Conservation of early 20th-century wall paintings in the northeastern province of Maha Sarakham
U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

ANNUAL 07·08 REPORT

A report of grants made in fiscal year 2007 and implemented in 2008
Introduction

Since its creation by the U.S. Congress in 2001, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation has provided direct grant support to more than 400 projects to preserve cultural heritage in more than 100 countries. This accomplishment, now seven years in the making, represents a contribution of more than $11.3 million towards the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide. More importantly, it shows the depth of our nation’s respect for the cultural heritage of other countries. This report covers the projects supported in fiscal year 2007.

In 2007, U.S. ambassadors in more than 90 countries around the globe applied to the fund on behalf of their host countries for support in meeting pressing cultural preservation needs. Among those receiving grants in 2007 were the Egyptian Center for Culture and Art in Cairo, for the documentation of tribal music in rapidly urbanizing areas of Egypt; and the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan, for conservation work at Gonur-Depe, an important Bronze Age archaeological site. In the Philippines, the U.S. embassy in Manila successfully supported efforts to preserve the Banaue Rice Terraces, endangered 2,000-year-old rice terraces in Ifugao province inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995.

Reflecting on her visit to the Banaue Rice Terraces, Kristie Kenney, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, praised them as “marvels of engineering constructed thousands of years ago that are still used today to grow rice,” adding that “hiking the rice terraces was a spectacular experience and one we hope to preserve for generations to come.” By supporting the preservation of these and other special sites, objects, and traditions, the Ambassadors Fund helps extend their value as vital, defining elements of communities and nations and ensure their continued use, appreciation, and relevance both today and beyond.

Right: Preservation of the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, a World Heritage Site. Photograph by Tom Tilly
Established by Congress in 2001 (Public Law 106-553) and administered by the Cultural Heritage Center within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation is the only program of its kind in the U.S. government. 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."

The Cultural Heritage Center supports the foreign affairs functions of the Department that relate to the preservation of cultural heritage. In addition to the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, the Center administers U.S. responsibilities relating to the 1970 UNESCO convention to reduce pillage and illicit trafficking in cultural property and other special programs.

About the Cultural Heritage Center

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About the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation provides direct grant support for the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects and collections, and forms of traditional cultural expression such as music and dance in more than 130 countries around the world.

Our Mission

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**Grant Allocations in 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. of Projects</th>
<th>Fund Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$322,493</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Americas</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>$287,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$306,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Eurasia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$388,554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>$249,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>South &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>$316,193</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,870,328</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regional Distribution of Projects - 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Proposals</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$1,462,997</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Americas</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>177</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,087,762</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Types of Projects - 2007**

- Cultural Objects & Collections: 34%
- Cultural Sites: 50%
- Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression: 16%
- Cultural Preservation: 10%

**Response to the Call for Proposals - 2007**

- The Americas: 15%
- Africa: 17%
- South & Central Asia: 17%
- East Asia & the Pacific: 17%
- Europe & Eurasia: 21%
- Middle East & North Africa: 13%
- Asia Pacific: 14%
- Middle East & North Africa: 15%
- South & Central Asia: 15%
- The Americas: 17%

**Cumulative Distribution of Funds - 2001–07**

- The Americas: 17%
- Africa: 17%
- South & Central Asia: 15%
- East Asia & the Pacific: 14%
- Europe & Eurasia: 16%
- Middle East & North Africa: 16%
- Asia: 17%
On February 12, 2007, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs issued a request for proposals for cultural preservation projects in the following categories—

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

The proposals had to give an indication of the importance of the site, object, collection, or form of expression; address the need and urgency of the proposed project; and describe the impact of the U.S. contribution to the project and how that contribution would advance U.S. diplomatic goals. They also had to include detailed project budgets and information on cost-sharing partners (including in-kind contributions) from foreign governments, international organizations, and the private sector.

The Bureau announced the cultural preservation grants on July 31, 2007.

In 2007, U.S. ambassadors in 94 eligible countries submitted 177 project proposals totaling more than $6 million. Following a thorough vetting process, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation awarded 59 grants totaling $1.87 million for projects in 54 countries worldwide.

The 131 countries eligible for support in 2007: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, 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, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa (Western), Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The Cultural Heritage Center used the United Nations Human Development Index for the year 2006 as a guide for determining eligible countries.

Since 2001, the fund has supported 436 projects worldwide totaling $11.3 million.

