



International alliance  
for the protection  
of heritage  
in conflict areas

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## FACTSHEET

The International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) announced on Tuesday new funding of USD 10 million to support 20 projects that safeguard cultural heritage in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Below are some facts and figures about ALIPH and the projects the funding will be allocated to:

- 20 new projects will bring the total number of supported projects to 43
- New funding brings total financing to over USD 17 million so far
- Along with Iraq and Mali, three new priority countries added: Yemen, Sudan and Afghanistan
- New funding cycle will expand ALIPH's presence from 7 to 12 countries

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## AFGHANISTAN

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In addition to the rehabilitation of the Minaret of Jam, that will be done by UNESCO, two new projects will be supported:



### **Conservation of Buddhist-era built heritage, Shewaki, Kabul province (USD 868,410)**

This project will help conserve the largest surviving Buddhist stupa, which was once part of a religious complex (1st to 3rd century AD), 11 km from Kabul. Led by the Afghan Cultural Heritage Consulting Organisation, activities include documentation, excavation of the stupa's immediate environs and stabilization of structure, restoration and partial reconstruction.



**Disappearing knowledge:  
Protecting Afghanistan's intangible heritage (USD 79,720)**

Working with Turquoise Mountain, this project will contribute to the protection of the country's endangered intangible heritage. Afghanistan's cultural practices has been gravely weakened by decades of conflict, in which communities have been displaced and practices disrupted. The project aims to safeguard the following traditional practices: Decorative tile-making in Herat, Carpet weaving in Bamiyan, and Tambor-making in Kabul. They will be protected through documentation, training and awareness-raising activities.

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## ERITREA

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**Adulis: Archeological Excavations,  
Christian Heritage and Training (USD 169,836)**

The French organization Œuvre d'Orient will pilot a training project and help safeguard the archeological site of Adulis. This site was once part of the vast Aksumite Kingdom (1st-7th centuries AD), which covered the territories of current Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen and part of Saudi Arabia. The project will focus on excavation of one of the three late antique churches (6th century). Daily restoration activities (using local materials such as basalt, schist or mud) will contribute to the protection of this heritage site and ALIPH will also fund training sessions for young Eritrean archaeologists.

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# GEORGIA

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## **Safeguarding Gori's cultural heritage (USD 156,675)**

The Georgian National Blue Shield Committee will implement this project, which aims to establish a Disaster Risk Management Plan for the Gori Museum, document its collections, and improve storage conditions. The project will enhance museum staff capacity in preventive conservation and in first aid for cultural objects. It will also enhance civil-military cooperation among state authorities responsible for the protection of cultural heritage.

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# IRAQ

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## **Reconstruction of the Mam Rashan Shrine, a Yazidi Shrine in South Sinjar (USD 263,910)**

This project implemented by the World Monuments Fund targets the reconstruction of the Mam Rashan Shrine on Mount Sinjar, which was destroyed by Daesh in 2014. This Yazidi shrine, honoring a Xua'dan (or "righteous person") saint probably dates from the 12th century. Activities include research and assessment by international and local experts, fieldwork and restoration work (site cleaning and preservation, dome reconstruction, and rehabilitation of the garden), plus a "Watch Day" to celebrate community resiliency.



## Mosul Mosaic

This is a long-term, flagship initiative that was announced in June 2019. It aims to rehabilitate several sites that together embody the Old City's religious and cultural diversity. One project under the initiative is the rehabilitation of the **Mosul Museum**, which has now completed its first phase of work, encompassing emergency stabilization, safely storing part of its collection, and finalizing an overall rehabilitation action plan. **The next phase in the project has just been approved by ALIPH (USD 830,900)**, which focuses on artifact restoration, staff training and preparing for building reconstruction. The Mosul Museum project is led by the Smithsonian Institution, Louvre Museum and the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage.

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# LEBANON

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## St Anthony's Church, Ayyubi District, Deddé (USD 144,500)

This project will conserve 13th century wall paintings and renovate St Anthony's Church (Ayyubi District, Deddé). Œuvre d'Orient will implement the project.

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# LIBYA

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## Capacity building and the stabilization of Ghadames, Sabratha, Leptis Magna (USD 773,075)

King's College London will lead this project, which targets 3 endangered World Heritage sites (Ghadames, Sabratha, Leptis Magna) and contributes to two key priorities of the Libyan Department of Antiquities: capacity building on heritage protection and management planning; and emergency stabilization.

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# PALESTINE

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## **Protection, Preservation and Promotion of Palestinian Cultural Heritage in the Gaza Strip (USD 850,000)**

This project will renovate St Hilarion historic buildings for public use and building local capacities for cultural heritage preservation in Gaza. The activities will help enhance the conservation skills and knowledge of students and workers, promote cultural tourism, and raise public awareness of the importance of cultural heritage. Première Urgence Internationale will implement this project.



