

# **An Introductory to International Bodies in Conservation of Cultural Heritage**

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# Cultural Heritage and Key Issues

- The present situation of the cultural heritage status in **Palestine** is a reflection on the **deteriorated economic situation** in general.
- The survival of the **cultural assets** is deeply influenced by the **economic criteria** and overall **economic rationale** of support for the Cultural Heritage domain.
- The proper **maintenance and management** of the **Palestinian cultural heritage assets** can positively affect the **quality of life through** a wealth of channels, economic, cultural, spiritual, and educational.
- Therefore, Cultural Heritage needs to be considered on **national level** as key requirement in the overall desired **national development plan**.

# Cultural Heritage in Palestine

Different **approaches** have been carried out to maintain the local cultural heritage assets, due to:

- *Vacuum of **national** policies,*
- *Organizational **weakness**,*
- *Low **financing** levels,*
- *Until recently, after Oslo Accord, Cultural heritage have not been introduced clearly.*

*Therefore, Cultural heritage is not a **priority**  
Cultural heritage is conceived **within** development  
Development **focus** aims mainly to reduce **poverty** and  
not **sustainable development**.*

# Cultural Heritage in Palestine

Since the Cultural Heritage is not yet on the  
“National Agenda”...

- Cultural Heritage is seen as **liability** rather than as social and economic development factor.
- Most cultural activities is funded through “**International Aid**”, with donors objectives and various understanding of communities needs.
- Most Cultural Heritage activities comes within “**project or program**” that has specific objectives with limited time and budget.
- Most different efforts lack strategy with no coordination, duplication, lack of effectiveness and efficiency, and **sustainability**

# Sustainable Cultural Heritage

- Should be conceived within a **broader map of development strategy**.
- Should have **strategic dimensions** related to investment, socioeconomic effectiveness and sustainable development.
- Should be regarded as an expression of **total way of productive life** (tangible and intangible heritage).
- Should be carried out by the different actors in integrated and complementary mechanism to **accumulatively** achieve the **national** objectives.

# Main Key Actors in Cultural Heritage

## Local and International:

- Palestinian state: Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism, PECDAR, Ministry of Planning, ....
- International donors (States and Commissions): USA, France, Japan, Norway, Sweden, European Union, ...
- International Organization: World Bank, UNDP, USAID, ...
- International NGOs: UNESCO, Save the Children, CHF, ...
- Local Organization: Riwaq, Welfare, Hebron rehabilitation committee, Cultural centre of Bethlehem, ...
- Private Sector

# International Aid Focus

- Until recently, not all donor agencies have considered cultural heritage among its main **area of focus**, nor was specific **framework** recognized to control and lead their different interventions in the cultural heritage preservations.
- The key question for most of the donors concerning the cultural heritage development is **not only conceptual** in terms of cultures only, but rather more to **strategic dimensions** related to investment, reduction of poverty, sustainable development...and political

# Ongoing Efforts...

- During the last few years, the local government has recognized the importance of addressing the needs of cultural heritage, and approached the **interested donor agencies** to attract **additional efforts and support** in this direction.
- This has been demonstrated in **two dynamic** perspectives:
  - First, to being **responsive** to local needs and demands;*
  - Second, to the changes in **development rationale** and the including of cultural heritage.*
- This recognition of cultural heritage requires **identification** and awareness of cultural dimensions in all development interventions from one side, and the incorporation of socio-cultural knowledge to be used in the key process for development, such as policy formulation, planning, financing, and institutional mobilization from the other side.
- Meeting such requirements increases the **sustainability** of development by laying the foundation for the preservation of our local cultural heritage.



# Donors Policies Should ...

For donors' policies to match the cultural heritage local needs, it requires addressing it in **consistency** with the developing local socio-cultural dimensions throughout its **national action plan** which could be recognized in considering the followings:

1. *Comprehensive and large scale **sectoral interventions**, instead of small project identification.*
2. *Strengthen the **institutional structures**; overcome the governance weaknesses, link to development's mainstream, and reform the management and financing of the cultural heritage aspects.*
3. *Differentiate risks for the cultural heritage **deterioration** mainly indicated in the natural, economic, social and institutional causes.*
4. *Consensus improvement in the international **cooperation and cofinancing arrangements** to enhance the volume of cultural oriented development aid.*

# What Is expected from the International Aid

- Donors' support and interventions should **complement**, and **not duplicate**, the many cultural heritage preservations activities ongoing in Palestine either by the local government and/or other bilateral donor agency.
- Cultural Heritage preservation is a **partnership endeavor**, requiring the support and participation of large number of **interested parties**, including governments, donor organizations, and the community.
- There are still much to do and learn to better integrate the cultural heritage **management into development**, this needs to be considered at both levels the local governments and donor agencies' interventions.

# Therefore,

- Donors should be aware of the need to create a **strong connection** between aid and development.
- The aid should be spent on activities that ensure **employment** and **generate revenues**.
- Maximizing the benefit of aid efforts through **effectiveness**.
- Increasing the **social capital**, by spending the aid through popular committees and **awareness** on the improvement of public services, which **strengthen the spirit of partnership**.

# And,,

- The key recommendation is to consider cultural heritage as a tool for **economic and local development** and **to build national identity**.
- The contribution of cultural heritage tourism for the socio economic development of the partner countries shows **great potential for growth**, and this also requires networking .

Thank You...