2007 by the Numbers

Largest grant awarded: $64,553, for the preservation of the 18th-century estate of Lalgola in India. Average grant amount: $31,700.
Cultural Sites

Cultural sites play an important role in the lives of communities. Whereas some stand out as beacons in the landscape, others provide the backdrop for all kinds of human activities. Still others remind people of past events or the achievements of vanished civilizations. Whether in active use or preserved as ruins, cultural sites help cultivate a collective identity and a unique sense of place.

The Cultural Sites category includes historic buildings, archaeological sites, sacred places, and other culturally significant sites. Projects in this category may include the restoration of an historic shrine, the emergency stabilization of foundations, walls, or coverage of ancient fortresses, or the documentation of a group of endangered sites in a region for preservation purposes.

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported 33 projects at cultural sites in 2007. Among them is the restoration of the 18th-century Maria Magdalena Church, the oldest surviving church in the Nicaraguan province of Matriz, and assistance with site management at the 2nd century B.C. city of Buzra, the former northern capital of the Nabataean Empire, in Syria. The Ambassadors Fund also supported some much needed conservation work at the Kaole Ruins near Bagamoyo in Tanzania.

Excavated in 1958, the Kaole Ruins archaeological site includes the remains of two mosques and several tombs made from coral. One of the mosques—said to be the earliest in East Africa—rests on a base structure predating the arrival of Islam to the region. This coastal settlement prospered under the influence of Persian traders during the 13th century, and the surviving ruins show the influence of both Persian and Swahili design.

To this day a site of spiritual significance, the Kaole Ruins are highly susceptible to deterioration from exposure to the elements, erosion, and neglect. This project involves important conservation work on the mosques to ensure their preservation.

A curator stands near the site of the old mosque at Kaole Ruins, near Bagamoyo Town, Tanzania. U.S. Embassy Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Cultural Objects & Collections

Often called moveable cultural heritage, cultural objects and collections are tangible reminders of past human ingenuity and creativity. They are rich sources of information for scholars, as well as unique sources of inspiration for artists and artisans working around the world today.

The Cultural Objects & Collections category covers a wide range of objects, from manuscripts and paintings to textiles and ceramics. Projects in this category usually involve conservation treatment, inventory of a collection for conservation purposes, the outfitting of safe environments for collection storage or display, or technical training in the preservation and protection of cultural objects and collections.

The Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported 20 projects in this category in 2007. These projects included the inventory of photographs, art, and textiles relating to the history of women at the Henriette Bathily Women’s Museum on Gorée Island, Senegal, and the preservation of fragments of 7th- and 8th-century frescoes salvaged from the Tertri Udabno monastery complex in Ganja, Georgia. The Ambassadors Fund also supported the conservation of 15 fragile manuscripts in the collection of the National Manuscripts Institute in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

The 15 manuscripts at the Institute span a period of nearly 100 years from the 17th through the 19th century. Written in Arabic, Turkmen, and Persian, they touch upon many vital aspects of Turkmen culture, such as literature, history, and religion. The project involves the careful conservation of the manuscript pages and bindings according to international standards, as well as training and public lectures on medieval book binding and other related topics for people of all ages.

The manuscript conservation project is part of a much larger effort at the Institute to assemble and preserve a master collection of works relating to Turkmenistan. This multi-year effort will enable the people of Turkmenistan to rediscover their cultural heritage after a period of more than 100 years, when research into pre-Turkist and pre-Soviet cultural heritage was discouraged.
Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression

Forms of traditional cultural expression depend on one generation passing on these traditions to another. When communities change, traditions often become unmoored from daily life, and the music, dances, storytelling, poetry, rituals, and languages that had kept those communities together for so long tend to lose their distinctiveness or altogether disappear. Traditional knowledge of craft production and building is equally fragile, sometimes lost with the last few elderly members of a community. Documenting these forms of expression makes it possible for communities to continue to learn, remember, and re-engage in these activities.

In 2007, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation supported six projects in the Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression category. Among them is a project to document traditional musical performances of tribal communities in areas of Egypt that are undergoing rapid industrial and commercial development. Miles away in Belarus, urbanization threatens to disrupt folklore traditions and memories of long-established communities. The Ambassadors Fund supported a project there to document these traditions and associated artifacts and make them widely accessible even beyond the affected communities. In Malaysia, the rejuvenation of a distinctive performing art with help from the Ambassadors Fund is reinforcing the values of a multicultural society.

