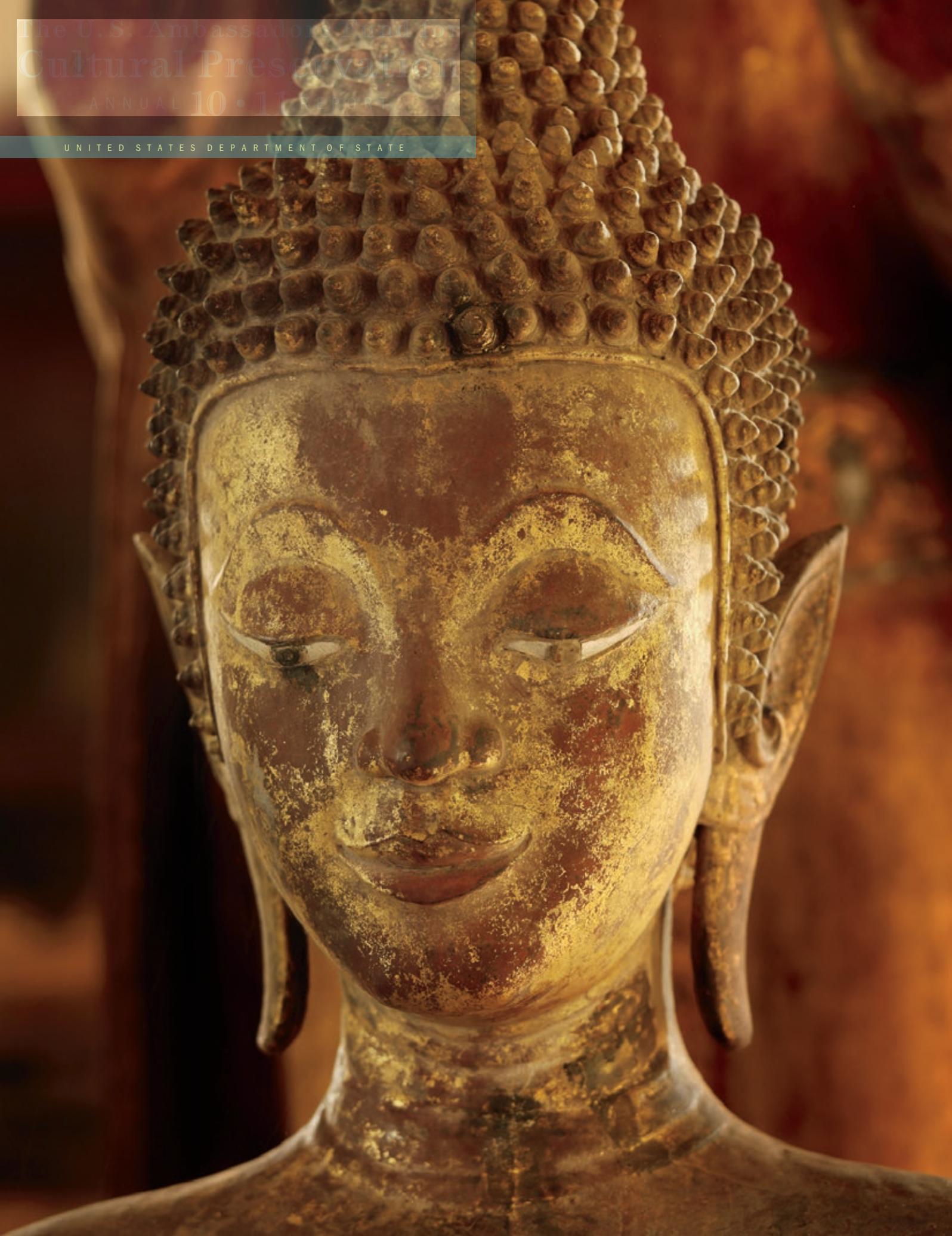


The U.S. Ambassador Fund for  
Cultural Preservation

ANNUAL 10 • 11 REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE





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Cultural Preservation  
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A report of grants made in fiscal year 2010 and implemented in 2011



# Introduction

Since its creation by Congress, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation has awarded grants in support of more than 650 projects to preserve cultural heritage in more than 120 developing countries. This achievement represents a contribution of over \$26 million towards the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide and demonstrates the depth of America's respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

In 2010, U.S. ambassadors in more than 80 countries applied to the Ambassadors Fund for support in meeting pressing cultural heritage preservation needs. Among those receiving grants in 2010 were the Directorate General of Antiquities in Lebanon for the conservation of the 8th-century public baths in the Umayyad city of Anjar; the State Museum of Arts in Uzbekistan for the preservation of the kolip (wooden print block) collection in Tashkent; and the Fundación Conservartecuador in Ecuador for the restoration of a historic building in the Todos Santos section of Cuenca, a World Heritage site.

Also in 2010, the Ambassadors Fund awarded five large grants for projects in Afghanistan, Iraq, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Turkey. Among the recipients were the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the World Monuments Fund, the Arts Council of Mongolia, and the Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan.

Speaking at a grant signing ceremony at the Lusaka National Museum in Zambia, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Michael Koplovsky said, *"We embrace new technologies, new ways of connecting with each other, new cultural norms. Our world is small, our borders more fluid and our lives are more intertwined. It is more important than ever for each of us to preserve our traditions and our cultures. If we do not actively seek to preserve our heritage, if we do not actively try to help others do the same, we risk losing the common experience that makes each of us who we are, [...] whatever our ethnic heritage."* By supporting the preservation of cultural heritage, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation helps extend its value as a vital and defining element of communities and nations and helps ensure its continued use and relevance both today and for generations to come.





# Our Mission

## About the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

**E**stablished by the 106th Congress (Public Law 106-553) and administered by the Cultural Heritage Center, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supports the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects, and forms of traditional cultural expression in more than 120 developing countries around the world. In establishing the fund, Congress noted that *“Cultural preservation offers an opportunity to show a different American face to other countries, one that is non-commercial, non-political, and non-military. By taking a leading role in efforts to preserve cultural heritage, we show our respect for other cultures by protecting their traditions.”*

## About the Cultural Heritage Center

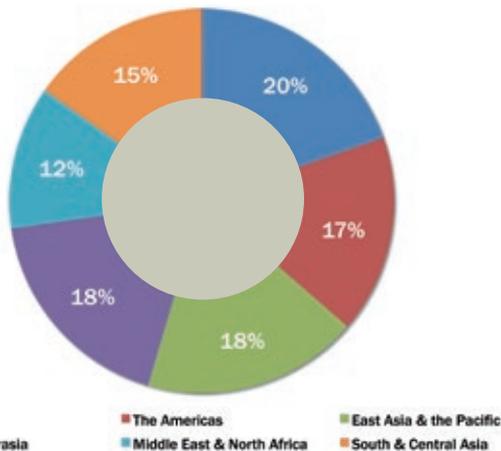
**T**he Cultural Heritage Center supports the foreign affairs functions of the U.S. Department of State that relate to the preservation of cultural heritage. In addition to the Ambassadors Fund, the Center administers U.S. responsibilities relating to the 1970 UNESCO convention to reduce pillage and illicit trafficking in cultural property and oversees special projects such as the Iraq Cultural Heritage Initiative.



