

ANSCH Projects Overview



Elaborazione propria con uso di OpenStreetMap e QGIS

1

Location: Aksum, Tigray Region, Ethiopia

Organisation: REST Civil Society Organization & Hidmo Initiative

Long version

The Aksum World Heritage Site stands as one of Ethiopia's most significant cultural and archaeological landmarks, and one of its most vulnerable. Years of armed conflict, looting, environmental degradation, and uncontrolled urban growth have left lasting damage across the site. This project responds directly to those threats through a comprehensive programme of heritage documentation, physical stabilisation, and site cleaning. It will also invest in people through awareness campaigns and hands-on training involving local youth, women, tourism guides, and religious custodians, those best placed to protect what surrounds them. By building local capacity and fostering genuine community ownership, the project aims to connect heritage recovery to broader social reconciliation and resilience in post-conflict Tigray.

Short version

This project aims to protect and rehabilitate the Aksum World Heritage Site through documentation, physical stabilisation, and community training. Local youth, women, guides, and religious custodians will actively engaged to ensure long-term preservation.



2

Location: Tigray Region, Ethiopia

Organisation: Tigray Peace Advocates (TPA)

Long version

The oral traditions linked to Axumite heritage carry knowledge that no excavation can recover, yet they are disappearing with each generation lost to conflict and displacement. This project aims to train young heritage ambassadors to collect and digitally archive oral histories connected to archaeological sites across Tigray. Through participatory mapping and structured community dialogues known as "Heritage Peace Circles," the initiative will create spaces for cultural exchange that also will support social cohesion in a deeply fractured context. By placing young people at the centre of heritage work, the project will safeguard intangible cultural knowledge while simultaneously building local leadership and contributing to post-conflict recovery.

Short version

The project aims to connect cultural preservation directly to post-conflict recovery. Young heritage ambassadors will be trained to document oral traditions and create a digital archive of local knowledge linked to Axumite sites, while "Heritage Peace Circles" will bring communities together to share stories and strengthen social cohesion.

3

Location: Taiz, Yemen

Organisation: Eram Foundation for Cultural and Media Development

Long version

Taiz has long been a hub of Yemeni storytelling tradition, as a city whose folk tales and oral traditions reflect a rich and multifaceted cultural identity. Conflict and displacement now threaten the transmission of this heritage, which exists largely in living memory. This project will adopt a multi-faceted approach to preservation, using field recordings that collect testimonies directly from the custodians of tradition, documentaries and a published collection of stories that give this material a lasting form, and, finally, a new digital platform that will make it accessible to a wider audience. Local researchers and young people will be trained in documentation methods, ensuring skills remain within the community. An interactive "Visual Memory Corner" will be installed at the National Museum of Taiz and Cairo Castle bridges the archive and the public, encouraging community engagement and the passing of cultural knowledge across generations.

Short version

The project aims to preserve the oral traditions and folk tales of Taiz through field recordings, a documentary, a published collection of stories and a new digital platform. Young researchers will be trained in documenting cultural heritage to build sustainable local capacity, and an interactive exhibition at the National Museum of Taiz will promote community engagement and the transmission of knowledge across generations.

4

Location: Susa / Apollonia, Green Mountain Region, Libya

Organisation: Apollonia Organization for Heritage and Culture

Long version

The ancient city of Apollonia, one of Libya's most important classical heritage sites, suffered significant environmental damage following Storm Daniel. Invasive vegetation and disrupted drainage now are direct threats to its structural integrity. This project aims to implement urgent preventive measures such as the removal of invasive plants, thorough cleaning of storm-affected areas, basic physical protection of vulnerable structures, and systematic documentation of all damaged zones. Local volunteers and young people will be engaged throughout, turning an emergency response into an opportunity to build community investment in the site's future. By addressing immediate threats without delay, the project will work to stabilise Apollonia and strengthen the local capacity needed for its continued protection.

Short version

The project aims to address urgent threats while building lasting community engagement. Local volunteers and young people will be engaged throughout, turning an emergency response into an opportunity to build community investment in the site's future.

5

Location: Old City of Tripoli, Libya

Organisation: Libyan Center for Local Cultures

Long version

The historic urban fabric of Old Tripoli is deteriorating, and much of what is at risk has never been properly recorded. This project plans to use drone-based aerial surveys and systematic ground documentation to create a comprehensive digital visual archive of the most threatened areas. Risk assessments will identify where intervention is most urgent, while the archive itself will establish a baseline for future conservation efforts. Alongside this technical work, awareness activities and practical training will draw local youth into heritage documentation, cultivating a generation of engaged custodians. The project aims to offer a model for how digital tools and community participation can work together to protect a historic city under pressure.