Bangsawan, a Malay form of opera, traces its roots to a popular late 19th-century form of entertainment originating in India. Brought to Malaysia by Indian Muslim immigrants in the late 1860s and originally performed in Hindi, Bangsawan quickly took hold in Malaysia. Over time, Bangsawan evolved into a uniquely Malaysian art form, performed in the Malay language.

Bangsawan incorporates elements of the major cultural groups of modern-day Malaysia—Malay, Indian, and Chinese—and also mixes Indian, Western, Latin American, and indigenous Malay musical instruments. The music, singing styles, and story lines reveal strong Western and Asian influences.

Bangsawan opera declined with the arrival of motion pictures in Malaysia. Compared with films, stage performances appeared dull and old-fashioned, and many Bangsawan performers and musicians left for work in the movies. The art of Bangsawan and its stories, music, songs, and dances began to fade from memory. Many of the past Bangsawan stars have died, and those who survive are aging.

In 2007, the Ambassadors Fund supported efforts to document the practice of Bangsawan and reestablish it as an authentic Malaysian art form and a foundation of modern Malaysian culture.
Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Documentation and Preservation of the Collections of the Institute of the National Museums of the Congo

$30,100 To support a comprehensive inventory and the preservation of the institute’s extensive warehoused collection of fragile 20th-century photographs, negatives, and mission field notes. Civil war has made display of this collection difficult, and a baseline inventory is urgently needed to ensure their preservation and protection.

Ethiopia

Preservation of Mohammad Ali House, an Early 20th-Century Muslim Residence

$25,000 To support the preservation of an important early 20th-century Muslim house in Addis Ababa. The house, which combines Indian, Harari, and Armenian design details, requires urgent repairs to offset years of weather-induced deterioration of the timber frame and wattle building. The structure will be used as a training center and tourist site.

Gambia

Documentation of 19th- and Early 20th-Century Buildings in Banjul

$26,130 To support the inventory of historic buildings and neighborhoods in the capital city of Banjul and identify an area for potential designation as an historic district. A collaborative effort involving local and overseas institutions, the inventory project focuses on an area of the city that dates from its establishment in the early 19th century.

Ghana

Restoration of the 19th-Century Gothic House

$50,000 To support the restoration of an important early 19th-century residence and slave dungeons built by a slave trader. Located near Cape Coast Castle, a World Heritage Site, the house is a blend of Gothic revival and indigenous African design and a reminder of the sordid history of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It will be a community center, museum, and research library.

"Heritage preservation projects allow us to work closely with Zimbabwean organizations, and to affirm our respect for Zimbabwe’s cultures as we jointly identify sites, objects and forms of traditional expression in critical need of preservation."

James McGee, U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe
Preservation of the cultural heritage of the Lake Turkana Region in Northern Kenya, which involves documentation of endangered languages and ceremonies of the Turkana population and the preservation of the historic rock art site at Martir, near Loyangalani. National Museums of Kenya.
**Guinea-Bissau**

Rehabilitation of the National Institute for Research and Studies

$28,550

To support the rehabilitation of the National Institute’s main building and protect its contents against environmental hazards and insect infestation. Heavily damaged during the 1998–1999 civil war, the institute is home to the national archives, which preserves major documents related to the history of Guinea-Bissau from before independence.

**Kenya**

Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Lake Turkana Region in Northern Kenya

$26,472

To support a broad-based cultural preservation effort centered on the historic rock art site at Marti near Loiyangalani. This area of northern Kenya is endowed with a rich natural and cultural heritage. The documentation of endangered languages and ceremonies in the area and site management capacity-building for the local population are essential for the area’s viability as a cultural heritage tourism destination.

**Madagascar**

Rehabilitation and Documentation of an Historic 19th-Century Market Pavilion in the Old City of Fianarantsoa

$9,101

To support the rehabilitation of one of three 19th-century pavilions at Antsenakely market in the old city. The project involves a documentation and interpretation component to raise interest in the preservation of cultural heritage and encourage historical accuracy in future rehabilitation projects.

