

SAGALASSOS, TURKEY

A mausoleum in the snow-drenched
Taurus Mountains.

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 Global Heritage Fund
BEYOND MONUMENTS

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#BEYONDMONUMENTS

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I’d like to pose a question to you. Has there ever been a more exciting time to work in the heritage field?

In the past year, your support has enabled pioneering work at some of the most endangered and awe-inspiring heritage sites on earth. Places like El Mirador, Guatemala, where your gifts have enabled the creation of a complete photogrammetry and virtual reality model of Jaguar Paw Temple. A magnificent Mayan structure, Jaguar Paw Temple is inaccessible to all but the most seasoned jungle explorers. Now, for the first time, the temple is open to digital discovery for anyone with a smartphone.

Your gifts have created pathways to prosperity for hundreds of people. People such as Durmus Dogan, a worker at the GHF project site of Sagalassos. He once told our Turkish Heritage Program Director, Mustafa Gönen, “there is nothing which will keep me away from the site. I will protect it until my last breath.” His unflagging devotion is possible only because of your gift, which pays his salary as a guard and as a laborer with the excavation team.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to save everything or restore what has been lost: in the Middle East and North Africa, ancient treasures which have lasted for thousands of years have fallen victim to warfare and militancy. But these setbacks have never stopped you from doing everything you can to protect the world’s most vulnerable heritage sites.

Indeed, it is only because of you that GHF has been able to launch the AMAL in Heritage Program. With this program, you have offered anyone with a smartphone access to unprecedented training and tools for risk

prevention, response, and recovery. You have done more than provide a hand up, however. You are crowdsourcing on-the-ground solutions to save heritage in this precious, war-torn region of the world.

Finally, you have made possible Global Heritage Fund’s exciting new lineup of investigations. Offering the greatest return on your investment, our projects in Greece, India, Nepal, and China represent the finest developments in the heritage sector. We fully expect them to inaugurate a new paradigm in heritage management through targeted investments in technological and programmatic innovation.

Although heritage continues to face many threats, your unflagging commitment keeps us excited about the future. For nearly 15 years, you have supported GHF’s unique methodology of conservation through community development. It’s only because of you that GHF has been able to better the lives and livelihoods of thousands of people such as Durmus Dogan. It is truly because of your support that the majesty of dozens of world heritage sites will be enjoyed for decades to come. Thank you. □



Daniel K. Thorne
Chairman of the Board



Stefaan Poortman
Executive Director

AMAL IN HERITAGE

Global Heritage Fund's emerging platform to fulfill the critical needs of the MENA region through the three prongs of disaster relief: preparedness, response, and recovery.