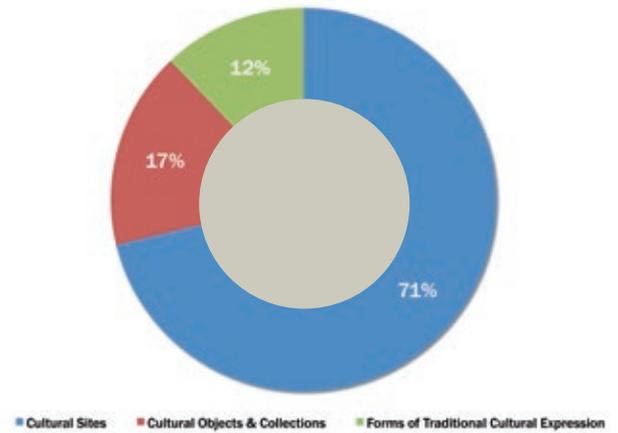
# Grants Awarded in 2010

| REGION                     | NO. OF PROJECTS | FUND AMOUNT        |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Africa                     | 13              | \$605,943          |
| The Americas               | 11              | \$925,186          |
| East Asia & the Pacific    | 12              | \$1,036,809        |
| Europe & Eurasia           | 12              | \$1,189,883        |
| Middle East & North Africa | 08              | \$2,466,960        |
| South & Central Asia       | 10              | \$1,779,870        |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>66</b>       | <b>\$8,004,651</b> |

Regional Distribution of Projects • 2010



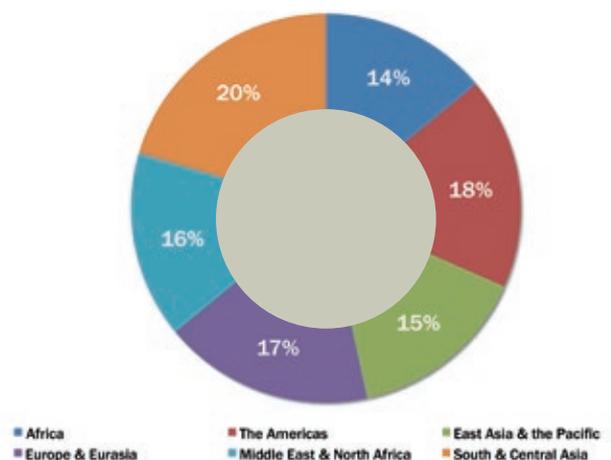
Types of Projects • 2010



Response to Calls for Proposals • 2010

| REGION                     | NUMBER OF PROPOSALS | TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Africa                     | 45                  | \$2,179,218            |
| The Americas               | 45                  | \$3,381,138            |
| East Asia & the Pacific    | 34                  | \$2,518,342            |
| Europe & Eurasia           | 34                  | \$2,734,247            |
| Middle East & North Africa | 20                  | \$6,692,495            |
| South & Central Asia       | 22                  | \$2,661,254            |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>200</b>          | <b>\$20,166,694</b>    |

Cumulative Distribution of Funds • 2001-10





From left to right, top to bottom: AFCP-supported projects in Laos, India, Tajikistan, Lesotho, Macedonia, and Iraq.

# 2010 in Review

IN 2010, U.S. AMBASSADORS IN 88 ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES SUBMITTED 200 PROJECT PROPOSALS TOTALING MORE THAN \$20 MILLION. FOLLOWING A THOROUGH VETTING, REVIEW, AND SELECTION PROCESS, THE AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION AWARDED \$8 MILLION IN GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF 66 PROJECTS IN 57 COUNTRIES.

The 137 countries eligible for support in 2010: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Congo (Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa (Western), São Tomé & Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The Cultural Heritage Center uses the U.N. Human Development Index as a guide for determining eligibility.

## Program Implementation

### Annual Competition

On October 8, 2009, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs issued a request for proposals for projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three categories—

- **Cultural sites** • **Cultural objects and collections of objects from a site, a museum, or similar institution** • **Forms of traditional cultural expression**

Proposals had to address the following: importance of the site, object, collection, or form of expression; need and urgency of the proposed project; and impact of the U.S. contribution. They also had to include detailed project budgets and information on cost sharing (including in-kind contributions) from foreign governments, international organizations, and the private sector. The Bureau announced the results on June 7, 2010.

### Large Grants Program

On December 4, 2009, ECA invited U.S. ambassadors to 16 countries and the consul general in Jerusalem to submit proposals to the Ambassadors Fund for large-scale projects to preserve major cultural sites or museum collections. Following a technical review by a panel of outside experts, the Bureau awarded grants for projects in Afghanistan, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Turkey. All four grants supported projects to preserve major cultural sites.

### Iraqi Cultural Antiquities

On August 5, 2010, the Bureau of Acquisitions Management announced an open competition for proposals for AFCP-supported large-scale projects to preserve Iraqi cultural antiquities pursuant to the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-32). In September the State Department awarded a grant to the World Monuments Fund for a four-year project to conserve the Ishtar Gate, the Nabu-sha-Khare temple, inner city walls, and other priority structures at the ancient site of Babylon in Iraq.



2010 in Review 2010 in

## Cultural Sites

Cultural sites serve an important role in communities today. They represent a connection to and continuity with the past while envisioning a cultural inheritance for future generations. Whether preserved as historic sites or adapted for new uses, cultural sites endure as monuments to human achievement.

Cultural sites may include large-scale archaeological sites, sacred spaces, ancient monuments, and historic buildings and structures of different ages and sizes. Projects in this category may address the physical security or emergency stabilization of a site, the full or partial restoration of a building, or the documentation of structures in a region for preservation or management planning.



Review 2010 in Review

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported 47 projects at cultural sites in 2010. Examples include the Neolithic archaeological site of Trench One at Tell Es-Sultan near the ancient city of Jericho, a 16th-century monastery in the Sherpa village of Pangboche in Nepal, and a 6th-century castle in the city of Vushtrri, Kosovo. Located in the city center, the venerable Vushtrri Castle endures as a reminder of the cultural achievements of this former major trading post along the Adriatic coastal region of the Balkans.

Archaeological Sites **32%**

Historic Buildings & Sites **68%**



Preventive Conservation of Ethnographic Objects at Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University. U.S. Embassy Bishkek

2010 in Review 2010 in Review

## Cultural Objects and Collections

**C**ultural objects represent humanity’s creative genius. As movable, tangible heritage, they hold great value for people throughout the world.

The Cultural Objects & Collections category covers a wide variety of objects, including paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, textiles, and ethnographic objects. Projects in this category typically address an urgent need for conservation treatment, the inventory of a collection for conservation purposes, the creation of safe environments for the storage or display of collections, or technical training in the care and preservation of cultural objects and collections.