**Mozambique**

Documentation of the Ethnographic Collection at the Natural History Museum

$17,100

To support the documentation of an extensive and highly valuable ethnographic collection of musical instruments, sculptures, and other distinct objects from the 19th and 20th centuries. Colonial-era documentation for these artifacts has disappeared, and the museum must re-inventory and photograph them to ensure their continued preservation and protection.
**Tanzania**

Conservation of Kaole Ruins near Bagamoyo Town

$20,850 To support the conservation of the ruins of two mosques that date after the arrival of Persian settlers in Kaole in the late 13th century and to update and reprint the guidebook to these sites. Parts of a complex that includes several tombs and a house, the two mosques are revered local landmarks. Conservation work will ensure their preservation and extend their value as cultural heritage attractions.

**Senegal**

Preservation of the Collections at the Henriette Bathily Women’s Museum on Gore Island

$28,500 To support the preservation and protection of rare historic photographs, works of art, and textiles relating to the history of women in Senegal. The museum is the only institution dedicated to the legacy of Senegalese women, and its collection is highly susceptible to insect infestation and other environmental hazards.

**Nigeria**

Preservation of Islamic Manuscripts at the National Archives and Other Nigerian Repositories

$24,000 To support a workshop on modern conservation methods for Islamic manuscripts and other fragile documents from the 9th century to the present. The conference is part of a larger effort to establish a digital laboratory and develop local expertise in manuscript conservation.

**Zimbabwe**

Preservation and Protection of the Collections of the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe

$36,690 To support the identification of the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe’s most vulnerable collections and the implementation of site and collections security measures and equipment at Great Zimbabwe Monument and other sites. Local museum professionals have diligently shielded valuable objects and collections from theft and destruction, but they need assistance to keep them safe.
Belize
Preservation of Serpón Historical Park, the Site of a 19th-Century Sugar Mill

$55,000 To support the development of an archaeological and historical park on the site of a unique 19th-century sugar mill. Established by U.S. Confederate soldiers who sought opportunities and fortune after the U.S. Civil War, the sugar mill site includes a 19th-century Tredegar (Richmond, VA) steam locomotive, one of only two known to be in existence today. The project involves site clearance, the establishment of trails, and the conservation and display of the mill ruins and locomotive.

Bolivia
Documentation of Cultural Objects from the Colonial Period and After in Eastern Bolivia

$21,051 To support a nationwide effort to photograph and catalog an estimated 2,500 objects of the colonial and republican periods representative of Bolivia’s cultural heritage. Each year, looters and thieves remove a significant number of cultural objects from Bolivia. This project, which focuses on 23 sites in the departments of Pando, Beni, and Santa Cruz, involves the identification, inspection, and documentation of objects, some from World Heritage Sites, in an effort to disrupt and discourage illegal trafficking.

Brazil
Documentation of Indigenous Languages and Culture of the Amazon

$29,967 To support the documentation of indigenous languages for preservation purposes and redistribution back to the originating communities. Time is running out for many indigenous languages in the Brazilian Amazon, and the Ka’apor, Panamá, Nambikwara, Surui and Gavíia of Rondônia, and Djjeromintí tribes among others have already requested assistance in documenting their languages. The project involves intensive interaction with the communities in identifying key aspects of their languages and culture, recording those aspects, and making them available on compact disc and at Emilio Goeldi Museum, the oldest scientific institute in the Amazon.

Guatemala
Conservation of Artifacts from the Preclassic and Classic Maya Site of El Perú-Waka

$34,619 To support the documentation, conservation, and analysis of artifacts from an important Maya site within Laguna del Tigre National Park in the northern Petén. Occupied between 300 BC and 900 AD, El Perú-Waka is well known for its collection of carved stone monuments and dense urban center of pyramids, palaces, plazas, and elite houses. This project includes post-field cataloging and labeling of artifacts, conservation of recovered vessel fragments, and the preparation of samples for laboratory testing and radiocarbon dating.

"Since the creation of the program we have worked every year with Peru… We have supported the strengthening of regional museums, which are resource poor but hold enormous cultural and historical treasures.”

P. Michael McKinley, U.S. Ambassador to Peru

The Americas

Conservation of artifacts from the Preclassic and Classic Maya site of El Perú-Waka. U.S. Embassy Guatemala City, Guatemala
Preservation of Sopron Historical Park, the site of a 19th-century sugar mill, showing the progression of conservation on the mill, boilers, and brick works. U.S. Embassy, Belize


Haiti
Restoration of the 18th-Century Prison of Jacmel for Use as a Cultural Center and Museum

$49,118 To support the rehabilitation of an important 18th-century prison for use as a cultural center and museum. Although the foundation remains intact, other areas of the complex are highly susceptible to environmental deterioration that, if left unaddressed, will render this important landmark unsalvageable. The project involves the removal of debris and invasive plants from the site, new coats of plaster and paint for the exterior and interior walls, and the installation of a drainage system.