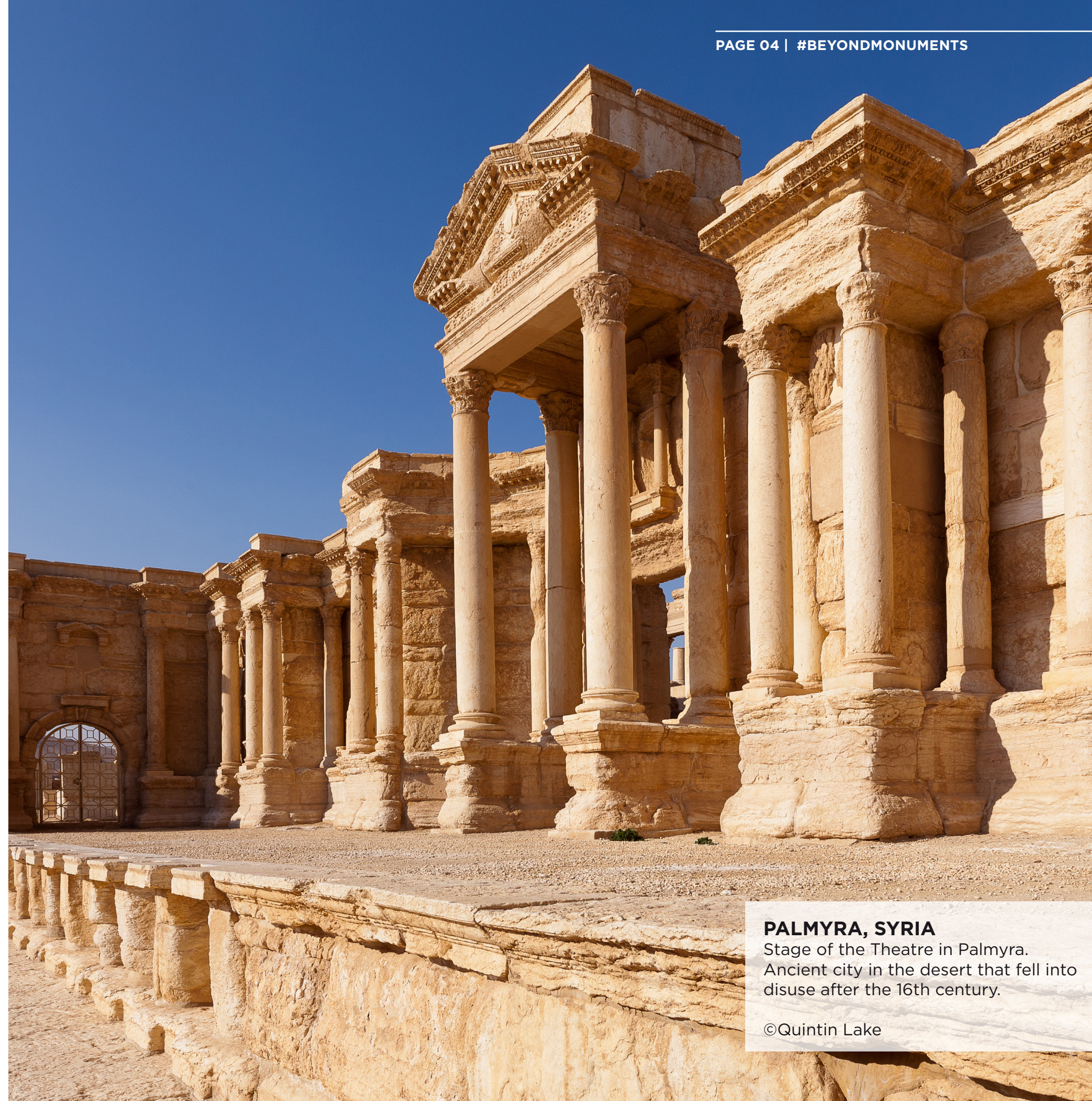
Global Heritage Fund launched the AMAL in Heritage program during a time of great unrest. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) were experiencing their worst violence in living memory. And, for the first time, the region's cultural heritage was directly in the crosshairs. Heritage professionals and laypeople alike needed a way to protect their heritage, and they needed it immediately.

GHF stepped in with workshops to train qualified heritage professionals in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. As a stopgap measure, these workshops provided actionable skills they could use in their home countries. However, the investment involved made it clear that a more scalable, accessible solution was required.

Since its launch one year ago, AMAL has grown in scope and reach. From an initial concept developed by one organization, AMAL now includes four partners across the MENA region and Europe. The first version of the mobile application for rapid impact assessment, training, coordination, and community development is nearly complete. A testing and design workshop for AMAL's mobile tools was just held in Bahrain to refine the application and train professionals in its use. Their certification as teachers will ensure the use and usability of the platform will extend far beyond our direct efforts.

AMAL was envisioned as a platform for managing disaster and conflict risks for cultural heritage. Through a combination of tools, training, community development, and the tireless work of our partners, this vision is fast becoming a reality.

For more information on AMAL, please visit <http://globalheritagefund.org/index.php/what-we-do/projects-and-programs/amal-in-heritage/> >>>>



PALMYRA, SYRIA

Stage of the Theatre in Palmyra. Ancient city in the desert that fell into disuse after the 16th century.

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ANNOUNCING GHF ASIA

GHF Asia Ltd. expands our global reach into the Asian continent, increasing GHF's donor pool, enhancing its operational capacity, and improving partnership opportunities.

HONG KONG, CHINA

A panoramic view of Hong Kong at nighttime.

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Global Heritage Fund inaugurated a Hong Kong-registered charity, GHF Asia Ltd., on September 20th, 2016. Intended to extend GHF's network throughout Asia, GHF Asia Ltd. will streamline operations while working directly with GHF US to identify new projects, fundraise for worthwhile endeavors, and achieve common goals.

