Global Heritage Fund

Global Heritage Fund (GHF) is a non-profit, international conservancy formed to preserve and protect humankind’s most important archaeological and cultural heritage sites in developing countries. Our timely investments, global network of experts, and advanced Preservation by Design methodology work together to create a ‘cycle of success’ for Global Heritage sites which have high potential for sustainable preservation, tourism and economic development.

Global Heritage sites in developing countries offer one of the most compelling foundations for national and regional economic growth. Angkor Wat, for example, now generates over 30% of Cambodia’s GNP through tourism revenues. GHF has current projects this year in eight (8) GHF Epicenters for planning, conservation and training. Our goal is to invest $10 million over the next ten years into 40-50 Global Heritage sites threatened by neglect, destruction, mass tourism, and urban sprawl.

The Iraqi State Board of Antiquities & Heritage

The Board’s conservators have a deep passion for archaeology and believe that Iraq’s heritage is the world’s heritage, and should be shared accordingly. The State Board of Antiquities has a long history dating to 1923 and the Antiquities Law first established in 1936.

The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

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Iraq Heritage Conservation Program - Saving Cradles of Civilization

Mesopotamia is regarded as one of the four cradles of human civilization. The land between the rivers derives its name and existence from the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. These two rivers created the Fertile Crescent in the midst of surrounding inhospitable territory. The land we call Mesopotamia is roughly the same as that of the modern country of Iraq. Probably settled before 5000 B.C., the area was the home of numerous early civilizations, including Sumer, Akkad, Babylonia, and Assyria. It declined in importance after Mongol invaders destroyed its extensive irrigation system in A.D. 1258.

In partnership with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities, the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and The Oriental Institute of The University of Chicago, GHF’s Iraq Heritage Conservation Program supports the protection of Iraq’s most endangered archaeological sites. This is achieved through sponsorship of site Master Conservation Plans (MCPs) and providing a structured training program to State Board of Antiquity staff.

These plans will form the scientific and legal basis for investment by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and that of international agencies such as UNESCO World Heritage, UNDP, World Bank, and other agencies from Europe, Japan and the Middle East.

Since our first Iraq Heritage Congress in June, 2004 with World Bank sponsorship, GHF and our partners have completed five outline Master Conservation Plans and have undertaken mapping and GIS for twelve (12) sites. The development of GIS maps for sites provides critically needed ground truth. Maps provide important information on the levels of looting, encroachment as well as each site’s context given modern day environment conditions. GIS site maps will play an integral role in the development of comprehensive master plans, detailing conservation areas, buffer zones and present day threats.
**Social & Economic Benefits**

Iraq’s rich cultural heritage can be traced to the foundations of Mesopotamia. With over 10,000 years of history, Iraq is truly one of the cradles of civilization. Through responsible development of these national resources, Iraq has the potential to be the #2 destination for cultural tourism in the Middle East and North Africa, after Egypt.

- **World Heritage Infrastructure and Development**: In 2003, the World Bank provided Lebanon with $31.5 million for tourism infrastructure development at 5 world heritage sites and their surrounding cities. Our 2nd Iraq Heritage Congress will be held in Baalbek, Lebanon from June 18th - 25th, 2006. GHF’s Master Conservation Plans will provide the basis for similar investments in Iraq’s world heritage sites and their surrounding communities.

- **Tourism Development**: Iraq’s rich history and heritage can be traced back to the ancient region of Mesopotamia. Through its wealth of cultural and history, GHF believes that tourism can be the number two industry in Iraq after oil and that Iraq, with the right environment, could expect more than 240,000 visitors within 5 years, generating over $280 million in foreign exchange revenues. Within 10 years, Iraq could generate more than $1.2 billion in tourism revenues, if it follows a similar growth path to Egypt.

- **Economic Development**: GHF estimates that over 8,000 contract employees will be needed in the next five years to implement infrastructure and conservation projects at the twelve mapped sites. These jobs will not be concentrated in Baghdad, but rather will be spread across all regions - South, Central and North. Longer-term, tens of thousands of tourism-related jobs are expected to be created, along with many new opportunities for the Iraqi business community.

