

The Challenge

The Iraqi-German Expert Forum on the Conservation of Archaeological and Historical Heritage acts in response to the increasing destruction of archaeological and historical monuments in Iraq. Its incentive is to focus on the preservation, conservation, and restoration of archaeological and historical building remains in Iraq, as well as to promote modern techniques for their documentation and analysis.

Bayt Mutabaji at Sulaymaniyah / © Matthias Kolbe, DAI · Front: Eanna Ziggurat at Uruk / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI



Drawing archaeological pottery / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI · Design: Ulrike Siegel, DAI



ArchHerNet
Archaeological Heritage Network



GERMAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
ORIENT DEPARTMENT
Baghdad Branch

IGEF

Iraqi – German
Expert Forum on
Cultural Heritage



Exchanging scientific approaches on Conservation of Archaeological and Historical Heritage



Expert discussion at Bit Resh in Uruk / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI

The Programme

The Iraqi-German Expert Forum on Cultural Heritage is intended for archaeologists and architects working for the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and attached institutions in Iraq. By proposing a capacity building programme, it seeks to foster as well as to intensify dialogue and exchange on recent developments in the fields of building archaeology and heritage conservation.

The expert forum will be organised as a 1-year programme, consisting of different thematic sessions held at the German Archaeological Institute in Germany as well as at different institutions and archaeological sites in Iraq. With its strong commitment to practice and interdisciplinary project work, the programme aims at covering a variety of archaeological, architectural, and heritage-related topics, such as building surveying and building archaeology, damage mapping and assessment, conservation planning, as well as



presentation and publication. A phase, during which the case studies and the participants' personal projects are discussed, forms another major component of the programme.

Prior to the participation in these modules, each contributor will have selected an architectural entity in Iraq that will form the subject of his/her personal project during the programme.

The 1-year programme will be marked by continuous exchange regarding the work in progress of the individual projects. Moreover, further practical modules on each project will take place in Iraq during fall and winter.

The Structure of the Programme

The programme starts with a 2-month capacity building unit in Berlin, proposing the following modules:

- Architectural documentation methods: from manual to digital survey methods,
- Architectural photography,
- Structure from motion photogrammetry,
- Building archaeology: thematic analysis and mapping of architectural elements and features,
- 3D scanning and 3D models,
- Emergency preparedness,
- Geographic information systems (GIS),
- Damage mapping and assessment,
- Conservation and restoration of stone and earthen architecture,
- Historical classification and scientific relevance,
- International and national regulations for the protection of cultural heritage,
- Preservation of historical monuments: theory and practice,
- Public presentation



Capacity building programmes in Geographic Information Systems and Emergency Preparedness / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI.

◀ Practical training in architectural documentation methods at the underground station Podbielskiallee (Berlin) / © Irmgard Wagner, DAI (on top) / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI (below).



The Initiators, Partners and Sponsors

The Iraqi-German Expert Forum on the Conservation of Archaeological and Historical Heritage is an initiative of the German Archaeological Institute and its Baghdad branch. It is organized in connection with the University of Applied Sciences Berlin and with the support of the Technical University of Berlin, the Berlin Heritage Conservation Authority, the General Secretary of ICOMOS-Germany and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq.

The Iraqi-German Expert Forum is generously funded by the Migration Fund at the Federal Foreign Office and supported by the German Federal Parliament. It is a part of the project "Stunde Null: A Future for the Time after the Crisis" initiated by the Presidential Office of the German Archaeological Institute and the Archaeological Heritage Network Germany.

Exchange of expertise in Iraq and in Germany / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI.

◀ Building archaeology and damage assessment of Khan al-Ruba'a / © Ulrike Siegel, DAI.

