an exchange of research and information, a strengthening of the capacity and technical understanding by Arab States Parties of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN ISESCO AND ARC-WH

29 NOVEMBER 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CONSERVATION; CAPACITY BUILDING

On 29 November 2018, a MoU was signed between ARC-WH and ISESCO during the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, held in Manama, Bahrain, under the theme Together for Safeguarding Human Heritage and Countering Extremism.

The MoU incorporates the collaboration between the two institutes in organizing workshops, training courses, meetings and conferences in the field of cultural heritage and sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as other sites of potential OUV.

Other areas of collaboration are activities that aim at reinforcing legal frameworks and national policies in the field of cultural heritage and human resource development to further assist Arab States Parties in the protection and conservation of cultural heritage.



Amphitheatre of El Jem, Tunisia
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Quseir Amra, Jordan
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2018 SPECIALS

2018 has been an eventful year for ARC-WH. Along with the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee and other activities undertaken by ARC-WH, H.E. Sheikha Mai Al Khalifa, Chairperson of the Governing Board of ARC-WH, and Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, signed the renewal agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 26 April 2018, renewing ARC-WH as a Category 2 Centre for another six years to continue its mission in implementing its Strategic Objective in assisting Arab States Parties to safeguard the World Heritage sites of the region.



**SIXTH ANNUAL COORDINATION
MEETING OF THE UNESCO WORLD
HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2
INSTITUTES AND CENTRES**

10- 15 FEBRUARY 2018

**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
COMMUNICATION**

The Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of Category 2 Centres (C2Cs) and institutes under the Auspices of UNESCO was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 10-15 February 2018, and was organized by AWHF, in collaboration with the Robben Island Museum in the World Heritage site of Robben Island.

As the C2C responsible for the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in the Arab region, and acting as a relay of the World Heritage Centre, ARC-WH was invited to participate and present its role, activities and actions taken. ARC-WH moderated a session that covered the operational frameworks of C2Cs and the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2011.

Category 2 centres and institutes, such as ARC-WH, are established in various parts of the world and play an integral role by facilitating UNESCO's strategic programmes, and contribute to the World Heritage Capacity Building strategy. The meeting's main objective was to discuss the strategies of C2Cs towards the conservation and protection of UNESCO World Heritage sites, reinforce and establish the network of C2Cs and their interregional cooperation, to ensure effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention on a global scale.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ENDORSED BY
ARC-WH GOVERNING BOARD**

19 FEBRUARY 2018

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

CREDIBILITY; CONSERVATION

In 2018, ARC-WH convened its 7TH Governing Board Meeting 19 February 2018. Board members reviewed the activities undertaken by ARC-WH in 2017 and revised the Action for 2018; in addition, they endorsed the latest Strategic Plan established by ARC-WH for the next five years (2018-2023), and applauded ARC-WH's efforts in streamlining its mandate in the field of conservation of both cultural and natural heritage, to better accommodate and readily equip Arab States Parties.

2018 SPECIALS

ARC-WH GOVERNING BOARD VISIT HAWAR ISLANDS OF BAHRAIN

20 FEBRUARY 2018

HAWAR, BAHRAIN

CREDIBILITY; CONSERVATION

Following ARC-WH's 7TH Governing Board Meeting, ARC-WH and its Governing Board Members visited the Hawar Islands, located south of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 20 February 2018, where they explored various locations, both cultural and natural, on the main island of Hawar, including mountainous and rocky formations that contained clear signs of ancient cultural civilizations.

The archaeological sites that were explored contained evidence of the Islamic era, such as the remains of a mosque that was found during the excursion. The tour also included the "Had al-Dhib" area which is situated in the southernmost tip of the main Hawar Islands. ARC-WH, in cooperation with local and international organizations, hopes to provide the necessary support to the national authorities to protect the site and ensure that a comprehensive and sustainable management plan will be instilled to safeguard the cultural and natural components of Hawar.