Honduras
Documentation and Preservation of Archaeological and Historical Sites Along the North Coast and Sula Valley of Honduras

$30,000 To support the development of a cultural circuit comprising the Late and Terminal Classic Period (500–1050 AD) site of Cerro Palenque and 12 other pre-Columbian archaeological sites. This project, which includes interpretive materials and signage, marks the beginning of a long-term cultural tourism effort to develop management regulations, increase public awareness, establish a conservation training program, and stabilize and conserve each archaeological site along the circuit.

Nicaragua
Restoration of the Mid-18th-Century Church of Maria Magdalena in Tegucalpa

$23,451 To support the restoration of an 18th-century colonial church, the oldest surviving church in the department of Madriz and the second oldest in Nicaragua. The church is an important source of pride for the community, which also uses the building as a cultural and educational center. The project involves the restoration of the facade, church interior, and the late 19th-century brick bell tower.

Peru
Physical Security Training and Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites in Peru

$14,182 To support a physical security seminar and field work to evaluate and prepare safety plans for cultural heritage sites in Peru. The country’s rich and diverse cultural heritage is prey for looters who pillage Peru’s pre-Hispanic and Colonial period sites and sell artifacts on the international illicit market. This project provides technical support and training in museum and site security to 28 cultural heritage professionals from different Peruvian institutions battling this crime.

Peru
Preservation and Protection of the National University of Huamanga’s Archaeological and Historical Collections

$30,000 To support the cataloging, preservation, and secure storage of the university’s archaeological and historical collections, including more than 900 high quality prehistoric and historic ceramic, stone, wood, bone, and metal objects excavated from more than 100 sites in Ayacucho. Located in one of the poorest parts of Peru and one of the hardest hit during the guerrilla warfare of the 1980s, Ayacucho is making a concerted effort to conserve its cultural heritage and promote tourism. This project involves cataloging, preventive conservation, and conservation treatment components.
Preservation and protection of the National University of Huamanga's archaeological and historical collections

U. S. Embassy Lima, Peru
U.S. SUPPORT WILL MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE [NATIONAL] COLLECTION CONTINUING TO LANGUISH IN ITS CURRENT LOCATION OR THE BEGINNING OF ENSURING ITS SURVIVAL."

U.S. EMBASSY TO TIMOR-LESTE

CAMBODIA
Restoration of the Late 6th-Century Prasat Han Chey Temple

$44,301 To support the on-going restoration of an important late 6th-century temple complex. The removal of trees and tree roots from the temple revealed significant deformation of the temple foundations. This project involves extensive documentation of existing conditions, the conservation and realignment of the foundations, and a community outreach campaign highlighting the importance of the temple and its continued preservation.

LAOS
Preservation of the Lao National Museum Collection

$26,821 To support the preventive conservation and documentation of the collections in the national museum. Established in 2000, the museum lacks secure and appropriate conservation and storage facilities to care for its collections of ancient and modern objects, which number in the thousands and represent the country’s pre-revolutionary history. This project involves the outfitting of a conservation lab and storage rooms and the introduction of museum procedures that are in line with international standards.

FIJI
Documentation and Preservation of Early Human Settlement in Fiji

$29,000 To support on-going work at the recently uncovered site of a Lapita settlement at Bourewa dating from approximately 1100 to 550 B.C. The settlement site at Bourewa is under threat from rising sea levels and proposed commercial development in the area. This project involves the processing, cataloging, radiocarbon dating, and preservation of artifacts found at the site.

MALAYSIA
Preservation of Bangsawan, a Traditional Malay Performing Art

$7,647 To support the preservation of Bangsawan, a distinctive Malay performing art that includes elements of the Malay, Indian, and Chinese cultures, the three major cultural groups in modern-day Malaysia. The project involves the documentation of Bangsawan music, dance, storylines, and set and costume designs.
The 6th-century Prasat Hmey Chey Temple before, during, and after restoration
U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh, Cambodia
The project involves the collection and conversion of these materials to digital format for expanded access and use.