In 2010 the Ambassadors Fund supported 11 projects to preserve cultural objects. These projects include the conservation of 16th-century statues and other ethnographic objects at Wat Visoun in Luang Prabang,



Review 2010 in Review

Laos, and the conservation of the Oranjemund shipwreck collection in Namibia. The Fund also supported the preventive conservation of archaeological and ethnographic objects from the 5th century BC to the 19th century at Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University.

The project at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University focuses on cataloguing and promoting its collection of ancient, medieval, and other objects. The collection consists of bronze, wooden, ceramic, gold, and other items uncovered beneath and in the vicinity of Lake Issyk Kul.





Documentation of Traditional Pygmy Music. U.S. Embassy Kinshasa

2010 in Review 2010 in Review

## Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression

Forms of traditional cultural expression are particularly susceptible to changes brought by time and modernity. With the passing of successive generations, communities lose the practitioners of expressive forms such as dance, music, poetry, language, and crafts. Documenting a culture's expressions is an important deterrent to extinction and assists communities in ensuring that younger generations embrace them.

In 2010, the Ambassadors Fund supported eight projects in the Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression category. Among them are the documentation of Khmer classical dance techniques in Cambodia, the documen-



Review 2010 in Review

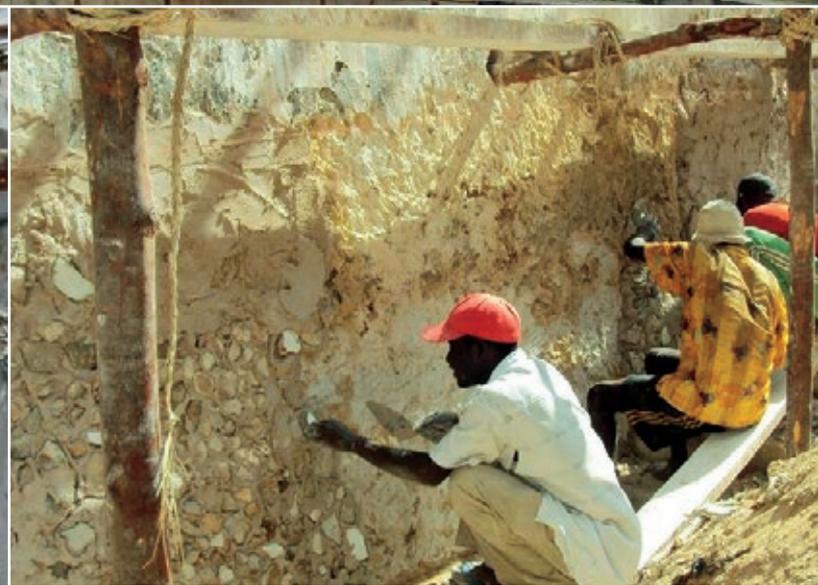
tation of traditional Armenian music and dance, and the documentation of traditional Pygmy music in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The traditional music of the indigenous Pygmy tribes is noted for its sophisticated polyphonies. Transmitted by word of mouth from one generation to the next, traditional Pygmy music is fading into oblivion as communities disperse or are assimilated into mainstream cultures.





Restoration of the Early 19th-Century Fort at Lamu, U.S. Embassy Nairobi



“THE SITES HAVE BEEN SEVERELY ENDANGERED BY VARIOUS HUMAN ACTIVITIES.  
IT IS VITAL THAT WE WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO EDUCATE THOSE  
WHO WOULD DESTROY THEIR CULTURAL TREASURES.”

VIRGINIA BLASER, U.S. DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION TO UGANDA

# Africa

## Comoros

Restoration of the 18th-Century Sultan Palace of Ujumbe in Mutsamudu

**\$80,035** To support the restoration of a former sultanic palace in the old city of Mutsamudu for use as a gallery of Comoran art and a cultural center for the community. The site of several historic treaty signings, the 18th-century palace partially collapsed in 2008 and became structurally unstable. The project involves the careful restoration of the palace walls, roof, woodwork, and decorative motifs.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

Documentation of Traditional Pygmy Music

**\$30,466** To support the documentation of the traditional music of indigenous Pygmy tribes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Noted for its sophisticated polyphonies, traditional Pygmy music is threatened with extinction as communities disperse or are assimilated into mainstream cultures. The project includes the audio recording and archiving of Pygmy music at the Museum of the University of Kinshasa.

## The Gambia

Preservation of the 19th-Century Fort Louvel Monument in Banjul

**\$16,540** To support the preservation of a monument marking the site of Fort Louvel, an early 19th-century fort in the capital city of Banjul. Built in 1831 during the Barra Wars, the fort played an important defensive role for nearly a century, and the mid-20th-century monument marking the site is in urgent need of preservation. The project involves the restoration of the monument and the installation of interpretive panels.

## Kenya

Restoration of the Early 19th-Century Fort at Lamu

**\$30,393** To support the restoration of Lamu Fort, an impressive stone masonry fort begun in 1813. The largest building in the Lamu Old Town World Heritage site, the fort is a vibrant gathering place for residents of Lamu and neighboring communities. The project involves the restoration and some replacement of deteriorated mangrove timber joists and beams, and the restoration of Swahili motifs and other lime plaster decorations.





🌍 Africa 🌍 Africa

## Namibia

### Conservation of the Oranjemund Shipwreck Collection

**\$131,725** To support the conservation of approximately 8,000 objects recovered from a 16th-century shipwreck in the Orange River diamond-mining area along Namibia’s southern coast. The oldest European vessel to be excavated in sub-Saharan Africa, the Portuguese ship was carrying gold coins, bronze cannons, elephant tusks, and other trade goods when it sank between mainland Europe and the Far East. The project involves a conservation assessment and the desalinization of objects deemed most at risk.

## Nigeria

### Restoration of the 18th-Century Gobarau Minaret in Katsina

**\$15,450** To support the restoration of an 18th-century earthen minaret in Katsina, the capital of Nigeria’s fourth largest state. The two-storey pyramidal minaret, which is all that remains of a Friday mosque from the same period, requires immediate treatment to correct damage from years of erosion and other forms of decay. The project involves the restoration of the stairs, dome, and surrounding walls using locally produced bricks and paints.





🌍 Africa 🌍 Africa

## Tanzania

### Conservation of Prehistoric Rock Art in Kondo

**\$54,000** To support the conservation of prehistoric rock art, many nearly 2,000 years old, in Kondo, a World Heritage site near the Great Rift Valley. More than 150 rock art sites survive in Kondo, and some still bear ritual associations for members of the local community. The project includes a survey and documentation, the installation of interpretive panels, a guidebook, and community workshops.





● Africa ● Africa

## Z a m b i a

Preventive Conservation of Ethnographic and Other Objects in the Collections of the Lusaka National Museum

**\$23,640** To support the conservation of the collections of the Lusaka National Museum, which opened to the public in 1996. The museum's collections of wooden, ceramic, and other ethnographic objects are highly vulnerable to damage and deterioration for lack of suitable storage equipment and materials. The project includes the outfitting of a professional objects research and storage area.