13TH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF ARAB EXPERTS ON CULTURAL AND NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE

5-6 JUNE 2018

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT

COMMUNITY

In preparation for the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), organized the 13th Session of the Preparatory Meeting of Arab Experts on Cultural and Natural World Heritage, held in Kuwait City, Kuwait. ARC-WH was invited to participate in this two-day meeting that focused on the review and discussions of Arab Nomination files to be presented to the World Heritage Committee.

REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF MOSUL

10 SEPTEMBER 2018

PARIS, FRANCE

CONSERVATION

As part of the Revive the Spirit of Mosul initiative launched in February 2018, UNESCO held the International Conference for the recovery and Rehabilitation of the City of Mosul at its headquarters on 10 September 2018. ARC-WH participated in this conference which mobilized the international community and Iraqi stakeholders to discuss the list of major projects planned for the reconstruction of Mosul, and to develop a strategic plan of action to be implemented towards the reconstruction of this historic city.

Following the conference, ARC-WH met with the Ambassador of Palestine to discuss the nomination of the cultural site of Jericho and the planned technical mission to assess the site's potential OUV. ARC-WH offered its assistance in the project and advised the State Party of Palestine to ensure that the site was not negatively impacted by development projects, which could potentially compromise its integrity.

ARC-WH attended a second meeting at the WHC with the Arab States Unit to deliberate the upcoming joint meeting for the Periodic Reporting for Arab States scheduled to be held in Bahrain in November 2018.



**13TH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE
CONTRACTION PARTIES TO
THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON
WETLANDS (COP13)**

21-27 OCTOBER 2018

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
CONSERVATION**

ARC-WH, alongside government representatives and international and regional NGOs, participated in the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contraction Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 21 to 23 October 2018. Since its ratification in 1971, the Convention has provided a framework for national and international cooperation towards the conservation of wetlands and the utilization of their resources.

In keeping with this year's theme on Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future, the COP13 reviewed the nominated sites and discussed concerns regarding current Ramsar sites located in various parts of the globe. ARC-WH attended and participated in plenary sessions, delivered a technical lecture on wetlands, and attended side-events during which ARC-WH shared a case study from the Iraqi Marshlands (Ahwar).

**17TH INTERNATIONAL SOCOTRA
CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF THE
FRIENDS OF SOCOTRA (FOS)**

25-28 OCTOBER

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

**CONSERVATION; COMMUNICATION;
COMMUNITY**

The 17th International Socotra Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Socotra (FoS), organised by ARC-WH in cooperation with FoS, and took place from 25 to 28 October at the Bahrain National Museum in Manama, Bahrain. This was the first FoS Annual General Meeting held in the Arab region and the first international conference of its size that was solely dedicated to the Socotra Archipelago.

The conference brought a total of 76 participants (members and non-members) together from 20 different countries, including the largest concentration of Socotris (15 total) to ever attend and present at a scientific meeting. Speakers highlighted past and ongoing research, activities, and the latest multidisciplinary scientific studies related to natural and cultural heritage on Socotra. In conjunction with the international conference the internationally awarded film Socotra: Island of Djinn was twice presented by the Spanish director Mr.

Jordi Estiva at the Bahrain National Museum. The black-and-white film was open to the public to raise further awareness and share the beauty, mystery, and uniqueness of Socotra.

2018 SPECIALS

ARC-WH PARTICIPATION IN THE 42ND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Held in Manama, Bahrain from 24 June- 4 July 2018, the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (42COM) brought over 2000 international participants together in the name of heritage conservation and protection. During the ten-day event, a total of 19 new properties were inscribed on the World Heritage List. These included two cultural properties in the Arab region, Al Ahsa, an Evolving Cultural Landscape (Saudi Arabia), and the Ancient City of Qalhat (Oman), bringing the current World Heritage List now to a total of 1,092 sites in 167 countries.

On 24 June 2018, opening day of 42COM, Director-General Audrey Azoulay visited ARC-WH for the first time since her election in October 2018 as UNESCO's Director-General. During the committee meeting, ARC-WH held three side-events and an exhibition, celebrating the cultural and natural diversity of the Arab region, which were discussed earlier in the annual report.

