AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO
Sede di **AMMAN**

Italy in Petra: heritage conservation and disaster risk reduction for enhanced and resilient tourism

MBTA, Paestum, 1 November 2024 (10:00-11:30) | Dr Braizat

Expected duration: 10 min

Summary of Italian Cooperation's interventions in the Archaeological site of Petra

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PETRA AND WADI RUM - ONGOING

Initial duration in months: 24 months
Years: 2023 - 2025
Budget: EUR 1,500,000

Summary Description: As international tourism slowly returns to its pre-COVID-19 rate, and with the added pressure of increasing climate change impact, cultural heritage sites need, more than ever, sustainable strategies to ensure their long-term protection, which should ensure the involvement of local communities at all levels, as main beneficiaries, but also main guarantors of these sites' protection.

The overall purpose of this project is to ensure the sustainable conservation of the World Heritage Sites of Petra and Wadi Rum, while offering local communities the possibility to take part in the preservation of the sites through limited cash-for-works activities, enhance their capacity in tourism and hospitality-related activities, and raise their awareness on the importance of their role in the safeguarding of their own cultural heritage. In addition, the project intents to promote gender equality, and will support economic growth by creating job opportunities through the development of female-owned local businesses.

Output 1. Improvement of the community-based participatory conservation and management of the World Heritage Sites of Petra and Wadi Rum

Output 2 - Enhancement of the local community in providing efficient and sustainable tourism-related services in both sites

- In close collaboration with PDTRA, organization of workshops targeting local associations, focused on the sustainable development of the site and its surroundings, and the natural and cultural value of the site
- Organization of trainings for the local guides and local communities' camp owners (within the Protected Area) on the natural and cultural value of the site

Output 3 – Strengthening of female-led businesses sustainability and generation of income though crafts and services

- Organization of trainings (entrepreneurship, marketing, product design, product development, etc.) targeting women and women Associations in Petra, to enable women's economic empowerment
- Activity 4: Organization of trainings in marketing and product design for women and women associations in Wadi Rum (Wadi Rum Handicraft Centre and Women Crafts Association)
- Activity 5: Development of a female-led entrepreneurship scheme for meal preparation and delivery in Wadi Rum, through the organization of related trainings (entrepreneurship, sustainable packaging, hygiene, sanitation, etc.), and support in setting up a cafe in the newly rehabilitated castle in Rum Village

Output 4 – Increase of social cohesion through the better understanding of the diversity of Petra and Wadi Rum communities.

- Publication of a book on Petra and Wadi Rum, focusing on collecting the voices, portraits, and stories of people from the different local communities around the site, and representing different socioeconomic backgrounds, to better understand and strengthen the connection existing between the local communities and the World Heritage site;

PRESERVING PETRA'S NABATAEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH THE STUDY OF THE ROYAL TOMBS WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND THE CONSERVATION OF THE PALACE TOMB

Initial duration in months: 18 months
Years: 2019 - 2022
Budget: 1,000,000 EUR

Summary Description: In line with UNESCO Amman Office's long-term approach towards the preservation of Petra's outstanding heritage and building on former initiatives undertaken for the preservation and management of the site, the project aimed at ensuring the conservation of one of the most prominent rock-cut façades within the site, the Palace Tomb, in line with the conservation policies identified as part of the Petra Integrated Management Plan and after having developed a feasibility study for the conservation of the Royal Tombs water management system. The project also responded to a need to develop local technical skills on heritage conservation and raise awareness among the local community about the need to further preserve their heritage to maintain it for future generations. The following actions undertaken: 1) Implementation of a feasibility study to identify priority actions for the conservation of the Royal Tombs water management system, 2) Development of a conservation plan for the Palace Tomb including detailed budget and bill of quantity; 3) Capacity development of the national authorities through the organization of workshop on State of Conservation reporting and development of Heritage Impact Assessment; 4) Organization of a summer program for 15 young Jordanian focusing on conservation of monumental heritage within the context of Petra

JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN YOUTH FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RISK PREVENTION IN PETRA

Initial duration in months: 18 months
Years: 2018 - 2021
Budget: 1,500,000 EUR (equivalent to 1,792,114 USD as of January 2018)

Summary Description: The Syria Crisis led to a massive influx of population from neighboring countries and an overstretching of the absorptive capacity of Jordanian host communities, creating competition for employment and adversely impacting the Jordanian economy. Among the 655,624 thousand registered refugees as of 13 January 2018, 7,532 thousand refugees were present in the Governorate of Ma'an, where the renowned World Heritage Site of Petra is located. The Government of Jordan had only limited resources for the preservation of its cultural heritage, which went to the detriment of the appropriate management and conservation strategies at Jordan's heritage sites. Against this background, the overall purpose of the project was to enhance the capacities of and provide employment opportunities to Jordanian and Syrian youth on cultural heritage preservation and risk prevention by contributing to the implementation of priority landslide risk mitigation works in Petra, with primary focus on reducing landslide risks in the 'Siq'.

SIQ STABILITY - MANAGING DISASTER RISKS IN THE SIQ OF PETRA, JORDAN (PHASE III)

Initial duration in months: 18 months
Years: 2015 - 2018
Budget: USD 435,162.00

Summary Description: The project aimed at ensuring enhanced management and preparedness against disaster risks within the Petra World Heritage property, by prioritizing action in the Siq, through the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction plan for addressing emergencies within the Petra Archaeological Park, capitalizing on the results achieved in Phase I and II of the "Siq Stability" project (2012-2015). The project also responded to a strongly felt need to implement priority mitigation measures in those areas identified as more prone to environmental hazards, with primary focus on reducing flash-flood and landslide risks in the Petra Siq.

SIQ STABILITY – MITIGATION OF IMMEDIATE HAZARDS IN THE SIQ OF PETRA (PHASE II)

Initial duration in months: 12 months
Years: 2015 - 2017
Budget: EUR 500.000,00

Summary Description: The primary goal of the project was to guarantee higher security for the visitors and monuments' safety in the site of Petra through the implementation of priority mitigation strategies against landslide risk in the Petra Siq, stemming from the project "Siq Stability - Sustainable Monitoring Techniques for Assessing Instability of Slopes in the Siq of Petra, Jordan" - Phase I. This was achieved through the implementation of different typologies of interventions to address immediate slope hazard and low-impact and long-term mitigation measures, as well as through developing the capacity of local authorities to address landslide-specific risk.

SIQ STABILITY - SUSTAINABLE MONITORING TECHNIQUES FOR ASSESSING INSTABILITY OF SLOPES OF THE SIQ OF PETRA (PHASE I)

Initial duration in months: 30 months
Years: 2011 - 2017
Budget: USD 1,000,000

Summary Description: The primary objective of the project was an in-depth assessment of landslide risk in the Siq of Petra based on engineering geology field surveys and the implementation of sustainable monitoring techniques. A major outcome was the identification of guidelines for sustainable landslide mitigation strategies and policies for the management, conservation, and protection of the site. The engineering geological analysis was also supported by the production of a 3D computerized model of the Siq as well as an extensive and interactive video fly-through of the site based on panorama photographs.