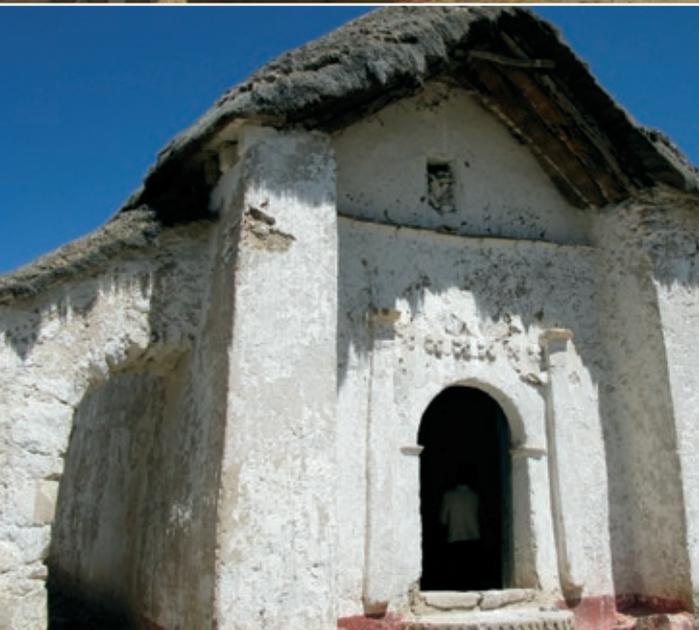
## Z a m b i a

Preventive Conservation of the Photographic and Ethnographic Collections of  
the Choma Museum and Crafts Centre

**\$48,623** To support the conservation of the collections at the Choma Museum in Southern Province and critical repairs to the museum building. The museum, which preserves and interprets the cultural heritage of the Tonga people of Zambia and Zimbabwe, occupies a historic boarding school building from 1924. The project includes repairs to the roof and the inventory and proper storage of approximately 2,000 historic photographs.



Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Colonial Chapels in Curahuara de Carangas. U.S. Embassy La Paz



“WE SHOULD SEE THIS AWARD AS A CALL TO GIVE  
EVEN GREATER ATTENTION TO THE LEGACY OF OUR ANCESTORS  
WHICH IS, IN SHORT, A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF OUR IDENTITY.”

MICHAEL MCGEE, ACTING U.S. CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES IN EL SALVADOR

# The Americas

## B o l i v i a

Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Colonial Chapels in Curahuara de Carangas

**\$41,079** To support the restoration of six Spanish colonial chapels of great historic, national, and local value. More than 200 years old and marred by leaks, masonry cracks, and weakened walls, the chapels are highly susceptible to deterioration and collapse. The project involves the restoration of the chapels to their original condition using stucco, clay, sand, reeds, and other traditional local building materials.

## C o l o m b i a

Restoration of Two Late 19th-Century Ceiling Paintings in the Teatro Colón in Bogotá

**\$38,000** To support the restoration of two late 19th-century ceiling paintings in the entrance foyer of Colombia’s premier historic theater. The paintings, by the Italian artist Giovanni Menarini, require professional conservation treatment after years of neglect. This project, which is part of a larger effort to restore the entire landmark theater on the occasion of the country’s bicentennial, involves the stabilization and full restoration of the ceiling paintings.

## E c u a d o r

Restoration of a Historic Conventual Bakery in the Todos Santos Section of Cuenca

**\$80,260** To support the restoration of the bakery building of a historic convent complex and the site of the area’s first flour mill and wood-fired oven. The entire structure has deteriorated due to age, earthquakes, and fires, leaving major portions of the complex unusable for more than a century. This project involves the restoration of the main kitchen and adjacent rooms and the revival of the building’s original function as a bakery.



The Americas 🌐 The Americas 🌐

## El Salvador

Restoration of the Early 20th-Century Cathedral of Santa Ana

**\$43,430** To support the continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to restore a national monument and symbol of the city of Santa Ana. Time, earthquakes, and the elements have taken their toll on this early 20th-century Gothic-style cathedral, weakening the entire structure. This project includes major repairs to the cathedral's rib vaults and rose windows.



Restoration of the Early 20th-Century Cathedral of Santa Ana. U.S. Embassy San Salvador



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## Guatemala

Restoration of the High Altar and Cloister of the Late 18th-Century Convent of La Merced in Guatemala City

**\$94,827** To support the restoration of one of the oldest surviving convents in the historical center of Guatemala City. Confiscated by the government in 1873 and subsequently used as a political prison and then as a hospital, the former convent is highly susceptible to deterioration and theft. This project includes architectural documentation, the installation of a security system, and the restoration of features deemed most at risk.



Restoration of the Mid-18th-Century Church of Mary Magdalena in Totogalpa. U.S. Embassy Managua

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## Haiti

Documentation and Assessment of Historic Buildings and Sites in Port-au-Prince Affected by the January 2010 Earthquake

**\$254,930** To support the documentation and assessment of earthquake damage to 18th- and 19th-century historic buildings and sites in and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The damage caused by the January 2010 earthquake was so extensive that many of these buildings have yet to be investigated. This project involves the outfitting of an office for the Institut de Sauvegarde du Patrimoine National (ISPAN) and the provision of supplies, manpower, and equipment necessary for the systematic documentation of the damage.



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## Haiti

Preservation of the Early 19th-Century Citadelle Laferrière (Henri Christophe) and Military Barracks of the Palais de Sans-Souci

**\$108,257** To support preservation of two of Haiti's most prominent monuments located within Haiti's National History Park, a World Heritage site. Continuing work begun at the citadel under previous Ambassador Fund grants, this project includes the restoration of the roof of the Royal Battery. It also includes the restoration of the military barracks of the Palais de Sans-Souci nearby. Despite years of political instability and harsh natural events, these monuments have endured as powerful symbols of Haitian liberty and democracy.



The Americas 🌐 The Americas

## Nicaragua

Restoration of the Mid-18th-Century Church of Mary Magdalena in Totogalpa

**\$90,243** To support the restoration of one of the oldest colonial buildings and the second-oldest church in Nicaragua. A distinctively Nicaraguan blend of Baroque and Neoclassic styles, the building serves its community variously as a church, community center, and emergency shelter. This project, which continues work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant, includes the restoration of the roof, windows, doors, and façades.



Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Paintings from the Compañía de Jesús Church in Arequipa. U.S. Embassy Lima

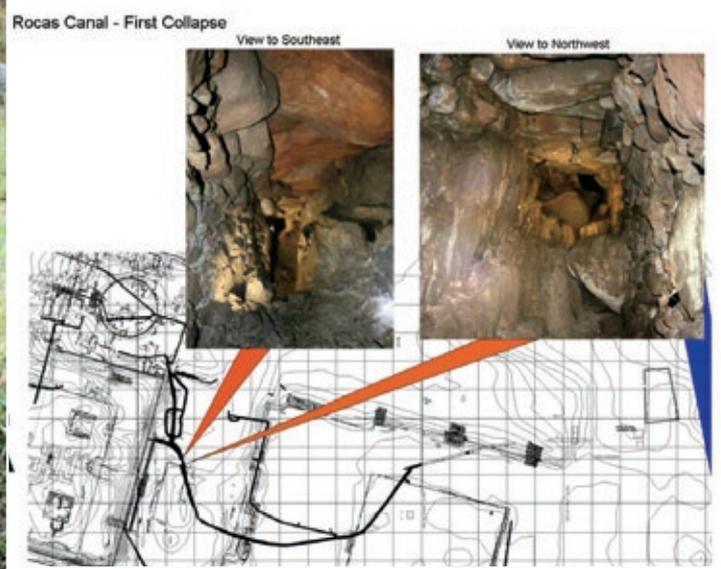


🌐 The Americas 🌐 The Americas

## Panama

Documentation of the Architectural Heritage of Colón

**\$74,790** To support training in the preservation of the historic center of the city of Colón. Established by the Panama Railroad on Manzanillo Island in 1850, Colón was a center for transnational communities from the construction of the railroad and the Panama Canal to World War II. Years of neglect have left the historic city core intact but in a greatly deteriorated state. This project includes a pilot inventory of sections of the historic center, the development of conservation regulations, and an architectural heritage awareness campaign.