“We are very excited about the potential GHF Asia represents,” says Stefaan Poortman, Executive Director of Global Heritage Fund. “We have operated in Asia since our organization was founded in 2002, but this is the first time we have been able to partner

with regional fundraising stakeholders in Asia, not just for Asia. Devoting these resources to the cultivation of our Asian projects and partners is the natural next step in expanding our footprint on the continent.”

GHF Asia Ltd. is chaired by Angus Forsyth. Mr. Forsyth is an accomplished solicitor and a founding partner of Stevenson, Wong & Co. He practices in a wide range of commercial, internet, trust, charitable and cultural fields of law. He has also been actively involved in The Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, The Friends of the Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Limited, The Friends

of the University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery, and with the establishment and legal good governance of the Pasteur Foundation Asia.

Mr. Forsyth's extensive experience in the legal, corporate, and philanthropic sectors will be immensely beneficial in building GHF Asia Ltd.'s footprint and influence in the preservation of Asian cultural heritage.

China Heritage Program Director Kuanghan Li also weighed in. “GHF Asia Ltd. will be a great boost to our China Heritage Program, including our current project in Guizhou and

to additional projects in the future, Maijishan especially. Mr. Forsyth's addition to the global GHF team will be valuable, and I look forward to working with him in establishing our presence with regional partners and stakeholders.”

Through building a network of conservation and development leaders throughout the Asian continent, GHF Asia Ltd. will ensure the longevity of our projects far into the future. We look to GHF Asia Ltd. to catalyze philanthropic activity, exponentially benefit these sites, and build momentum for our global campaign to save vanishing heritage sites in developing regions. >>>>