**Mongolia**

Protection of Archaeological Sites in the Environments of Ulaanbaatar

**Thailand**

Conservation of Early 20th Century Mural Paintings in the Northeastern Province of Mahasarakham

**Papua New Guinea**

Preservation of the Archaeological Collections of the University of Papua New Guinea

**Philippines**

Preservation of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, a World Heritage Site

**Micronesia**

Preservation of Micronesian Music and Dance

$21,695 To support the collection and preservation of 20th century audiotapes and video recordings of chants and other forms of traditional music and dance. Although recordings exist, they are scattered and in various stages of deterioration. This project involves the collection and conversion of these materials to digital format for expanded access and use.

$36,000 To support the documentation and protection of important historic monuments and archaeological sites in the environs of Ulaanbaatar, including a Neolithic period settlement and Mongol graves dating from the 12th to the 14th century. The project involves a cataloguing component, installation of protective fencing around select monuments, and interpretive signage.

$34,213 To help raise public awareness of unique temple murals in two villages and train local resident volunteers to care for them. The early 20th-century murals, which depict local literary tales and stories about Buddha’s life and other topics, are highly susceptible to deterioration from humidity and exposure to sunlight. The project includes community workshops on the conservation and protection of the murals.

$36,250 To support on-going efforts to preserve the 2,000-year-old Banau Rice Terraces in Ifugao province. The endangered terraces, inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2001, are under threat from neglect, erosion, and a pest species of worms and snails. The project involves workshops and the development of a manual detailing practical and affordable conservation measures.

$15,900 To support the documentation of historic buildings along a major historic road in the heart of Thailand’s capital city. A proposed subway expansion along this route has cast doubt on the future of these buildings, some of which date to the 1800s. This project endeavors to raise public awareness and educate politicians and urban planners about the value of historic preservation in economic development.

**Thailand**

Documentation of Historic Buildings on Northern Charoen Krung Road in Bangkok

$27,880 To support the documentation of the collections and critical renovations necessary for conservation to the university’s archaeology laboratories and storage and display facilities. The archaeology collections, which include a variety of clay pots, carvings, stone artifacts, and human remains, are among the most extensive in the Pacific island states. This project will ensure their continued preservation and use in teaching and research.

$17,886 To support the documentation of the collection and critical renovations necessary for conservation to the university’s archaeology laboratories and storage and display facilities. The archaeology collections, which include a variety of clay pots, carvings, stone artifacts, and human remains, are among the most extensive in the Pacific island states. This project will ensure their continued preservation and use in teaching and research.

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**Timor-Leste**

Preventive Conservation of Objects in the National Museum Collection

$11,400 To support the inventory, cataloging, and preventive conservation of historic cultural objects in the national collections, which were extensively looted during the country’s independence struggle. Current temporary storage facilities lack adequate humidity and temperature controls. This project includes an assessment and the identification of suitable facilities for collections storage and conservation work.

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**Vietnam**

Restoration of Buddha Statues in the Museum of Vietnamese History

$27,495 To examine and restore 18 lacquered and gilded wooden Buddha statues from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries at the Museum of Vietnamese History in Ho Chi Minh City. Damaged over time by termites, vandalism, and exposure to the elements, the statues date from a period of extensive pagoda building that accompanied the spread of Buddhism across Vietnam. The project involves the professional conservation, re-lacquering, and re-gilding of the statues.
Albania

Restoration of the Llamba Agirdhi House, an Important 19th-Century Landmark in the Mangalemi Neighborhood of Berat

$32,174 To support the restoration of an important 19th-century landmark in Berat for use as the city museum. Earlier efforts to reuse the building came to a halt in 1969 shortly after the restoration of the façade. This comprehensive project, which involves critical restoration and repair work on the walls, façade, roof, doors, and windows of the house, will reverse more than 30 years of deterioration and neglect.

Azerbaijan

Conservation of the Gala Village Mosque and Defensive Tower

$38,650 To support the conservation and partial restoration of a 17th-century mosque and the remains of a 12th-century defensive tower located in a designated historical-ethnographical preserve. The two structures require immediate repair to forestall irreversible deterioration caused by exposure to the elements and other environmental hazards. The project includes a research component in support of the conservation and future interpretation of the site.