AD HOC MEETING FOR THE 42ND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

The Director of ARC-WH attended the Ad Hoc meetings – representing the State Party of Bahrain – held in preparation for the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee. Participants examined numerous measures including the road map for the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund, and provided recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Comparative Mapping Study during the sequence of meetings leading up to the World Heritage Committee.



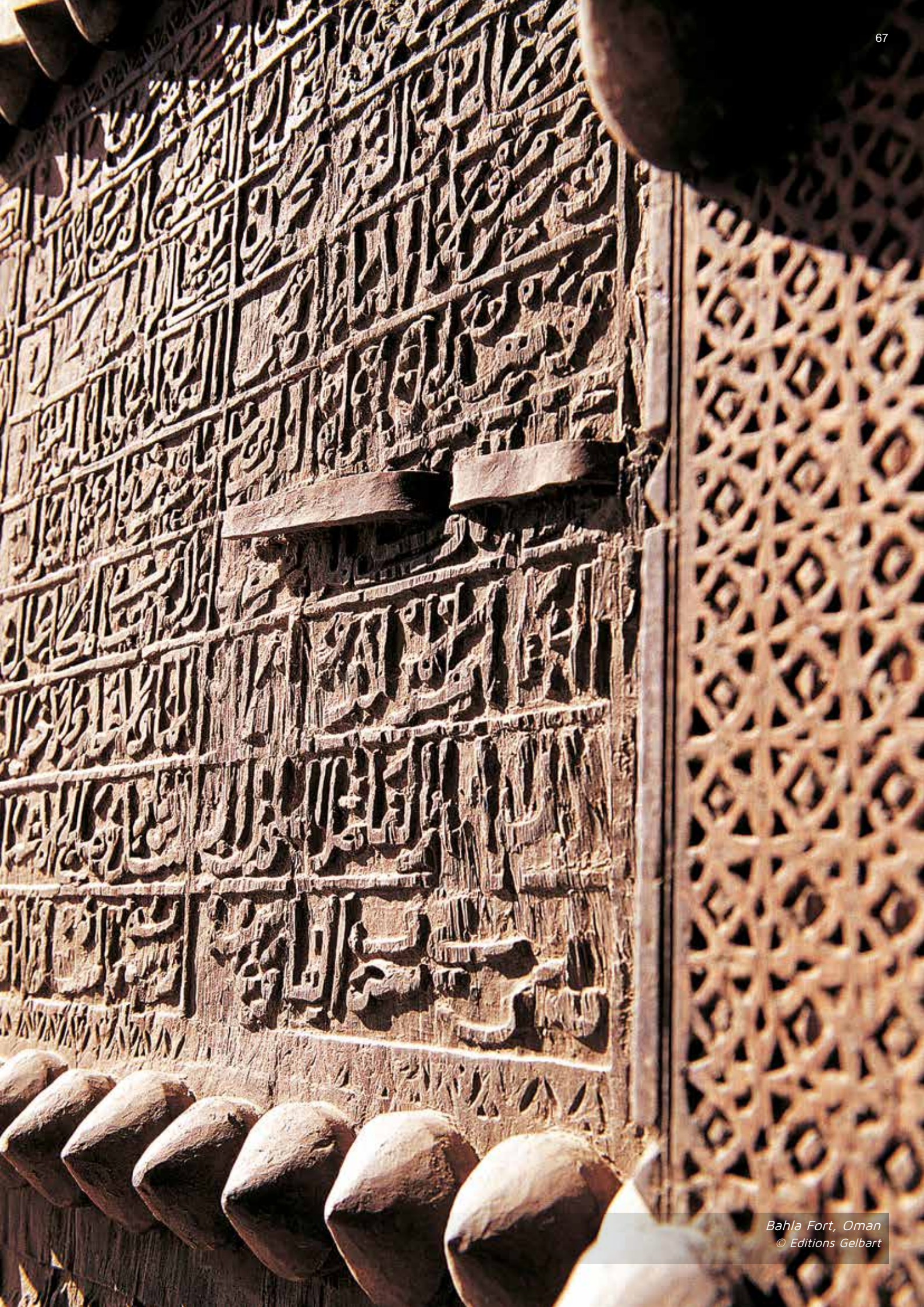
WORLD HERITAGE YOUTH FORUM PARTICIPANTS ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETING SIMULATION AT ARC-WH