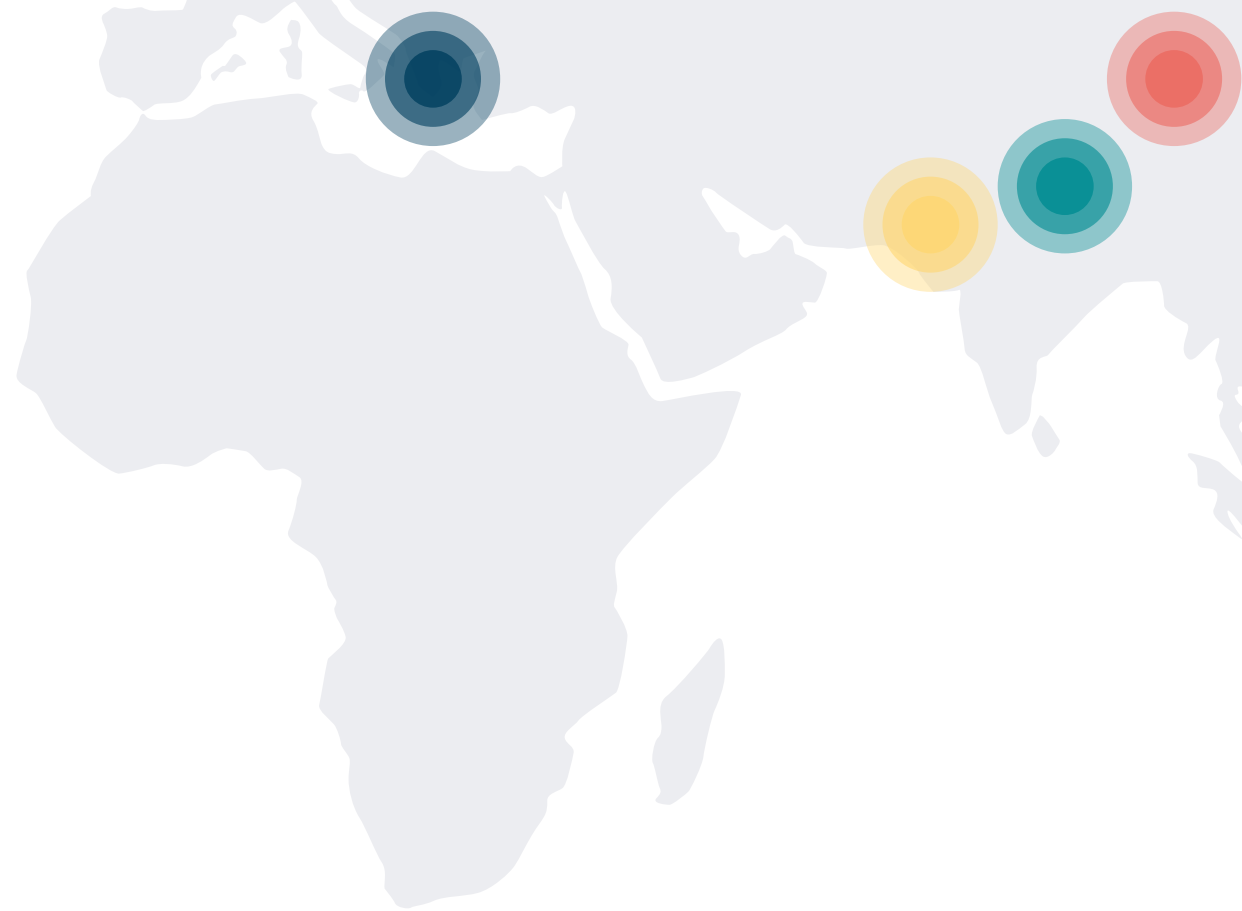
A NEW ERA FOR GHF: INVESTIGATIONS IN GREECE, CHINA, NEPAL, AND INDIA

New investigations represent a paradigm shift for Global Heritage Fund towards projects that are shorter and whose strategic targeting enable the greatest possible benefit to each site and its community.

Global Heritage Fund has undergone numerous changes over the past few years, but few were as monumental as the shift in our project methodology. A leaner, more agile GHF is taking on projects requiring short, targeted, and strategic investments. Combining sustainability in conservation with measurable, lasting changes to the economic realities involved in the site and its local community, this shift in methodology will bring the greatest possible benefits to each site and its community.

Our new investigations in Greece, India, Nepal, and China are representative of this shift. Each has goals tailored to the specific needs of the site and clearly defined outcomes and metrics for success. With this new approach, Global Heritage Fund intends to expand our reach to more sites around the world. By leveraging GHF seed funding into exponential local investment, partnering with local stakeholders, and adhering to the most modern and rigorous scientific methodology for conservation and development, GHF will continue to make a catalytic impact in our fight for world heritage sites.

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INVESTIGATIONS

AGIOS VASILEIOS, GREECE

The only Mycenaean palace discovered in Lakonia, Agios Vasileios is a significant development for the history of archaic Greece

Global Heritage Fund is proud to announce its involvement at the historic site of Agios Vasileios, Greece. Discovered less than 10 years ago and in excavation for the past three years, Agios Vasileios is an unprecedented find: it is the only Mycenaean palace ever discovered in Lakonia, the region surrounding the ancient city-state of Sparta. Although often associated with Homer's Iliad, the site is more notable for the rare finds that accompanied its discovery and the unlikely story of its preservation.

Ironically, the fire that destroyed Agios

Vasileios is precisely what preserved the records that now shed light on the site. At the time, palace records were written on unbaked clay tablets, which were routinely discarded after their useful life had ended. However, the conflagration that engulfed the palace also baked these tablets hard and preserved them until the present day. Mainly ledgers dealing with goods and services, they offer important clues about the palace's function and regional significance. Perhaps most notably, this library represents the only archives discovered from this period in archaic Greece.



AGIOS VASILEIOS

An archaeologist in the process of uncovering a tablet in Linear B, the language of the Mycenaean civilization

©Matthew Strebe/Global Heritage Fund

Agios Vasileios currently has four excavation zones. One of these zones has yielded several finds relating to the Mycenaean religion in addition to the palace floor, which was baked solid by the fire. A second zone is believed to be palace's audience chamber, based on the remains of a long collonade, or stoa, with stone bases and wooden pillars.

Agios Vasileios requires extensive conservation work to preserve the many remnants of Mycenaean civilization that remain to be discovered. GHF's primary involvement

is to provide comprehensive planning for the long-term conservation and management of this site. On the ground, GHF is assisting with the conservation work on site, including the construction of a shelter for both conservation and research purposes. GHF is also intensively researching community development opportunities for the modern city of Sparta and the nearby village of Xirocampi in order to foster a sense of stewardship for the site and provide economic, social, and cultural benefits for local stakeholders. >>>>



JAIPUR, INDIA

The majestic entrance to a palace within Amer Fort.