The Iraq Heritage Conservation Programs have achieved significant results since its establishment in 2004. In the last two years, GHF and partners have invested in an extensive mapping program of the twelve sites in Iraq, and begun a structured, first-class training program to build capacity in Iraq for the foundation of a national heritage conservation program. In addition to mapping, extensive efforts have been invested towards the development of site conservation plans.
First Iraq Heritage Congress:  
June 15th – 22nd 2004  

GHF and The World Bank co-sponsored the 1st Iraq Heritage Congress at Petra Archaeological Park in Jordan. The purpose was to establish a structured framework and five-stage process of conservation planning for endangered Iraqi sites. The framework and process are intended to accelerate transfer of expertise and technological knowledge, site management planning and conservation science for the immediate intervention of Iraq’s most endangered cultural heritage sites.

The Iraqis chose and completed master conservation plan outlines for five of sixteen heritage sites that were previously identified by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities as the highest priorities for conservation and development. Based on the meetings, Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Ministry of Culture now have a framework for the development of professional site management plans and development of conservation programs.

Second Iraq Heritage Congress:  
date to be determined  

The Second Congress will review progress on the Master Conservation Plans and mapping programs, and provide specific recommendations from international cultural heritage experts, particularly from the Middle East. Invitees include members of the UNESCO Secretariat of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage in Iraq and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, as well as The World Bank and other conservation organizations.

The Second Iraq Heritage Congress is a dedicated workshop for Iraqi archeological site managers, regional inspectors and on-site and museum conservators focused on site management planning and conservation science to assist in the protection and conservation of Iraq’s archaeological heritage. This one-week workshop will bring together
Global Heritage Network (GHN)

The majority of the most important UNESCO World Heritage sites reside in the Third World. Unfortunately, developing countries almost always lack the resources and expertise needed to solve their challenging and complex conservation, scientific and developmental issues.

Global Heritage Network (GHN) is the world’s first advanced network platform connecting the leading experts with site conservation leaders in developing countries to address the complex challenges of saving endangered world heritage sites.

Global Heritage Network provides a global network platform for knowledge sharing, project management, consultation and collaboration by local conservation leaders and teams with international experts, partners, universities and government agencies. GHN gives developing countries access to the resources and experts around the world needed to address critical scientific and conservation issues.

Backed by GHF’s proven Preservation by Design methodology and distinguished Senior Advisory Board, Global Heritage Network connects hundreds of experts with the technical infrastructure, applications, mapping, analysis, reporting and data to provides local conservation leaders the guidance and scientific expertise to support conservation at each unique endangered GHF Epicenter.

GHF has received software and hardware grants from ESRI, Autodesk, Trimble and others. This powerful network of international experts, technology and applications needs your support in order to grow to its full potential and help save hundreds of world heritage sites in danger across the developing world.

Through the Global Heritage Network (GHN), GHF is working with Atlas GIS & Surveying Systems Ltd. based in Baghdad.

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Originally the site was located near the outlet of the Euphrates into the Gulf but as the Euphrates and Tigris rivers evolved, the site lost its direct connection to these important rivers. The position of the head of the Gulf has also changed, leaving the site well inland from the current headwaters. Today the site is part of the alluvial plain of Southern Mesopotamia.

Ur was founded in prehistoric times during the Ubari period, the earliest stage of village settlement in Southern Mesopotamia. The existing architectural history of Ur documents the city’s continued historical and cultural significance for a span of at least two thousand years. In that time, Ur was the pre- eminent city of Iraq at least twice under the First Dynasty and Third Dynasty of Ur, and a major centre of religion, culture, and trade for virtually its entire history. Today, it remains one of the best preserved Sumerian cities of Southern Mesopotamia because of a significant number of its buildings were of baked bricks.

The city of Uris an important example of the Sumerian cities and civilization in Southern Mesopotamia. The excavated objects from the Royal Tombs of Ur (First Dynasty of Ur, ca. 2600 BC) can be considered as emblematic of the wealth, power, and sophistication of the Sumerian civilization. They provide very early evidence for the international exchange of semi-precious stones and metals from as far away as India and Afghanistan on an institutional scale. The sophisticated workmanship relates to the extraordinary talents of local craftsmen in the city of Ur.