22 JUNE 2018

**MANAMA, BAHRAIN
COMMUNICATION**

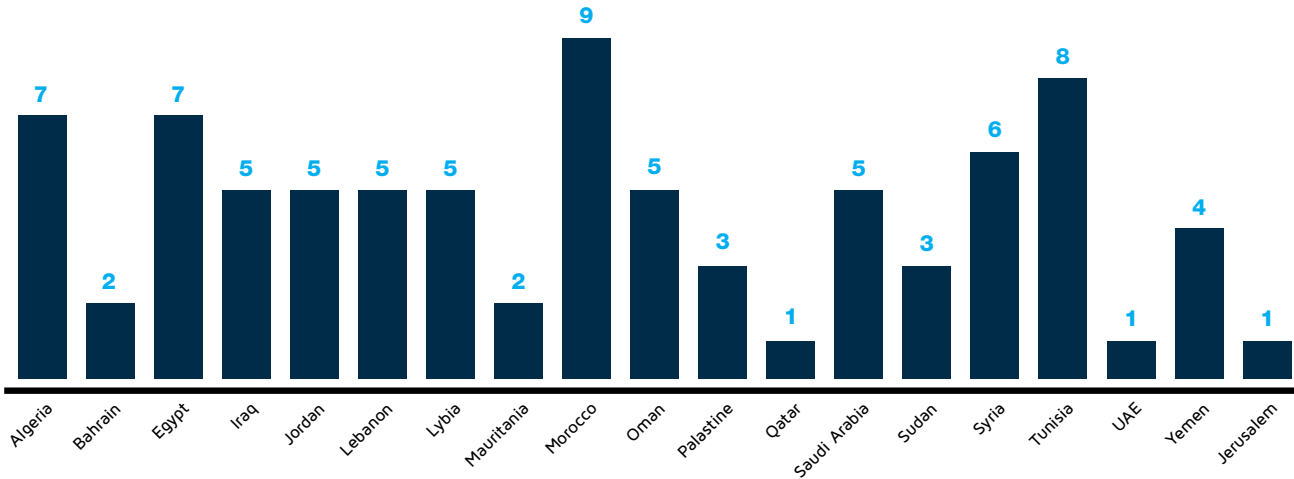
For the sixth and final day of the UNESCO Young Heritage Professionals Forum, a simulation of a World Heritage Committee Meeting was organized and held at ARC-WH in Manama, Bahrain. The Committee Meeting Simulation: Learning by becoming, held on 22 June 2018, immersed the Young Professionals in a replicated World Heritage Committee where they were tasked with drafting a declaration, conveying their message to the international community, which was then to be presented to the Committee Members of 42COM shortly afterwards.

The simulation also included a comprehensive explanation by two of UNESCO'S Advisory Bodies, IUCN and ICCROM, regarding World Heritage Committee procedures, and participants' roles as simulated Committee Members.