©Wikimedia Foundation

INVESTIGATIONS

AMER FORT, INDIA

Providing a new vision for India's premier hill fort, GHF plans to reinvigorate the site and put it on a sound, sustainable footing.

Amer Fort is a former palace and military installation of the maharaja of Jaipur and is located on a strategic hill outside of the city. It is renowned for its opulent style and its pioneering, eclectic mix of architectural motifs, which have cemented its status as the typical representation of the Rajput hill fort. The 37th Meeting of the World Heritage Committee named it and five other sister forts to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list in 2013.

Amer Fort is one of the most visited sites in India. During peak tourist season, the fort and the nearby city attract up to 5,000 visitors per day. The stress on the site brought about by these visitors has been enormous, requiring intensive conservation on the fort and its environs.

Global Heritage Fund has signed a memorandum of understanding with the state government of Rajasthan and its Chief Minister detailing plans for preservation work at the historic site. GHF's work at Rajasthan will begin with the creation of a Management Plan for Amer Fort. This will assist both GHF and the Government of Rajasthan to create a framework for future maintenance, conservation, and management of the historic site.

"What makes Amer Fort appealing to Global Heritage Fund is the partnership with the Chief Minister and the Government of Rajasthan" said Executive Director Stefaan Poortman. "We are working with a government that is very pro-heritage and which plans to put Rajasthan on the map by leading with their heritage and their cultural sites. It's very significant to the people of Rajasthan and all of India. GHF is deeply honored to invited to assist in the preservation of this magnificent site."

Global Heritage Fund has high hopes for this project, which will provide much-needed management at the second-most-visited heritage site in India. >>>>

INVESTIGATIONS

PATAN DURBAR, NEPAL

After a devastating earthquake damaged the majestic temple complex, GHF and its partners decided to step in with comprehensive emergency management and response plans.

Patan Durbar Square is one of the most significant religious complexes in Nepal. Situated in the historic core of Lalitpur, on the outskirts of Nepal's capital of Katmandu, Patan Durbar Square is a remarkable example of Newar architecture.

Much of that changed in the spring of 2015. Striking at 11:56 a.m. local time, a magnitude-7.8 earthquake killed 9,000 people across the country and leveled many historic buildings, including seven in Patan. Many of these had stood for hundreds of years and had incredible religious and secular significance.

GHF will provide provide funding and technical expertise to the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust for a seismic retrofit and restoration of the Visheshvara Temple and the development of a Patan Durbar Earthquake Response Project. The campaign will support stateoftheart studies and research to explore the needs and solutions appropriate for Patan Durbar Square.

Looking to the future, it will prepare local stakeholders with the resources they need to respond to and recover from disasters. It will include publicity and advocacy initiatives, engaging the local and international players working to restore the heritage of the Kathmandu Valley. GHF believes that restoring and rebuilding the temples will create local jobs and contribute to the heritage tourism that is one of Nepal's most important economic drivers. >>>>



KATHMANDU, NEPAL

A local temple in rubble in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake that devastated Kathmandu, Nepal

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INVESTIGATIONS

MAIJISHAN, CHINA

Magnificent grottoes hollowed out in a mountain along China's Silk Road, Maijishan represents 1,800 years of artistic tradition and the intersection of multiple peoples

Maijishan is representative of the series of cave temple complexes on the western edge of the Guanzhong Basin. Developed from the fifth to the 18th centuries CE with the transmission of Buddhism along the Silk Road. With unique grotto features that integrate into spectacular geomorphological landforms and the surrounding landscape, the site has immense cultural and artistic value.

Tourism and a lack of preservation are critical threats facing Maijishan. Appropriate preservation and management measures are critical to ensure the values of authenticity are retained at the World Heritage Site property.

GHF is partnering with the Maijishan Grottoes Art Research Institute, which has served as a source of research and expertise on the Maijishan Cave Temple Complex. Since the establishment of the Gansu Province Cultural Department, the Maijishan Grottoes Art Research Institute has further refined its methodology and has been providing integrative services related to preservation, research, and tourist reception at Maijishan.