Furthermore, the site has now become increasingly important given the intensive looting sustained at many of the other early Sumerian cities in the south since 2003. The nearby US air base at Taqli appears to provide extra security for the site, since it effectively encloses it. But there seem to have been losses of small satellite sites as the base has been expanded greatly. There has been a base at Taqli since the British occupation, post WWI, but even under the Saddam regime, the buildings of the base were so far off that they were barely visible from the ziggurat. Despite damage to the outskirts, as a result of the extra security, the temple complex of Ur and the main city itself appeared “relatively untouched by looters.”

As research at the city continues, the international community should also consider Ur as very important to investigations into little understood cultural periods such as the Neo-Assyrian Babylon and the Kassite period. Ultimately non-destructive forms of research, such as surface reconnaissance and geophysical survey, will become increasingly important to future programs of research at the site.

Finally, the US Air Force has enlarged the Iraqi Taqli Air Base to the east of the site, so that it effectively abuts the area of archaeological significance. An assessment of the damage to the site cannot be made until ground checks are carried out. The future impact of these modern places must be managed for the preservation of Ur.
Satellite Image of Core Area

Extent of Escavation

Ancient Landscape
- Ancient Features
- Core Area Acres = 630 Hectares
- Unexcavated Features

Modern Landscape
- Roads
- Water
- Agriculture
- Modern Features

Ancient Streets
Excavated Features
Unexcavated Features
Ancient Architecture (1st millennium)

Ancient Landscape

Excavation History:
The Excavation has been carried out by the Iraqis and
mainly inside the Temple.
The site was first measured and surveyed by a German
excavation team led by Walter Andrae from 1926-1931.
Systematic excavations were only started in 1981 by
Iranian archaeologists. They have uncovered many
of the larger monuments, including the temple area,
around the major stone shrine, the northern entrance
gate, and a number of tombs. Since the 1970s, an Italian
team from the University of Torino, has worked in association
with the Iraq State Organization of Antiquities both in
restoration and in excavation.
Hattra

Hattra is a fortified city located in Upper Mesopotamia, approximately 80 km (50 mi) southwest of Mosul and 55 km (34 mi) west of Ashur. Originally within the boundaries of the former Iranian province of Kharvaran, it is now part of the country of Iraq. It is situated in the steppe between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers (the northern Jazira), and about 3 km west of the Wadi Tharthar.

Hattra was probably used as a seasonal camping ground for semi-nomadic groups in the 2nd and 1st centuries BCE. By the 1st century BCE, Hattra became a permanent settlement, and the center of a local dynasty along the Parthian-Roman border, subordinate to the larger Parthian Empire centered at Ctesiphon. The growth of the city peaked in the 2nd century CE. In this period, Hattra was attacked by two Roman campaigns, one in 117 CE and the other in the 190s CE, but it was protected by its position and strong fortification. The prosperity of the city decreased once the Sassanian Dynasty became established with a Roman-Sassanian struggle for power along the border region. In the early 3rd century, Roman troops were stationed at Hattra. In 240-41 Hattra was conquered by the Sassanians, which led to the permanent abandonment of the settlement. The site was unoccupied by 363 when Ammianus Marcellinus, a participant of Roman campaign, documented it as an “old city situated in an uninhabited area and deserted for a long time past”.

Hattra was an important location on the Parthian-Roman border zone along a major caravan route linking Seleucia-Ctesiphon with Singara and Nisibis. It also was directly linked to the Roman network of roads, and used as a halting place during times of war. The site’s religious prestige is also evident by its monumental temple complex.

