

Yemen
**INVENTORY OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE PRIORITY SITES**

**final
REPORT**

SUMMARY of the PROJECT

“Yemen: Inventory of cultural heritage priority sites”

This is a true cataloguing project, in the sense that it develops this cognitive activity which necessarily precedes the heritage protection and development activities. The work, “Yemen-urban management project Inventory of cultural heritage priority sites”, is financed by the Italian Foreign Ministry and managed by the World Bank in coordination with the Yemeni Institutions and under GOAMM’s scientific direction. Its aim is to test and set up the two levels above mentioned in order to realise a “unique heritage register” by means of a central office and an initial regional one.

In Sana’a ...

Activities will concern the realisation of a furnished, equipped and operative office with local personal, which Memar prepared during the project.

... for all Yemen:

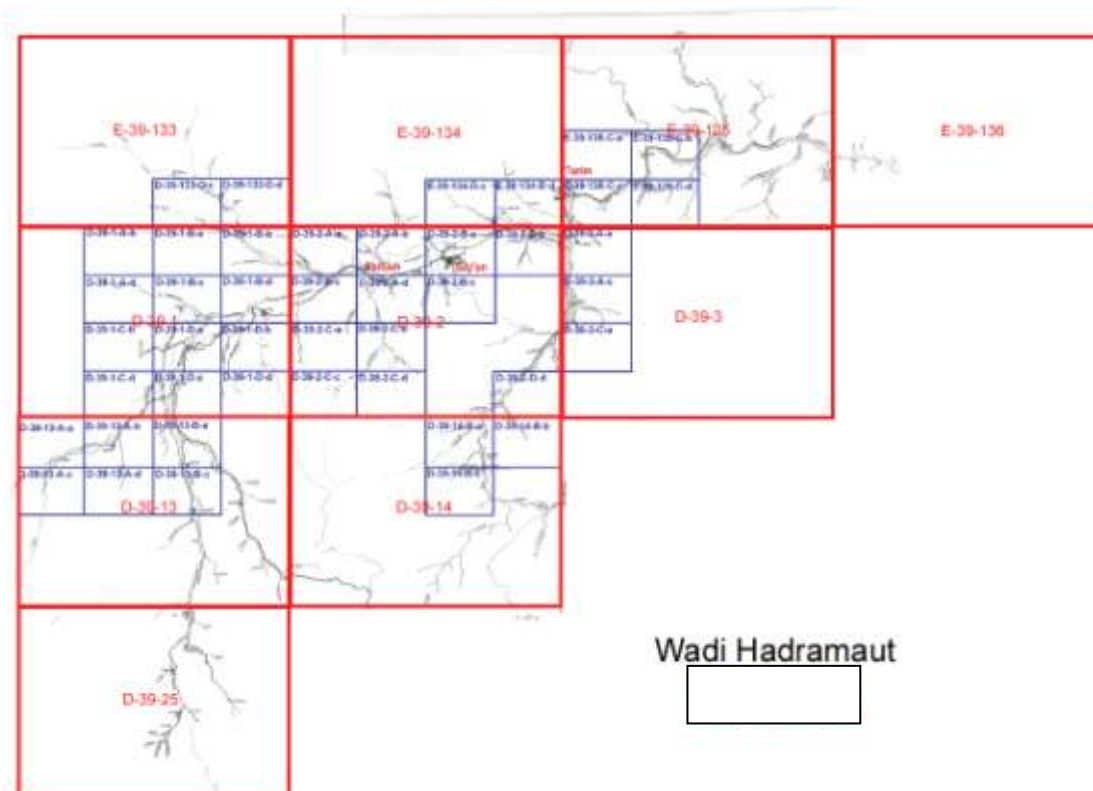
1. **GENERAL METHODOLOGY.** The scientific and operational methodology has been defined. It will be valid for the whole country and it will be able to collect the sites, complexes and monuments data on the archaeological and historical sites through core data, local pictures in each single region. The methodology will also include archaeological specimens and art objects are concerned.
2. **ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL: SURVEY OF DOCUMENTARY SOURCES.** Archives will be created on the studied areas by direct surveys and then represented on the cartography elements for the recording the museums’ content as far as. At the same time we begun creating archives of documentary sources: books, articles, reports, cartography, etc. (at least 8 operatives, 3 of them from inner Administration).
3. **NATIONAL COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM.** We are creating a database which will be linked to the digital oriented cartography.

YEMEN
INVENTORY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE PRIORITY SITES



In Wadi Hadramaut ...

Since no set of protection laws as yet exists in Yemen, it will be necessary to proceed directly with the identification of the entire historical-artistic heritage, restricted to Wadi Hadramaut, to call to the attention of the competent authorities. It will then be necessary to predispose and experiment, in agreement with the Client and with the support of internationally recognized experts in the regional and local culture, a “scientifically” correct methodology consistent with the “administrative” objectives to be reached. It will be necessary to identify the cultural, archeological and architectural territorial heritage, made up of “single” monuments, aggregates of “complexes” or monuments stratified in “ancient cities”. In any case, from the single isolated monument to the cities, we intend to use, in the documentation with records, surveys and photos, the concept of “site” as a statistical unit necessary for comprehending and describing the cultural territorial heritage. Activities deal here with the realisation of a furnished, equipped and operative office with local personnel, which Memar prepared during the project. Regarding heritage data, we plan to realise computerised archives of the “archaeological” and “historical sites” (made up of core data and cartography). By studying the priority sites, within less than a year a series of co-ordinated activities will be realised in order to start up the cultural heritage inventory. We shall get an organised and unified result on two distinguished levels even on the territory. All of Yemen and Wadi Hadramaut.



1. **SURVEY OF DOCUMENTARY SOURCES AT A LOCAL LEVEL.** The Wadi documentary sources on the archaeological and architectural cultural heritage are being analysed, recorded and in part reproduced. Similar studies being carried out in Sana'a on the whole Yemen are here thoroughly analysed.
2. **TERRITORIAL INVENTORY OF ARCHITECTURE.** Inventory of **historical sites** made up of small towns and many villages in central Wadi and of secondary ones is being carried out. The operators who are trained and led by Memar's teachers are recording and documenting the sites, which are first recognised on the cartography at a scale of 1:25.000, with pictures and sketches. It is essentially concerning the inventory of **URBAN** and **AGRICULTURAL SITES**, even though some cases of actual "**emerging architecture**" are encountered, will be recorded whether as single complexes or as single monuments.
3. **INVENTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STRUCTURES.** The study aims at the placement of historical sites within their natural and agricultural context, emphasising the problems caused by the recent construction, which is in conflict with the local tradition.
4. **TERRITORIAL INVENTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY.** Inventory of **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES** is being defined. The operatives who are trained and led by Memar's teachers are recording and documenting the known sites with photos and sketches.
5. **LOCAL INFORMATION SYSTEM.** A database linked to the oriented digital cartography (scale 1:25.000) is being realised.
6. **THE WADI HADRAMAUT ATLAS.** The Italian Touring Club is entrusted the realisation of the ATLAS which will take the form of a Wadi Hadramaut Cultural Heritage Atlas together with a small guide made in the same typical way than the usual work of this important Italian Publisher. This foreshadows one of the most important uses of the data gathered throughout the whole gamut of the area's archaeological and architectural heritage inventory. In this first phase, the Touring Club's task be to initiate a study of the area, beginning with the recorded information from the field, with a view to developing the entire area for tourism.