We will bring in international specialists with leading expertise in the preservation and management of Chinese heritage sites. This will help to foster the exchange of professional

expertise and enhance the capacities of the management team at Maijishan Grottoes.

The three main suggested goals are:

- Develop an operational strategy for visitor management and establish relevant courses for members of staff and volunteers at the site, including access, interpretation, visitor capacity and technology-led education.
- Conduct a systematic examination of Maijishan's historic preservation, including restorative principles, techniques, and

methods, and use it as a foundation for building up further scientific analysis and comprehensive proposals. This will help to create comprehensive frameworks for restoring and maintaining the site's colored sculptures and mural paintings.

- Create a community development program focused on the living communities within the park. Activities will include education, handicraft development and promotion, and sustainable community-based tourism development and training. [»»»»](#)



PINGYAO, CHINA
A courtyard house in the process of restoration. Since the beginning of GHF's involvement in Pingyao, over X courtyard houses have been restored.

©Xiaodang Wang/Global Heritage Fund

COMPLETED PROJECTS

PINGYAO: A RETROSPECTIVE

Global Heritage Fund ended its involvement at the historic city of Pingyao two years ago. Now, GHF's China Heritage Program Director Kuanghan Li discusses GHF's work and the site's future potential.

Pingyao is renowned as the first banking capital of China and one of the country's few remaining walled cities. What was it about Pingyao that attracted GHF?

Kuanghan Li: To understand that, we have to start at the beginning. GHF started the China Heritage early on with a project in Lijiang, which is in China's Yunnan Province. We then moved on to Foguang Temple in Shanxi Province. Our local partners there were impressed with our work and referred us to Pingyao, and a few things went into our decision to start a project there.

Building off of that, we were attracted to its historical status and relative rarity. Pingyao's Ancient City was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997 based on its preeminence as China's first banking capital and its status as one of China's few remaining intact ancient cities.

However, the modern-day economic and social conditions the city suffers from are in stark contrast to its past glamour. With over 40,000 low-income residents living within its ancient walls, Pingyao is facing unprecedented pressures and deterioration of its core historic Qing Dynasty district and last remaining temples, towers, palaces, banks, and ancient residences. The risk of damage from poorly planned development and neglect was unprecedented, and so we realized we had to act fast.



The significance of the city, and the dire condition it was in at that time, immediately appealed to GHF. These factors made it more than fitting with our mission of seeing heritage as a resource to better the life of the local community “beyond monuments.”

What were the major issues encountered in Pingyao relating to conservation, planning, management, etc., and how did GHF overcome them?

KL: Being a living historic city, one of the main challenges was to resolve the conflicts between conservation and development needs. The two major issues were the outdated living conditions in the historic city and courtyard houses, and the pressing commercial development brought about by mass tourism, which was eroding the historic core of Pingyao’s Ancient City.

Some of these issues can be overcome by preservation and community development measures, whereas others need to align with greater social and political issues and the strategies that correspond with them. In brief, it requires all aspects of long-term planning, conservation, management solutions, and strong partnership building with local stakeholders to help overcome the issues.

The original vision for Pingyao was to preserve the courtyard houses, focusing on the restoration of a block of houses in the Fanjia Jie district. Was this an organic change over time, or was it prompted by something else?

KL: The entire project programming and implementation was an organic change over time. We constantly revised our approach based on informed experiences we learned in the field.

We started out with a singular vision to restore selected individual courtyard houses in the city,

and after evaluating the situation, we realized the restoration of an exemplar historic block would have a greater impact at the community level that wouldn’t be limited to the physical conservation work. After completion of the conservation plan for the Fanjia Jie district, we continued to explore ways to best utilize our limited resources for achieving the maximum impact. In consultation with local partners, we decided together that a local preservation fund that would provide financial, political, and technical tools to local homeowners to maintain their historic houses would be the most effective long-term solution.

To summarize, we can track the development of our work at Pingyao in three phases. First, we began with attempts to protect individual courtyard houses. Second, we transitioned to a linear distribution, protecting an entire historic block. Finally, we branched out to a greater active agent network through our Preservation Incentive Fund and our series of guidelines that govern restoration on all traditional houses and provide guidance to all concerned individuals in the historic city.