The site of Hattra radiates outward from the large rectangular ‘temenos’, or temple platform, located at the center of the city. The enclosed temenos area was subdivided by a partition into a large outer court to the east and a smaller enclosure to the west. The western area contained the Temple of the sun god Shamash and other administrative buildings. Most of the buildings inside the temenos contain iwans, which are large halls open to the front with high barrel-vaulted roofing. Many architectural elements are constructed of rubble-and mortar cores with a dressed-stone facing and datable by inscriptions to the late 1st century CE. Temples are located in the general city area as well, along with domestic architecture. Most of the areas outside the temenos have not been excavated. Around the central city, Hattra is bordered by two concentric fortification walls. The inside wall is made of clay bricks and has four main gates.

The site of Hattra has some modern encroachment between the two fortification walls, especially with agriculture and modern architecture to the south-east. The central city of Hattra has little encroachment, but some areas show possible damage due to illegal excavations. Also, to the east of the temenos an area runs north to south suggests damage due to water run-off through the site.
AQR QUF

‘Aqar Quf, also known as Dur Kurigalzu, is a Kassite period site located approximately 30 km west of Baghdad in the modern country of Iraq. It is situated along a limestone outcrop along the flat plain surrounding the Euphrates River. On three sides, ‘Aqar Quf marks the edge of the ‘Aqar Quf depression, which would have been inundated with flood water during much of the year.

The town of ‘Aqar Quf was likely founded in the late 15th or early 14th century BC. ‘Aqar Quf functioned as a capital city during the reign of Kurigalzu, and either as a capital or at least an important city during the period after. It was occupied continuously until the fall of the Kassite dynasty in the 12th century BC, when it was abandoned.

‘Aqar Quf represents a period in the history of Iraq for which there are very few sources of primary information. This period is characterized by widespread trade and communication throughout the Middle East, and as a capital city, ‘Aqar Quf contains important evidence for the chronology and relations during the Kassite dynasty. Because of ‘Aqar Quf’s location directly outside the city of Baghdad, it also has the potential to be one of Iraq’s most accessible archaeological sites, especially with the visual impact of its main ziggurat.

The occupied area was defined by a large, multi-part enclosure wall over about 225 ha (556 acres). The shape of the city is elongated, with a functional separation of the main areas. Within the enclosed area are several hills where development was concentrated, the three excavated areas being the hill of ‘Aqar Quf, mound A approximately 100 m to the west, and Tell al-Abyad 1 km further to the south-west. According to the excavation reports of Taha Bagir, ‘Aqar Quf functioned as a religious complex while Tell al-Abyad served as a palace and administrative center. The areas in between were occupied as well and possibly functioned as a residential district, but have not been excavated.

The hill of ‘Aqar Quf is dominated by the most visible monument at the site, a Ziggurat devoted to the main god of the Babylonian pantheon, Enil. Because of the uniformity of architectural features, the Ziggurat and surrounding temple complexes appear to have been founded by the Kassite King Kurigalzu. The Ziggurat (69 x 67.6 m) was approached by three main staircases leading up to the first terrace, which has been reconstructed by the Iraqi Directorate-General of Antiquities. The surrounding temple-complex has only been excavated on the south-west side of the Ziggurat and are all composed of baked brick with a rubble filling.

The palace area of Tell al-Abyad consists of several stratigraphic architectural layers, which suggests several phases of building in this area over a larger span of time. The central feature is a large, single architectural unit with rooms grouped around courtyards and massive walls, suggesting its identification as a palace of Kassite kings. Associated tablets confirm that the structure was occupied throughout the Kassite period. In addition, excavators also discovered a treasury on the east of the palace and a probably throne room or royal reception/ceremonial chamber.
CTESIPHON (AL-MADA’IN)

Situated roughly 35 km. south of Baghdad and flanking both sides of the Tigris River, the region of al-Mada’in (a Arabic word meaning “the two cities”) received its name from Arab geographers due to the enormous amount of urban remains scattered across its landscape, including most famously the cities of Seleucia on the Tigris and Ctesiphon.

After the death of Alexander the Great, Seleukos Nikator founded Seleucia on the Tigris at the end of the fourth century B.C. with the aim of attracting the inhabitants of Babylon, despite its initial status as a Greek colony of the Seleucid kingdom. After a Parthian conquest of the city in 141 B.C., it became an important administrative center for the Arsacid empire. After a long rebellion in the city lasting seven years from 35 to 42 A.D., Ctesiphon became the seat of government and royal residence. Despite three sieges by the Roman army, this region continued to grow into a profitable commercial center.

