

ICOMOS- CYARK: PROJECT ANQA

Emergency Recording and Archiving of Cultural Heritage in High Risk Zones

Announcement Agenda 30 June, 18.50-19.30:

- Overview of the Challenge: **Gustavo Araoz, ICOMOS**
- Update from Task Force: **Samir Abdulac, ICOMOS**
- Overview of Project Anqa and opportunities for collaboration: **Elizabeth Lee, CyArk**

Additional Information about the program:

Need and Opportunity: The recent destruction of heritage sites and museums in Syrian and Iraq, while a great loss to humanity, represent a small portion of all the heritage sites and museums in high risk portions of the Middle East which are susceptible to similar destruction and looting. While physically safeguarding these sites is problematic if not impossible, it is possible to proactively document these sites on an emergency basis.

New technologies in 3D reality capture such as 3D laser scanning make it possible to record monuments and sites in incredible detail and accuracy at a fraction of the time and cost of conventional surveying. The resulting engineering grade data can be used to create dimensioned drawings and rich visualizations of the site. It can also be used in countering trafficking.

[CyArk](#), a non-profit 3D digital preservation organization and ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, have launched a joint initiative for the emergency digital documentation of high risk cultural heritage. The initiative, named Project Anqa for the Arabic word for the Phoenix, intends to deploy teams of international professionals, paired with local professionals to digitally document the at-risk sites in 3D before they are destroyed or altered. Project Anqa will bring many important benefits from providing tools to aide in site management or if needed, reconstruction, to training locals, to recording the stories of the sites for education and interpretive use.

Requested Support: CyArk and ICOMOS request support for Project Anqa along three critical paths:

- Relationships with cultural ministries throughout the region to secure permissions to access the sites as well as logistical support to perform the 3D documentation work.
- Funding from interested sponsoring governments, foundations, corporations and individuals.
- Teams with the skills and technology required to collect the data.

Project Execution: Project Anqa is divided into two phases, a pilot project, or Phase One and the broader roll out of the program in Phase Two.

Phase One, lasting two months including four weeks in the field, will deploy (3) teams of (3) professionals, paired with local workers to the priority countries of Iraq and/or Syria to record one site per team per week, recording 12 sites total.

Phase Two, lasting six to nine months, will deploy (10) teams of (2) professionals, paired with local workers to additional sites in Iraq and Syria as well as other priority countries throughout the Middle East and Saharan Africa to record approximately one site per team per week with additional down time during the six to nine month period, recording upwards of 220 sites total.

Digitally Preserving and Sharing the World's Cultural Heritage

www.CyArk.org

CyArk: 2201 Broadway, Suite 602 – Oakland, CA 94612- USA Phone: +1 510 832 5440 Fax: +1 510 832 5444

CyArk Europe: Conference House - 152 Morrison Street - The Exchange - Edinburgh EH3 8EB – UK Phone +44 (0) 131 200 6024