Preserving specific houses morphed into an effort to provide expertise for and develop guidelines around preservation, an effort which took several years to complete. Why were guidelines considered to be so important?

KL: We started out with the restoration of two model courtyard houses, but we quickly realized that, with the limited time and resources available, the impact of a few restored projects may not be conspicuous. Pingyao is a city with thousands of historic courtyard houses needing different levels of care. In addition, changes brought about by commercial development are fast eroding the historic building core of the city, and the “aid-per-building” approach did not enable us to act fast enough to remedy the situation.

Based on these experiences, we decided that



PINGYAO, CHINA
A printer hard at work in Pingyao.
©Xiaodang Wang/Global Heritage Fund

a set of guidelines documenting the best practices for conservation and disseminating the knowledge we gained over years of field experiences and research would be best. Our work thus became available to a greater audience, becoming more influential within a framework of more limited resources. This step was conceived as a logical development and a concluding statement to GHF’s work over the years.

What has been the impact of these guidelines two years on? Who are the stakeholders carrying out this work today?

KL: For the first time in Pingyao and in Shanxi Province, a program has been launched to support the protection and maintenance of private historic properties with no legally

recognized heritage protection status. This signifies that the heritage value of long-overlooked, “minor” architecture is finally being recognized, and that the residents of a historic city should have modern living comforts while the compromises they made to retain the historic characters of their heritage sites should be compensated in appropriate ways.

Regionally, introduction to the incentive plan and copies of the guidelines were presented and distributed to relevant officials in other historic towns and cities in Shanxi Province with support from the Provincial Ministry of Construction. Nationally, the efforts were recognized by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, and the World Heritage Division was presented with copies >>>>

of the guidelines and endorsed it as a model case study.

Conservation professionals from various research institutes and universities have explicitly cited the guidelines as reference material when designing conservation plans for other historic towns and cities in China.

At the local level, the Pingyao Municipality, specifically the Urban and Rural Planning Bureau, is the main stakeholder continuing the work. The guidelines continue to serve as the main guiding principles of the Preservation Incentive Fund enforced by the bureau.

At the professional level, UNESCO Beijing is the main partner advocating for and disseminating the guidelines to conservators via organizing seminars, publicity, and listing the bilingual guideline as an official UNESCO document downloadable from their website.

How has the work at Pingyao impacted GHF's China Heritage Program? What lessons were learned at the city we are applying today?

KL: Even though the China Heritage Program began with the Lijiang and Foguang Temple project in China, these projects didn't have a full-time project director, and so the implementation and management relied heavily on local partners. With these projects behind us, we really began to understand the complexity and subtlety of working in a country like China. Much of the general operational strategy, such as maximizing GHF's multiplier effect, focusing on building replicable problem-solving models and dissemination of experiences, and providing a supplementary approach to the local government for related development issues such as urban regeneration and inner city poverty, were all learned from the Pingyao experience. These lessons are directly influencing our work today in Guizhou, but also farther afield in Daia, Romania.

GHF does not want to be an organization that starts a project, does preservation work, leaves, and never looks back. How has GHF continued to support its work in Pingyao?

KL: GHF's impact continues in Pingyao on a number of levels. Most importantly through the courtyard preservation guidelines and the government subsidy program. Every year, 15-20 new courtyards are selected and worked on using the GHF developed guidelines and approach.

While we are no longer active in our funding, GHF continues to remain in close contact with the local administration and provides counsel as required. I am still active with local partners and visit the city regularly to discuss impact and progress, particularly reviewing on-going preservation work in the courtyard program.

It's been nearly two years since GHF completed the project in Pingyao. What are your thoughts looking back?

KL: It was a challenging project in many ways. In addition to the unique challenges of preserving a living city with more than 40,000 residents and more than a million tourists per year, it was also my first project after stepping into the position as Director of the China Heritage Program. Looking back on my own experiences, there were some stumbling blocks, and I may have done things differently. However, while I may have learned more efficient and practical ways to do things, I'll never approach another project with the same passion, built almost entirely on blind faith and hopeless optimism, that is only possible with a first project. And, faith and passion, I believe, are at times more important than technical knowhow in the field of cultural heritage preservation. We don't do conservation work for conservation's sake. It's a human endeavor, and we need to approach it as humans. □

IN THE NEWS