At the beginning of the 3rd century it was captured by the Sasanians and Ardashir was crowned at Ctesiphon in 226. Thereafter, Seleucia ceased to function as a capital and various other cities and suburban areas, including the “round city” of Veh Ardashir, were established, creating a unique metropolitan urban landscape. Muslim Arabs took over the area in 637, but it continued to remain prominent until the establishment of the Abbasid capital of Baghdad in the middle of the eighth century.

From a historical standpoint, the region of al-Mada’in prominently stands out due to the simple fact that it was the political and economic epicenter of Iraq during an important time period which links the country’s ancient past to its more recent Islamic heritage. The Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian periods in Iraqi history remain elusive partially due to the minimal amount of work dedicated to them, but their importance has never been questioned. Seleucia on the Tigris, Ctesiphon and Veh Ardashir served as capitals to powerful empires of the Near East that rivaled Rome.

From these cities the rulers administered the provinces, staged troops for battle and performed important political and religious ceremonies for maintenance of the empires. With the foundation of the city of Seleucia on the Tigris as a Greek colony, this region became an arena in which the populations from the East and West came together and created a new more cosmopolitan culture that had not yet been seen in Iraq. As a result, this multiculturalism manifested itself in numerous ways as reflected in the artwork and architecture of the region. In the same manner, al-Mada’in became an important intersection of various faiths including polytheistic systems, Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and Islam.

The most prominent example of the enormous power and prestige held in these cities is the Taq-i Kisra, a huge vaulted iwán which continues to this day to be the world’s largest single-span baked-brick arch. Additionally, numerous contemporary sources from outside the region have described its spectacular royal and religious buildings which have yet to be found such as the “White palace” of Ctesiphon. In a similar fashion, this region became an important commercial center for trade allowing for a large accumulation of wealth to be gathered as is reflected in the numerous large and highly decorated residences uncovered in the area. Overall, from a political, economic, or cultural perspective, the exceptional historical significance of this region during the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian periods remains unrivaled.

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NIMRUD (Calah)

Calah (modern names: Tell Nimrud) is an ancient Assyrian city located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River, just above its confluence with the Upper Zab River. It lies approximately 30km southeast of Mosul, in the north of modern Iraq. The ancient ruins cover an area of approximately 360 ha and reputedly supported a population of over 60,000. Calah was one of four major Assyrian royal cities in the region and can be considered to be in roughly the centre of the Assyrian homeland (Roff, 1990).

The site consists of a roughly rectangular low mound surrounded by a city wall. Rising above the general level of the city are two major tells, the much taller of which is the acropolis (Tell Nimrud), where the ancient palaces and temples of the city have been uncovered through a series of major excavations. The second major tell is Tuul el-'Azar, otherwise known as Fort Shalmaneser. Tuul el-'Azar preserves the largest palace thus far excavated, a composite military and residential structure located in the southeast corner of the site.

The site was occupied from as early as the Halaf and Ubaid periods (5th Millennium B.C.). While evidence for continuous occupation of the site is apparent in the material remains, the site is only attested as a royal city beginning in the Middle Assyrian period (1300 B.C. +). Assur-Nasir-Pal II, a major ruler of the 9th Century described the former city of Calah (Kalkhu) as a creation of Shalmaneser I (1271-1242 B.C.), noting that the city had fallen into decay and lay prostrate when he became king (Mallowan, 1966: 74). The Middle Assyrian period was one of the rare times when the north of Iraq and the interior of Syria (Assyria in the classic sense) had been unified under one rule.