Belarus

Documentation of Belarusian Folkloric Traditions

$30,493 To support the documentation of folklore traditions and associated artifacts and memories, and the widespread dissemination of the materials. Rapid urbanization in Belarus threatens the continuity of these regional traditions. This project involves the creation of a multimedia cultural heritage atlas for preserving these traditions and as a resource for cultural heritage tourism development.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Preservation and Documentation of St. Mary’s Church and St. Luke’s Bell Tower in Jajce

$37,636 To support the preservation of the ruins of the former St. Mary’s Church and St. Luke’s Bell Tower, which date from the 12th and 13th centuries, and the completion and publication of archaeological research on the site. Used as a mosque from the 16th century to 1832, the site is part of an ensemble included on the country’s Tentative List of sites suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. This project involves a site conservation component and opportunities for students of archaeology, architecture, and art history to apply their knowledge and acquire new skills.

“THE IMPORTANCE OF HUSEIN PASHA MOSQUE IN PLJEVLJA AND OTHER CULTURAL SITES GOES ACROSS BORDERS AND IS SIGNIFICANT FOR ALL MANKIND.”

RODERICK W. MOORE, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MONTENEGRO
Documentation and preservation of Romani cultural heritage, a project which provided Romani youth the opportunity to learn photography and document their heritage.
**Kosovo**

**Restoration of the 19th-Century Mansion and Home of the Gjakova Ethnographic Museum**

$60,554

To support the restoration of a 19th-century mansion for reuse as a regional ethnographic museum. Objects once displayed in this rare and deteriorating wooden building sit in temporary storage, where they are inaccessible to the public. This project involves critical repairs to the roof, restoration of decorative ceiling panels, the installation of a drainage system to protect the building foundations, and the partial reconstruction of the wall surrounding the site.

**Montenegro**

**Restoration of the Shadrvan (Fountain) of the 16th-Century Mosque in Pljevlja**

$30,071

To support the restoration of a fountain at the 16th-century Hussein Pasha Mosque. Used for ritual ablutions before prayer, the fountain has deteriorated over time and needs a new wooden octagonal roof, pipes, water-taps, and pavement. This project complements the state-supported restoration of the mosque and minaret, one of the tallest of its kind in the Balkans.

**Bosnia & Herzegovina**

**Preservation and Protection of the 18th-Century Seranic House in Banja Luka**

$33,597

To support the restoration of a unique late 18th-century house with covered baths. Located in an area well known for its thermal springs, the Seranic house is in danger of collapsing after years of exposure to the elements and neglect. The project involves critical repairs to the roof and a thorough architectural assessment and structural investigation that will guide future preservation treatments.

**Georgia**

**Preservation of 7th- and 8th-Century Frescoes from Tertci Odzhaa Monastery**

$13,665

To support the preservation of some of the earliest examples of Georgian mural painting of the early Christian period. The frescoes, which depict the Cross in Mandorla in the Garden of Paradise, a scene common in eastern Christian painting, and The Presentation in the Temple, came from a recently discovered rock-cut monastery, where erosion and exposure to the elements hastened their deterioration. This project involves the consolidation of the fragments in preparation for their eventual display in the Georgian National Museum.
**Romania**

**Documentation and Preservation of Romanian Cultural Heritage**

$34,655 To support a Romani cultural heritage awareness and education program for Roma youth that will provide them with the tools and skills necessary for documenting and sharing Romani traditions. Roma are more often the subjects of ethnographic studies than the producers of those studies. This project involves training in photographic and audiovisual documentation of tangible heritage and living traditions.

**Russia**

**Preservation of the Veronin-Mekhon House, a Rare Surviving 18th-Century Wooden House**

$29,625 To support the preservation of an early 18th-century wooden house, one of the oldest wooden structures still standing in Russia. Extensively vandalized and unprotected from the elements, the house is in danger of collapsing. This project contributes in a meaningful way to Russia’s nascent historic preservation movement.

**Serbia**

**Documentation and Preservation of the Roman Amphitheater at Viminacium Archaeological Site**

$31,255 To support the documentation and evaluation of existing conditions in the vicinity of the ancient Roman amphitheater at Viminacium Archaeological Site in eastern Serbia. This former Roman provincial capital city, established in the first century A.D., is exceptional for its large number of excavated graves and uncovered artifacts. This project involves field work to determine the extent of the amphitheater and the development of a plan for the future preservation and protection of the site.