The Americas 🌐 The Americas

## Peru

Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Paintings from the Compañía de Jesús Church in Arequipa

**\$31,170** To support the restoration of 14 colonial paintings in the collection of the Jesuit church in the historic center of Arequipa, a World Heritage site. First encountered during a project supported under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to inventory and register ethnographic objects in and around Arequipa, the 14 paintings are in advanced stages of deterioration. This project involves the restoration of the paintings and their original frames in an on-site workshop, using the talents of regional experts highly skilled in colonial art.



Restoration of the Rocas Canal at the Ancient Site of Chavín de Huántar. U.S. Embassy Lima

🌐 The Americas 🌐 The Americas

## Peru

Restoration of the Rocas Canal at the Ancient Site of Chavín de Huántar

**\$68,200** To support the restoration of the original 400-meter underground drainage channel at the site of this important pre-Inca city and World Heritage site. Situated where landslides, earthquakes, and rivers threaten it, Chavín de Huántar is sinking due to humidity and inadequate water drainage in the area. The project involves emergency conservation and reactivation of Rocas Canal as the first of many restoration measures intended to preserve the site.



“MONGOLIA HAS A LONG AND RICH CULTURAL HISTORY. THE U.S. IS PLEASED TO HAVE A ROLE IN HELPING TO PRESERVE THAT HERITAGE, SO THAT MONGOLIANS AND THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY THESE WONDERFUL AND UNIQUE TREASURES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.”

JUDITH McHALE, U.S. UNDER SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# East Asia & the Pacific

## Cambodia

Documentation of Khmer Classical Dance Techniques and Rituals

**\$37,395** To support the documentation of Khmer classical dance techniques, melodies, and costumes. Nearly wiped out during the genocide of the 1970s, Khmer classical dance survives thanks to a small number of dedicated dancers who struggled to keep the tradition alive. The project includes training and documentation of the gestural vocabulary, pedagogical techniques, and dance stories associated with this tradition.

## China

Restoration of the Guangong Temple Grotto Entrance Gate and Other Structures at the 7th-Century Grottoes of the Giant Buddha Temple

**\$43,988** To support the restoration of a 100-year-old entrance gate and other structures at the Guangong Temple Grotto. Built during the Ming Dynasty, the Guangong Temple is one of 446 shrines among the 130 caves at the site. The project involves the restoration of the gate roof and structures which protect etchings in stone left by Chinese scholars since the 7th century.

## China

Restoration of the Late 16th-Century Grand Mosque in Tongxin

**\$76,135** To support the restoration of 136 pillars that form the main structural support of the late 16th-century Grand Mosque. Built at the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, the mosque is one of the largest and oldest surviving mosques in China. The project involves consolidation and other measures to protect the pillars against the area's harsh climate.



Restoration of the Late 16th-Century Grand Mosque in Tongxin. U.S. Embassy Beijing

East Asia & the Pacific 🌐 East Asia

## Indonesia

### Conservation of Ancient Megalithic Statues in Central Sulawesi Province

**\$74,388** To support the conservation of ancient megalithic sites, some of them more than 3,000 years old, in and around Lore Lindu National Park in Central Sulawesi province. The massive stone statues, many of which are of animals and human faces, and others which are in the shape of large stone vats called “kalamba,” are among the most significant stone monuments in Indonesia. The project includes an inventory of statues, mapping of the sites, and preventive conservation training workshops for the local population.

## Laos

### Conservation of 16th-Century Statues and Other Ethnographic Objects at Wat Visoun in Luang Prabang

**\$24,485** To support the conservation of Buddha statues and other ethnographic objects at Wat Visoun in the town of Luang Prabang, a World Heritage site. Displayed in an early 16th-century temple that is still in use, the collection has deteriorated due to exposure to dust and other environmental pollutants. The project includes the cleaning and repair of artifacts and the installation of gauze window screens and interpretive panels.



& the Pacific ● East Asia & the Pacific

## Marshall Islands

Preservation of Marshallese Handicraft Traditions

**\$22,916** To support the preservation of traditional handicraft techniques which have been a part of Marshallese culture for many generations. The techniques for producing fine-quality handicrafts, such as flowers, hats, baskets, and bags woven from processed coconut palm and pandanus leaves, are disappearing as craftspeople move to modern and mechanized modes of production. The project involves the documentation of traditional techniques and a mentoring program that pairs handicraft experts with trainees.

## Mongolia

Conservation of 7th-Century Tureg-Era Burial Objects

**\$18,329** To support the conservation and proper storage of 7th-century objects uncovered during a 2009 archaeological excavation of a Tureg tomb. The tomb, believed to be the burial place of ancient nomadic aristocrats, contained unique clay human and animal figures, clothing, flags, and stone megaliths with Chinese script. The project includes a variety of conservation activities to safeguard the objects against deterioration from exposure to sunlight and air.



East Asia & the Pacific ● East Asia

## Mongolia

### Preservation and Protection of the Early 18th-Century Amarbayasgalant Monastery

**\$586,000** To support the preservation and protection of a monumental Buddhist monastery near the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Once the most important center for Buddhist learning and culture in Mongolia, and a rare survivor of the Soviet-controlled government-ordered destruction of Buddhist monasteries in the 1930s, the early 18th-century Amarbayasgalant Monastery is the country's most intact historical architectural complex. This project, which continues work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant, includes several preservation and protection measures to reduce the risk of fire and theft at this premier cultural site.

## Mongolia

### Preventive Conservation of the Collections of the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery

**\$27,440** To support the conservation of 20th-century wood carvings, metalwork, and other sculptures and handicrafts at the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery. Fires in 2008 and 2009 seriously damaged the handicrafts and textiles gallery and the collections storage areas, prompting a comprehensive assessment of the museum's security and storage needs. This project involves the design and installation of secure exhibition cases for the most valuable objects in the collection.



& the Pacific ● East Asia & the Pacific

## Papua New Guinea

Documentation of the Architectural Heritage of Papua New Guinea

**\$17,645** To support the continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to document traditional buildings and settlement patterns in Papua New Guinea. In their tropical environment, Papuan buildings built using traditional methods degrade quickly and are increasingly replaced with new buildings of modern material and design. This project involves the documentation of Papuan villages that have not been the focus of previous studies.