Assur-Nasir-Pal II again made Calah an important royal city, when he chose the city as the administrative capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (c. 883-612 BC). Under Assur-Nasir-Pal II (883-859 BC) and Shalmaneser III (856-824 BC), his son, the Assyrians exerted direct control to the west as far as the Euphrates. In 826 BC, the crown prince Assur-Danin-Apa, started a rebellion against the Shalmaneser III and attempted to wrest control of the city from Shalmaneser III. This rebellion pitted the royal court at Calah against the rest of Assyria. Eventually, the rebellion would be defeated by one of Shalmaneser III’s younger sons, Shamsi-Adad V (823-811 BC), who used Calah as his base of operations. On the death of Shamsi-Adad V, his queen Sarrumrat (Semit) would assume the regency and rule Assyria until her son Adad-Nirari III (810-783 BC) came of age. After Adad-Nirari III, there is no evidence of a strong monarch until Tiglath-Pileser III (744-727), who extended the empire from Assyria into Palestine and Damascus.

Thereafter the Neo-Assyrian Empire continued to grow. It would assume its greatest extent in the seventh century BC under Esarhaddon (680-669 BC) and his son Assur-Bani-Pal (669-627 BC), when the empire controlled everything from Lower Egypt and the Levant in the southwest to the Northern and Central Zagros of Western Iran on the eastern frontier. In between, the Assyrian kings controlled southern Turkey, the Syrian interior and all of Iraq including Babylonia and Chaldea. In 612 BC, the Assyrian Empire finally fell to the combined efforts of the Median and Babylonian armies and the acropolis was burnt to the ground.

After the fall of the Assyrian Empire and destruction of Calah, unknown Assyrians chose to try and re-establish the city by rebuilding some of its monuments.
**SAMARRA**

The site of Samarra is of international, state and local significance. As arguably the largest archaeological site in Iraq, yielding much about its own Islamic heritage, Samarra is of prime importance. Its local significance stems mainly from its Shi'ite associations and function as a pilgrimage site.

To restate: Samarra is the sum of its parts. The significance of the site of Samarra is seen through the importance and uniqueness of its individual archaeological and architectural elements.

The significance of Samarra is as a major Islamic urban conglomerate city. It was founded in 836 under the 'Abbasid Caliph al-Mu'tasim as a new capital city, a title formerly held at Baghdad.

Under the various successive caliphs Samarra was divided into separate quarters that grew and shifted in their central focus. The city as a capital lasted only until either 883 (47 years) or 896 (56 years) with the death of the caliph Mutamid. Al-Mu'tasim moved the capital back to Baghdad. By the tenth century, Samarra had lost its importance, as evidenced by its lack of prominence in medieval maps.

In its heyday in the mid-ninth century, the population of Samarra would have been around 1 million, easily larger than any city in Europe would reach for quite some time. Samarra was associated with Shi'ite figures of some religious significance. The mausoleum of Ali al-Hadi and Hasan al-Askari, the 10th and 11th Shi'a Imams (respectively) and the shrine of Muhammad al-Mahdi, the 'hidden Imam' or twelfth and final Imam made the site a major pilgrimage center for Shi'a Muslims.

The archaeological potential of Samarra is incredibly vast. As a capital city of the 'Abbasid period occupied by about fifty years, the site offers a window into early medieval Islamic court life. Furthermore, as the Quickbird satellite images show, much of the city is still visible down to the scale of individual rooms. The site of Samarra is significant in that it has not been diminished due to loss in its condition or damage to its integrity. Neither has it been altered much. The context of Samarra remains virtually intact, as well. Only a very small portion of the city has been excavated.

Overall, the site is significant because it occupies a single period of history, the Early Islamic Period, as the capital of the 'Abbasid caliphate. Within that, its segmented nature of growth as a city creates politically and chronologically discrete windows of its various areas. It was an administrative center and military garrison, housing, perhaps for the first time, large non-Arab Turkic armies in many orthogonally planned barracks. Furthermore, the site's incredible preservation yields a vast amount of potential archaeological information. As such, the site's cultural heritage value and significance are "exceptional".

Presently, the Medieval and modern city of Samarra occupies a small area amidst the larger Early Islamic site. The majority of the site is visible from air and satellite imagery and is relatively intact. Each year, however, urban development and sprawl, as well as, agricultural cultivation encroach on more of the site. As a tourist destination, Samarra has been one of the key sites in Iraq. Although most tourists climb the spiral minaret, they do not take full advantage of the site's monuments.
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