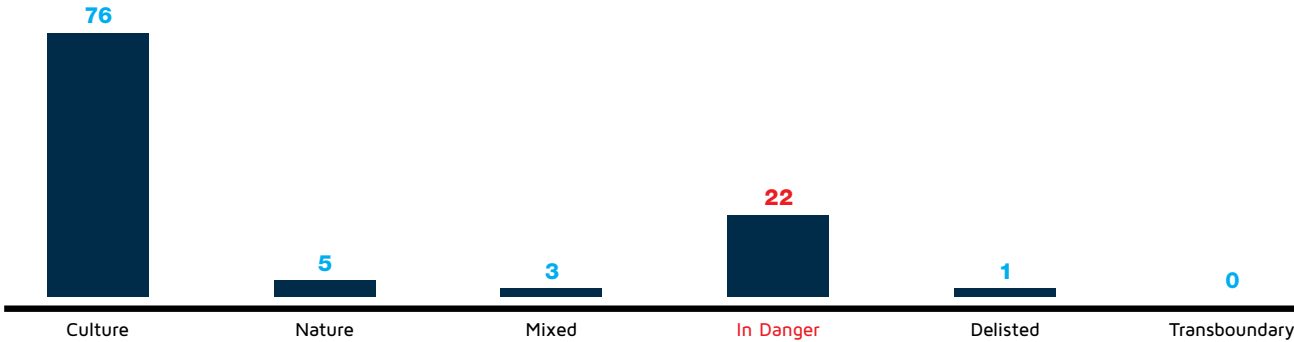


STATISTICS AND FIGURES

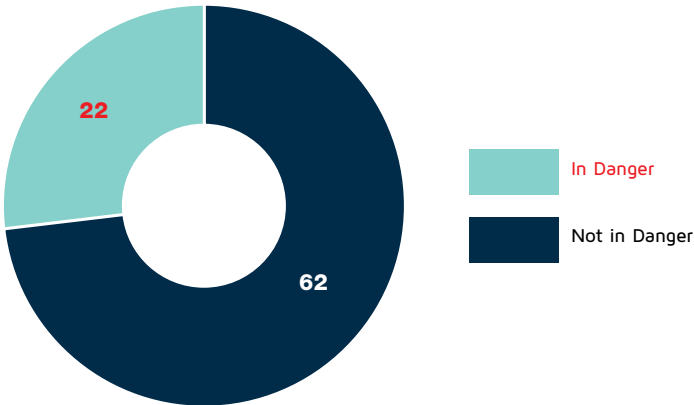
84 WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE ARAB REGION