## Thailand

Documentation of Akha Cultural Traditions

**\$77,928** To support the documentation of 18 animist ceremonies of the Akha people in Thailand. The project documents the contextual meaning of the rituals in KHAS, a new orthographic system for the Akha language, including offerings to ancestors and deities such as earth, sky, water, and rice, and life ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, and naming of newborns. The project includes the publication of a book in KHAS, an Akha cultural calendar, and a DVD of rituals, songs, and games.







Conservation of the Prehistoric Burial Mound (Tumulus) of Kamenica in Korçë. U.S. Embassy Tirana



“AND NOW, THROUGH THE EXPERT WORK OF DEVOTED ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND ACADEMICS,  
WE HAVE A GLIMPSE BACK AT THOSE PEOPLE WHO WALKED THESE STREETS SO LONG AGO.

I WANT TO THANK THESE EXPERTS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING STOBI  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, AND FOR TEACHING AND TRAINING  
FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGISTS WHO WILL CARRY ON THAT LABOR.”

PHILIP REEKER, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MACEDONIA

# Europe & Eurasia

## Albania

Conservation of the Prehistoric Burial Mound (Tumulus) of Kamenica in Korçë

**\$54,150** To support the conservation of the late Bronze Age tumulus of Kamenica near the southeastern city of Korçë. The site, which consists of more than 400 graves and covers a period of nearly 1,000 years from the 15th to the 6th century BC, requires urgent conservation in response to accelerating rates of deterioration. This project involves the formulation of a conservation plan in coordination with the graduate program in heritage conservation at the University of Tirana.

## Armenia

Documentation of Traditional Armenian Music and Dance

**\$34,670** To support the documentation of 20 Armenian dances and their associated music and traditions. Dance has been an important vehicle for transmitting culture from one generation to the next and for preserving Armenian identity, particularly during the last century. This project includes the production of an instructional dance DVD for broadcast on Armenian television.

## Bosnia & Herzegovina

Preservation of the Main Gate and Tombstones in the Jewish Cemetery in Sarajevo, Phase II

**\$49,135** To support the preservation of 165 historic tombstones in the Jewish Cemetery in Sarajevo, considered the second-largest Jewish burial ground in Europe. The cemetery, which chronicles Sarajevo's Jewish community beginning in the mid-16th century, was severely damaged during the siege of Sarajevo (1992–1995) by artillery fire, snipers, and land mines, and subsequently vandalized. This project continues work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to preserve the cemetery.



Conservation of the Ancient Archaeological Site of Armazi. U.S. Embassy Tbilisi



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## Georgia

Conservation of the Ancient Archaeological Site of Armazi

**\$42,846** To support the conservation of the archaeological remains of a 4th-century BC site near the town of Mtskheta, the former capital of Georgia and a World Heritage site. The site, which covers nearly 30 hectares, includes royal tombs, Greco-Aramaic tombstones, the remains of a hall of columns, and a 3rd-century BC temple which are prone to deterioration from the elements. The project involves a site survey, the clearing of vegetation, consolidation and stabilization of structural remains, and the installation of interpretive panels and visitor paths.



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## Kosovo

### Preservation of the 6th-Century Vushtrri Castle

*\$53,870* To support the preservation of the castle remains, which are in urgent need of critical repairs due to age and other factors. The castle is located in the city center of Vushtrri, once a major trading post along the Adriatic coastal region. The project includes a comprehensive site survey and conservation assessment, consolidation of the site remains, and installation of multi-lingual interpretive panels describing the conservation efforts and outlining the history of the castle.



Conservation of Early Christian Frescoes from the Episcopal Basilica at Stobi. U.S. Embassy Skopje





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## Macedonia

Conservation of Early Christian Frescoes from the Episcopal Basilica at Stobi

**\$72,600** To support the conservation of 4th-century and other wall paintings, which are the oldest known surviving Christian paintings in Macedonia. The nearly 100 square meters of fragile paintings were made using both al fresco and al secco painting techniques. The project includes a conservation assessment, stabilization and conservation of the paintings, and their temporary display at the Stobi Museum while restoration work on the basilica continues.



Restoration of a 13th-Century Fortified Church in the Transylvanian Village of Moardas. U.S. Embassy Bucharest



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## Moldova

Documentation of the Late 14th-Century Fortress and Other Medieval Ruins at Orheiul Vechi Archaeological Site

**\$32,238** To support the documentation of the 14th-century fortress and other ruins at Orheiul Vechi archaeological site, a complex site of settlements, fortresses, monastic buildings, and ruins spanning more than two millennia. This project, which continues a previous project supported by the Ambassadors Fund in 2009, includes the documentation of the fortress, a 15th-century residence, a mid-14th-century mosque, caravanserai, lime kilns, and a 15th-century stone church.



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## Romania

Restoration of a 13th-Century Fortified Church in the Transylvanian Village of Moardas

**\$39,185** To support the restoration of a fortified stone church begun by Saxons in the 13th century in the Transylvanian village of Moardas. The church survived the attacks of waves of invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries but is losing the fight against time and the elements. This project involves the restoration of the roof and exterior masonry.



Conservation of the Remains of the 11th-Century Surp Prikitch (Church of the Holy Redeemer) at Ani. World Monuments Fund

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## Russian Federation

Restoration of the Late 17th-Century Church of the Icon of the Mother of God of the Sign in Dubrovitsky

**\$81,990** To support the restoration of a late 17th-century church featuring stone sculptures and high-relief decorations of biblical scenes not typically found in Russian architecture. Closed and largely abandoned for 60 years, the building is in an advanced state of deterioration and beset with drainage and rising damp issues. This project includes a building survey and conservation assessment, the restoration of the white stone gallery, and the installation of a proper drainage system.

## Serbia

Preventive Conservation of the Collections in the Ethnographic Museum of Serbia

**\$65,199** To support the conservation of the collections of the Ethnographic Museum of Serbia, one of the oldest museums in the Balkans. The museum's impressive collections of kilim rugs, traditional ethnic attire, and other handmade textiles are highly susceptible to damage from environmental forms of deterioration. This project involves critical repairs to the roof, ceiling, and interior walls of the museum's early 20th-century exhibition building in downtown Belgrade.



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## Turkey

Conservation of the Remains of the 11th-Century Surp Prikitch (Church of the Holy Redeemer) at Ani

**\$625,000** To support the conservation of the remains of a monumental church at the archaeological site of Ani in eastern Turkey. One of the most significant structures remaining from the Armenian Bagratid Dynasty (861–1045 AD), Surp Prikitch suffered a devastating blow in the mid-20th century, when lightning struck it, causing its partial collapse and leaving it in a structurally compromised condition. This project includes emergency stabilization and other measures to improve human safety and ensure the structure’s long-term preservation.

## Ukraine

Restoration of 19th-Century Furnishings in the Anton Chekhov House Museum in Yalta

**\$39,000** To support the restoration of the furnishings in the Chekhov House Museum. The final home of the renowned Russian short-story writer and playwright, Anton Chekhov, the late 19th-century “White Dacha” house, now a museum, remains as it existed at the time of Chekhov’s untimely death in 1904, though much deteriorated. This project includes the restoration of textiles in Chekhov’s study and living rooms.



“THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE CASBAH DE MEHDIYA ARE  
VERY IMPRESSIVE. I SALUTE THE TREMENDOUS EFFORTS MADE TO  
CARRY OUT SUCH BEAUTIFUL WORK. I’D LIKE TO TAKE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN AND MEN  
WHO WERE ENGAGED BOTH NEAR AND FAR  
IN THIS FABULOUS PROJECT.”

SAMUEL KAPLAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO

## Middle East & North Africa

### Algeria

Preservation and Protection of Ancient Sculptures in the National Museum of Cherchell

**\$30,000** To support the preservation and protection of the ancient sculpture collection in the National Museum of Cherchell. The museum’s collection, which includes some of the country’s finest ancient Roman sculptures, is vulnerable to damage from seismic activity in the region. This project includes the production of molds of some of the most important objects.

### Egypt

Restoration of the Late 19th-Century Villa Castagli

**\$63,210** To support the continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to develop a conservation strategy and architectural plans for Villa Castagli (Qāzdughli Palace), a late 19th-century urban villa in the Garden City district of Cairo. The deteriorated villa, which features high ceilings and elaborate European and Byzantine-style paintings and mosaics, is the focus of intensive study, materials analysis, and documentation. This phase of the project involves a variety of activities in preparation for the villa’s comprehensive restoration and reuse.



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## Iraq

Conservation of the Ishtar Gate and Other Structures at the Ancient Site of Babylon

**\$1,980,000** To support the conservation of the Ishtar Gate, Nabu-sha-Khare temple, and inner city walls of the ancient site of Babylon (Iraq), the former imperial capital of Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar in Mesopotamia and from the 18th to the 4th century BC one of the largest and most influential cities in the world. These ancient structures are in urgent need of conservation to reverse decades of deterioration due to environmental and other factors. This project also involves the stabilization and preventive conservation of the Ninmah and Ishtar temples.

## Jerusalem

Conservation and Protection of Trench One at Tell Es-Sultan in Jericho

**\$80,550** To support the conservation of Trench One at Tell Es-Sultan, a premier Neolithic archaeological site, near the ancient city of Jericho. The site of the oldest known tower and fortification system in human history, Trench One is also itself important in the development of modern archaeology. This project involves the cleaning and consolidation of the trench and visitor access and safety improvements.



Conservation of the Ishtar Gate and Other Structures at the Ancient Site of Babylon. World Monuments Fund and Cultural Heritage Center

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## Jordan

### Restoration of the Nabataean Flash Flood Protection System at Petra

**\$83,700** To support the restoration of the ancient Nabataean flash flood protection system at Petra, a World Heritage site. Built towards the end of the 1st century BC, the hydrological system is vital for the protection of both visitors and monuments, notably the Khazneh (Treasury) and its courtyard, from the potentially devastating impact of seasonal flash floods. Part of a multi-year effort to restore the ancient Nabataean hydrological system of retention and diversion dams and canals at Petra to active use, this project involves the reconstruction of the lower dam of the Wadi al-Jarra.

## Lebanon

### Conservation of the 8th-Century Public Baths in the Umayyad City of Anjar

**\$55,000** To support the conservation of the public baths area of Anjar, a World Heritage site near the Syrian border. A popular tourist destination, Anjar is one of few surviving sites in Lebanon from the Islamic Umayyad Caliphate, which at its height in the 8th century covered more than five million square miles from the Atlantic Ocean to Central Asia. This project involves the documentation and conservation of the bath ruins and mosaics and the installation of interpretive panels.



Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Monuments in the Casbah of Mehdiya. U.S. Embassy Rabat



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## Libya

Documentation and Training in the Management of Archaeological Collections at the Ancient Greco-Roman Site of Cyrene

**\$74,500** To support documentation and training in the management of archaeological collections at the World Heritage site of Cyrene in modern Shahat. A fraction of the museum's holdings currently are on display; there is no comprehensive inventory, nor have artifacts been assessed for conservation needs. This project continues a previous project supported by the Ambassadors Fund in 2005.

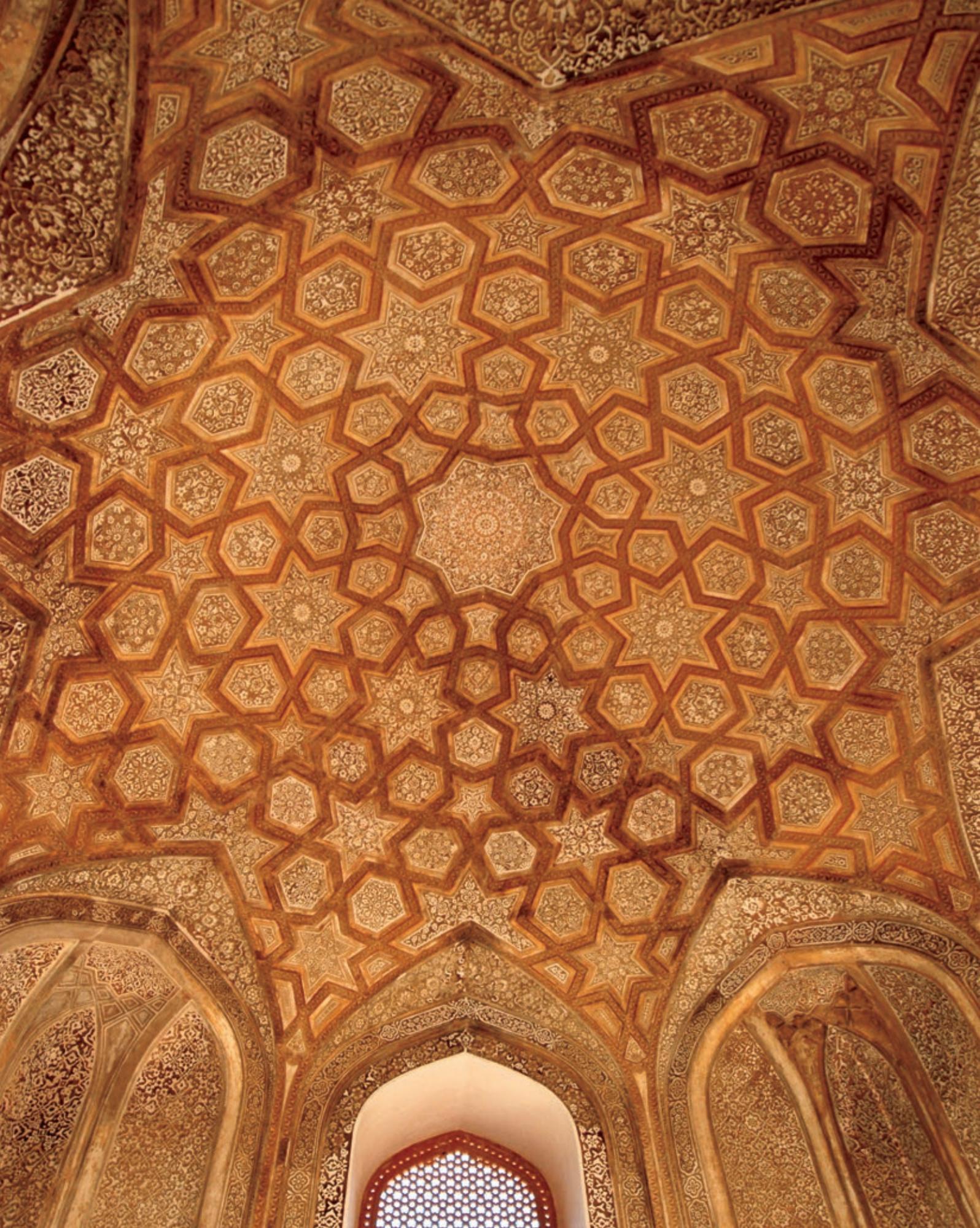


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## Morocco

Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Monuments in the Casbah of Mehdiya