## **Preservation of Palestinian heritage and protection of its future by fostering collaboration among Jerusalem-based libraries (USD 344,152)**

The Khalidi Library is the oldest and largest private collection of its type in Jerusalem with some 2,000 titles from the 12th century onwards. The project will foster collaboration with Jerusalem-based Al-Budeiri and Nashashibi Libraries, and the Al-Ma'amal Art Foundation. Together these institutions will protect historic manuscripts and other cultural heritage materials threatened by conflict.

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# PERU

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## **Saving 16th century churches in the Sondondo Valley (USD 266,164)**

ALIPH's first project in Latin America targets 12 churches from the 16th century, all located in Peru's Sondondo Valley, an area impacted by the civil war in the 1980-90s. The project will perform a general diagnosis of the churches and carry out emergency interventions to consolidate the roofs of 5 churches. The Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria will implement the project.

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# SOMALIA

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## **Multi-Religious Heritage, Salvage and Education (USD 130,041)**

The Horn Heritage Organization aims to build communal cohesion and peace by protecting one of the most endangered multi-religious heritage in Somalia: the sacred site of Aw-Barkhadle. The site embodies local diversity, including Christian, Islamic and potentially Jewish religions, as well as indigenous beliefs.

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# SUDAN

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ALIPH's new "Eternal Sudan" initiative covers its three thematic areas and totals USD 2.5 million in funding today. These projects will make a major contribution to reviving the heritage of Sudan.



## **Sudan Archaeological Heritage Protection (USD 1,190,690)**

A topography study will define the boundaries of about 70 archaeological sites in Sudan so that physical barriers can be set up where needed. The project includes two World Heritage sites: The Island of Meroe and Gebel Barkal and Sites of the Napatan Region. The project will also raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage protection. Sudan's National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums will implement the project.



### **Sudan Memory: Conserving and Promoting Sudanese Cultural and Documentary Heritage (USD 655,078)**

This project by King's College London captures intangible and cultural institution archive material in Sudan (for instance, National Film Archive, National Museum) and South Sudan (National Archives). A digitization hub will be set up in Khartoum and personnel already involved in the project will benefit from additional training.



### **Western Sudan Community Museums (USD 808,333)**

Carried out by the British Institute in Eastern Africa, this project will continue to improve site security and conservation standards of three museums in Sudan. ALIPH will also finance traditional shade shelters for daytime, outdoor displays of living heritage. Collections include living heritage artifacts as well as archaeological objects. The targeted museums are: Darfur Museum in Nyala, Sheikan Museum in El Obeid, Khalifa House in Khartoum.

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## ON SYRIA

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### **Preserving and Sharing Palmyra's Cultural Heritage through Harald Ingholt's Archives in Denmark (USD 288,893)**

ALIPH will fund the assessment and digitization of the documentary archives of 4,000 archeological statues from Palmyra, Syria, housed at Denmark's Aarhus University. Using the archives of Danish archaeologist Harald Ingholt (1896-1985), the project will document over 4,000 funeral portraits from Palmyra. In particular, the project proposes to publish the digital archive and make it accessible online to the public.

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# YEMEN

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The “Eternal Yemen” initiative will expand ALIPH’s work in Yemen from its ongoing, emergency relief project at the Aden Museum. With Eternal Yemen, the Foundation will support:



## **Reconstruction of the Al-Badr Palace and Revitalization of the Ta’izz National Museum Complex, a site listed on the 2018 World Monuments Watch List (USD 588,738)**

This project by the World Monuments Fund aims to restore Al-Badr Palace, recently destroyed, to recover artifacts buried under this Palace since its destruction, and to develop a museography program for the entire Ta’izz National Museum complex, particularly Al-Badr Palace and Imam Palace.



## **The Dhamar Museum Recovery and Documentation Project (USD 262,941)**

Led by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the Dhamar Museum site will be secured by safely removing and clearing all hazardous debris and collapsed rubble from the destroyed building. As many of the estimated 6,000 objects that remain buried underneath the museum’s ruins will also be recovered and secured.



## **Documentation of Yemeni Built Heritage**

Two projects will document the built heritage of Yemen historical cities using 3D digitization (**Yemeni Heritage Recorded: Digitization and Assessment of Endangered Traditional Urban Center**, CEFAS and Iconem – USD 337,600) and architectural assessment (**Cultural Heritage of Yemen People’s Identity at Risk**, Monumenta Orientalia – USD 366,400).

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## ABOUT ALIPH

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The International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) provides concrete support for the protection and reconstruction of cultural heritage in conflict zones and post-conflict situations. The Alliance was founded in March 2017 in response to the massive destruction of outstanding, often ancient, cultural heritage in recent years. Operating under Swiss law, this Geneva-based foundation, also has the status of an international organization.

ALIPH financially supports associations, foundations, cultural, academic and heritage institutions, and international organizations working to preserve cultural heritage in the face of imminent conflict or to intervene for its rehabilitation. Its three areas of intervention are: preventive protection to limit the risks of destruction, emergency measures to ensure the security of heritage, and post-conflict actions to enable local populations to once again enjoy their cultural heritage.

ALIPH selects projects through regular calls – the next call will be open from 15 January-16 March 2020. Emergency relief funding can also be applied for on a rolling basis. More information available at:

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