WORLD HERITAGE IN THE ARAB REGION

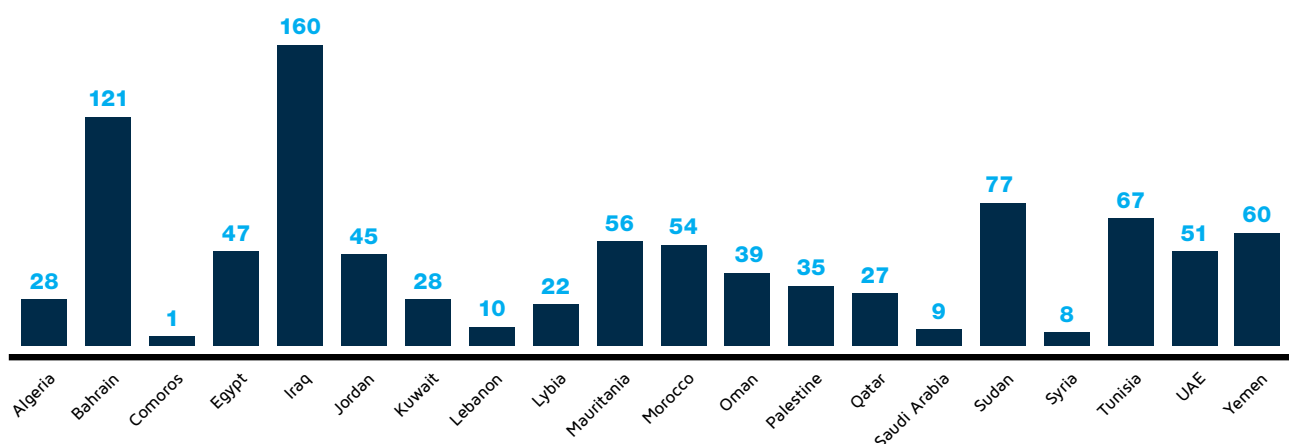


WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER IN THE ARAB REGION



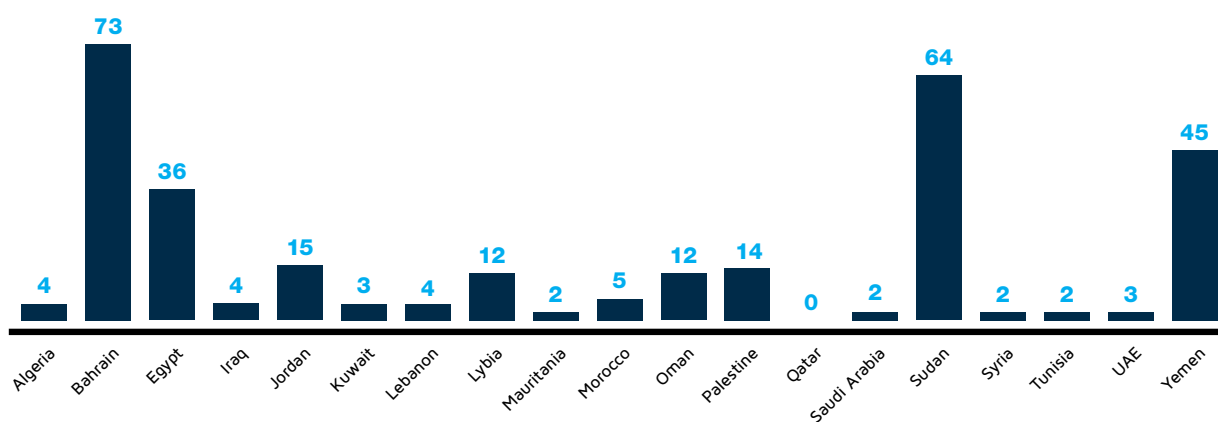
ARC-WH CAPACITY BUILDING PARTICIPANTS FROM 2012-2018

Total Participants 945 from the Arab Region

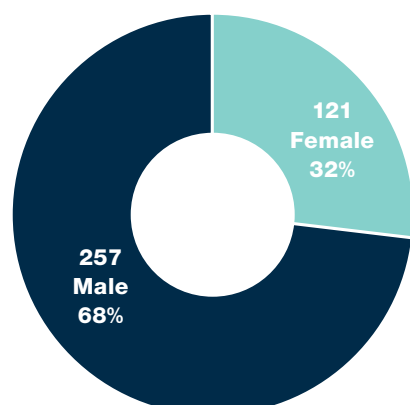


ARC-WH CAPACITY BUILDING PARTICIPANTS IN 2018

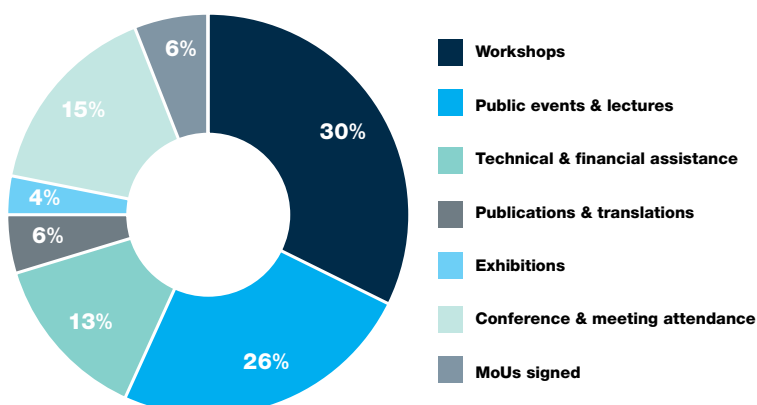
Total Participants 378 from the Arab Region



GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF CAPACITY BUILDING PARTICIPANTS FROM THE ARAB REGION 2018



ARC-WH ACTIVITIES 2018



MAIN PARTNERS



UNESCO/ World Heritage Centre



Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities



International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property



International Union for Conservation of Nature



African World Heritage Fund