Short version

The project plans to combine cutting-edge documentation technology with grassroots community engagement. Drone surveys and ground documentation will create a digital archive of the most at-risk areas within Tripoli's historic urban core. Risk assessments will guide conservation priorities, while youth training will strengthen local expertise.

6

Location: Gaza, Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Organisation: Eyes of Heritage

Long version

The Great Omari Mosque Library holds manuscripts and documentary heritage of irreplaceable significance for Palestinian cultural identity. Conflict and environmental exposure have left the collection in a deeply vulnerable condition. This project aims to carry out emergency conservation work to clean, stabilise and catalogue the materials; measures will also be put in place to ensure safe storage, and a digital database will be created to safeguard the collection and make it accessible. The project recognises that preservation is not only a technical task, but artistic activities and community dialogues centred on cultural memory ensure that the significance of the collection is understood and valued within the community it belongs to. In protecting these materials, the project will help to protect a living sense of Palestinian historical identity.

Short version

The project aims to safeguard the manuscript collection of the Great Omari Mosque Library in Gaza, record of Palestinian heritage, through emergency conservation. Artistic activities and engagement with the community will link conservation work to broader issues relating to cultural memory and identity.

7

Location: Gaza, Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Organisation: Mayasem Association for Culture and Arts

Long version

For displaced communities in Gaza, cultural continuity is both a form of resistance and a source of resilience. This project aims to bring heritage preservation directly to people through mobile cultural and artistic activities, such as storytelling sessions, interactive theatre, and participatory arts workshops that will travel to where communities are. Youth training will ensure that younger generations can carry these traditions forward. A documentary film will be made in order to capture stories of displacement, resilience, and collective memory, creating a record that reaches beyond the immediate community. By weaving together cultural expression and community engagement, the project aims to preserve Palestinian oral traditions, while supporting the social and psychological well-being of people living in a situation of ongoing conflict.

Short version

This project aims to bring heritage preservation directly to people through mobile cultural and artistic activities. By weaving together cultural expression and community engagement, the project aims to preserve Palestinian oral traditions, while supporting the social and psychological well-being of people living in a situation of ongoing conflict.

8

Location: Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt – Sudanese displaced communities

Organisation: Tadamon Egyptian Multicultural Council for Refugees

Long version

This project aims to create a space to give again voice to Sudanese women living in Cairo and Alexandria, in order to share, practise, and reimagine the cultural traditions they carry with them, such as henna, traditional dress, visual arts, and the intangible knowledge embedded in each. Participatory workshops are both a documentation exercise and a creative act, allowing women to actively shape how their heritage is expressed and preserved. The establishment of a digital museum will enable the stories, works of art and cultural materials produced during the process to be archived, ensuring that what is created is preserved. The project aims to connect cultural safeguarding with women's empowerment, recognising that preserving identity strengthens dignity.

Short version

This project aims to create a space to give again voice to Sudanese women living in Cairo and Alexandria, in order to share, practise, and reimagine the cultural traditions they carry with them. The establishment of a digital museum will enable the stories, works of art and cultural materials produced during the process to be archived, ensuring that what is created is preserved.

9

Location: Mosul, Nineveh Governorate, Iraq

Organisation: Book Forum Foundation for Culture and Education

Long version

The traditional singing traditions of Nineveh, represent a musical heritage shaped by centuries of diverse community life. Conflict and displacement have brought this living tradition to the edge of disappearance. This project plans to work directly with tradition carriers through rehearsal sessions, professional audio recordings, and careful transcription of lyrics and musical structures. An educational guide will make the recorded material accessible for future learners and teachers, supporting transmission beyond the immediate circle of practitioners. A final community sharing event will present the results publicly, affirming the value of this heritage and the people who carry it, and offering a model for how musical traditions can be safeguarded even in fragile contexts.

Short version

The project aims to preserve a musical identity at serious risk of disappearing. Traditional singing traditions from Nineveh will be recorded and transcribed in collaboration with tradition bearers, while an educational guide will support future transmission, and a public sharing event will celebrate the heritage within the community.