*\$100,000* To support the restoration of 17th- and 18th-century monuments in the Casbah of Mehdiya, an archaeological site located at the mouth of the Sebou River on the Atlantic Ocean. Time and the elements have taken their toll on the monumental gates, mosque, palace, hammam, and other buildings at this coastal site. This project includes the emergency reinforcement of two gates and the restoration of the Dar Al Makhzen (House of the Governor) as part of a long-term comprehensive plan to restore and develop the site.



Conservation of the Sunderwala Burj, a 16th-Century Islamic Monument in Delhi. U.S. Embassy New Delhi

“[THE FORTRESS] WAS REBUILT BY AFGHAN HANDS,  
BY THE HANDS OF HERATIS. AS THIS CITADEL REPRESENTS,  
AFGHANISTAN STOOD AS A GREAT NATION.

IT WILL SO STAND AGAIN.”

RYAN CROCKER, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN

# South & Central Asia

## A f g h a n i s t a n

Conservation of Qala Ikhtyaruddin, the 15th-Century Citadel of Herat, Phase II

**\$450,000** To support the continuation of work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund grant to conserve Qala Ikhtyaruddin, the citadel of Herat, a prominent public landmark of this ancient city and one of the most impressive surviving citadels in all of Central Asia. This project involves emergency repairs and stabilization of the eastern defensive wall and other zones of the upper enclosure, and the consolidation of the remains of the citadel’s treasury building.

## B a n g l a d e s h

Preservation of the Varendra Museum Building and Its Prehistoric and Historic Collections

**\$94,933** To support the preservation of an early 20th-century museum building and the proper storage and display of its prehistoric and historic collections. The distinctive colonial period museum building is beset with structural and other problems stemming from insect infestation, high humidity, and heavy rains. The project involves repairs to the building structure and improvements to the collection storage facilities.

## I n d i a

Conservation of Sunderwala Burj, a 16th-Century Islamic Monument in Delhi

**\$50,437** To support the conservation of a 16th-century Mughal monument in the heart of Delhi noted for the quality of its ornamentation. Previous interventions and a persistent water infiltration problem have compromised the structural integrity of the building and damaged its elaborate plasterwork. This project, which includes repairs to the building structure and ornaments, is part of a larger effort to restore the area’s aging monuments and improve conditions for the local population.



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## Kazakhstan

Preservation of Kazakh Pile Carpet Weaving Traditions

*\$47,000* To support the preservation of traditional Kazakh carpet-making, one of many Kazakh craft traditions suppressed during the Soviet era. The most experienced carpet-makers are aging, and knowledge of this important craft tradition is fading into oblivion. The project involves training in materials preparation and weaving to revitalize this craft and promote economic independence for women.

## Kyrgyzstan

Preventive Conservation of Archaeological and Ethnographic Objects from the 5th Century BC to the 19th Century at Kyrgyz-Russian Slavonic University

*\$52,600* To support the conservation of ethnographic objects and a collection of gold, bronze, wooden, ceramic, and other artifacts uncovered beneath and in the vicinity of Lake Issyk Kul. Poor storage conditions and inadequate documentation have rendered this collection largely inaccessible to the public. This project focuses on documenting the collection of ancient and other artifacts in a database and documentary film.



Restoration of a 16th-Century Monastery in the Sherpa Village of Pangboche. U.S. Embassy Kathmandu and The Mountain Institute



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## Nepal

Restoration of a 16th-Century Monastery in the Sherpa Village of Pangboche

**\$83,500** To support the restoration of one of the oldest monasteries in the Solu-Khumbu region and a vital repository of the history and culture of the Sherpa. Dependent on the local community and visitors for support, the 16th-century monastery has fallen into disrepair due to a decline in tourism. The project involves the restoration of the historic monastery courtyard and training in sustainable tourism for the community.

## Pakistan

Restoration of the Early 17th-Century Sheikhpura Fort

**\$850,000** To support the restoration of an early 17th-century Mughal fort near Lahore. Built by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir (r. 1605–1627) as part of the royal hunting estate of Hiran Minar, Sheikhpura Fort was an important rest stop for the royal entourage as it traversed the empire between Kashmir and Kabul. This project involves critical repairs to the fortification walls, main gateway, and royal palace, and the shoring up of dilapidated structures within the fort that pose a danger of human injury and collapse.



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## Pakistan

Restoration of the Mid-18th-Century Sunehri Masjid in Lahore

**\$67,500** To support the restoration of an important mosque in the walled city of Lahore. Visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year, the mid-18th-century Golden Mosque is deteriorating rapidly. This project, which employs local craftsmen skilled in traditional methods, focuses on the restoration of wall paintings and other architectural surfaces.



Restoration of the Mid-18th-Century Sunehri Masjid in Lahore. U.S. Embassy Islamabad

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## Tajikistan

Preservation of Eastern Pamir Yak Wool Handicraft Traditions

**\$49,900** To support the preservation of yak wool handicraft traditions in the Pamir Mountains of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, one of the most isolated regions of the country. This economically depressed and remote region is losing its population to employment opportunities elsewhere, and the rich and varied handicraft tradition is dying out. The project focuses on the identification of wool handicraft artisans, the compilation of traditional handicraft designs, and training for young and future artisans.



Preservation of the Kolip (Wooden Print Block) Collection at the State Museum of Art, U.S. Embassy Tashkent



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## Uzbekistan

Preservation of the Kolip (Wooden Print Block) Collection at the State Museum of Art in Tashkent

**\$34,000** To support the preservation of a collection of more than 1,400 wooden print blocks, called “kolips,” at the Uzbekistan State Museum of Art in Tashkent. The collection of blocks, once used in the production of printed leather and cotton and silk fabrics, includes examples from across Uzbekistan that were collected by museum staff in the 1930s. This project involves the physical conservation of the wooden print blocks and the publication of a comprehensive illustrated catalog of the collection.





Front and back cover: Conservation of 16th-Century Statues and Other Ethnographic Objects at Wat Visoun in Luang Prabang, Laos. Courtesy of Adri Berger



**U.S. AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION | CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER**  
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