10

Location: Diwaniyah Governorate, Iraq

Organisation: The Sumerians' Descendants Volunteer Team

Long version

Diwaniyah's archaeological sites are under active threat from looting and illegal excavation, and many incidents go unrecorded. This project aims to create a systematic monitoring and documentation programme across ten sites, using drone surveys and field visits to capture the scale and nature of damage in visual and spatial detail. Community awareness campaigns and training sessions will translate that evidence into action, engaging local people as informed stakeholders in the protection of their own heritage. By combining rigorous documentation with ongoing awareness-raising efforts, the project plans to build both the knowledge base and the community commitment needed to reduce the ongoing destruction of Iraq's ancient landscape.

Short version

The project aims to build a detailed evidence base while addressing the social roots of site destruction through drone surveys and field visits, looting and illegal excavation across ten archaeological sites in Diwaniyah will be document. Community awareness campaigns and training sessions will engage local people as active protectors of their heritage.

11

Location: Tarim, Hadramout Governorate, Yemen

Organisation: Al-Ranad Foundation for Cultural Development

Long version

Palm weaving is a traditional craft that has shaped daily life and material culture in Tarim for generations, but today it is at serious risk of disappearing. This project plans to train twenty women in refined weaving techniques, design development, and basic marketing skills, combining cultural transmission with practical economic tools. The use of palm waste materials adds an environmentally conscious dimension to production. A final exhibition will present the participants' work to the public and will connect makers with local markets, turning the act of cultural preservation into a tangible livelihood opportunity. The project aims to demonstrate that safeguarding intangible heritage and supporting economic sustainability are not competing goals.

Short version

This project plans to train twenty women in refined weaving techniques, design development, and basic marketing skills, combining cultural transmission with practical economic tools. A final exhibition will present the participants' work to the public and will connect makers with local markets, turning the act of cultural preservation into a tangible livelihood opportunity.

12

Location: Damascus, Syria

Organisation: Snobar NGO

Long version

Damascene silk screen-printing is one of the city's most distinctive artistic traditions, and it now survives in the knowledge of a single master artisan. This project aims to take action before this knowledge is lost forever, through systematic documentation and digital archiving carried out by young people, the full scope of this art form will be recorded for the first time. Workshops for children will introduce the tradition to a new generation, building cultural awareness and emotional connection to this form of heritage, while a short documentary film will bring the story of the craft and its last practitioner to wider audiences. In parallel, the project plans to prepare a formal nomination dossier for intangible cultural heritage recognition in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, a step that could significantly strengthen the craft's prospects for survival.

Short version

This project aims to preserve the Damascene silk screen-printing knowledge, through systematic documentation and digital archiving carried out by young people. In parallel, the project plans to prepare a formal nomination dossier for intangible cultural heritage recognition, a step that could significantly strengthen the craft's prospects for survival.

13

Location: Hama, Syria

Organisation: Ta'a Team

Long version

The Norias of Hama, ancient wooden waterwheels that have turned on the Orontes River for centuries, are symbols of the city's identity and living witnesses to its history of water management and community life. This project aims to document the condition of these structures through field surveys, visual recording, and systematic assessments, compiling findings into a digital register and a simplified heritage map accessible to local communities. Youth and volunteers will be train in documentation methods, ensuring skills and awareness remain rooted locally. A community launch event will present the results and bring stakeholders together around a shared commitment to the Norias' future, reinforcing local ownership of a heritage that belongs to everyone in Hama.

Short version

This project aims to document the condition of the Norias of Hama through field surveys, visual recording, and systematic assessments, compiling findings into a digital register and a simplified heritage map accessible to local communities. Youth and volunteers will be train in documentation methods, ensuring skills and awareness remain rooted locally.



14

Location: Damascus, Syria

Organisation: Friends of Museums and Archaeological Sites Association

Long version

Under the streets and within the walls of Old Damascus lie layers of classical history that most residents pass without noticing. Fragments of Roman columns, Byzantine architectural elements, and ancient stonework are embedded within the historic urban fabric, that are undervalued, undocumented, and at risk of loss through neglect or unguided development. This project aims to bring these hidden elements to light through field surveys, photographic recording, and historical research, resulting in a digital database and an interactive map of identified features. Limited physical interventions, such as cleaning and the removal of minor obstructions, will improve visibility and accessibility. Community engagement activities will help residents and visitors see and appreciate what has long been invisible, reintegrating these classical remains into the living cultural identity of the city.

Short version

This project aims to bring to light the classical architectural elements present in ancient Damascus, which will be identified, documented and mapped, and compiled into a digital database and an interactive map, making the results accessible to the public and enabling residents to rediscover the layered historical heritage of their city.