**Ukraine**

**Conservation of a 12th-Century Manuscript and Its Marginalia in the Collection of the Lviv History Museum**

$28,300 To support efforts to conserve, digitize, and translate the Khristynopilsky Apostol, a highly valued 12th-century parchment manuscript and its later marginalia into modern Ukrainian and make it available in print and electronic editions. The rapid deterioration of the manuscript threatens to obliterate a unique source of information on Ukrainian culture. This project involves the widespread distribution of the electronic edition via the Web.
**Middle East & North Africa**

"I am proud that through the Ambassadors Fund we can ensure the preservation and promotion of sites of historical significance to Lebanon."

JEFFREY D. FELTMAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

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**Algeria**

Preservation of 13th- and 14th-Century Manuscripts at Emir Abdelkader University

$28,845 To support the adoption of international standards of manuscript preservation in Algeria’s most important center of Islamic learning. The university’s holdings include important 13th- and 14th-century manuscripts, and this project trains personnel and provides equipment for digitizing the collection. This project helps lay the groundwork for the eventual establishment of a national manuscript center.

**Egypt**

Documentation of the Music of the Hababда and Bashariya Tribes in Halaib and Shalatin

$16,050 To support the documentation of traditional musical performances in a rapidly developing area of Egypt. The tribal communities in this area have little recorded history, and their cultural traditions are at risk of vanishing. Traditional music is particularly in jeopardy in Egypt where it is often seen as a tourist curiosity or an academic subject. This project treats tribal music as integral to a threatened way of life and seeks to revitalize it as an expressive form.

**Iraq**

Preventive Conservation of the Collections of the Iraq National Library and Archives

$30,000 To support the efforts of the national library and archives to preserve its collections. Armed conflict and lack of resources have left the library and archives without a reliable source of electrical power necessary for manuscript conservation work, research, email communication, and Web site maintenance. The project involves the purchase of a generator so that these vital functions and services can continue.

**Jordan**

Preservation and Protection of Ancient Habitation Sites in the Decapolis City of Abila

$32,200 To support the preservation and protection of several archaeological sites dating from 4000 B.C. to 1500 A.D. in northwestern Jordan. The sites, which are spread across a large area, are susceptible to deterioration and damage caused by foraging livestock, environmental hazards, vandalism, and theft. The project involves the installation of protective fencing around the most fragile sites, notably the Um al Amad Church, Roman Bridge, and the Cross Church—one of very few cruciform churches in the Middle East—and other preventive conservation measures.
Documentation of the music of the Hababda and Bashariya tribes in Halayeb and Shalatin

U. S. Embassy Cairo, Egypt
Syria
Preservation and Interpretation of the Site of the Ancient City of Busra
$31,529
To support preservation and management efforts at the archaeological site of the ancient city of Busra. Interpreting Busra’s complicated Roman, Christian, and Islamic history to a multicultural audience poses significant challenges. This project includes the development of multilingual signage to improve the visitor experience in this culturally rich yet otherwise underdeveloped area of Syria and to enable tourism planners to incorporate this World Heritage Site into regional tour packages.

Yemen
Preservation of Manuscripts in Dar al-Makhutat Library
$34,120
To support the preservation of several of the library’s important manuscripts. Formed 25 years ago, the collection is showing signs of deterioration due to neglect and poor storage conditions. The library staff recently received conservation training, but lack of funding has prevented them from implementing professional conservation standards and procedures. The project addresses the most vulnerable manuscripts in the collection.

Lebanon
Restoration of Ras-Nahel Khalwet, a 17th-Century Muslim Druze Religious Building
$56,308
To support the rehabilitation of a 17th-century Muslim Druze religious building in the Shouf Mountains. An excellent example of traditional Lebanese architecture, this structure serves Druze minority sheikhs seeking refuge from the outside world to contemplate religious issues. The building is deteriorating rapidly, with one portion near collapse. The project involves urgent repairs to the walls and roof, modern lighting, and other site improvements.

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"Uch Sharif and its magnificent shrines, though ravaged by time and the elements, still command reverence not only from people living in Pakistan, but the world community at large. We hope that the support provided through the Ambassadors Fund will not only increase global appreciation of Pakistan’s rich cultural treasures, but also inspire local community devotion to safeguarding these historic landmarks."

Anne W. Patterson, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan

**South & Central Asia**

**Afghanistan**

Conservation of Khoja Bakhbund Cistern Complex in Herat

$50,000

To support the conservation of an important 17th-century complex consisting of a mosque, a shrine, and a cistern. Still used regularly by the local population, the cistern complex is at great risk of being lost to development in the fast-growing neighborhood of Bar Durani in the old city of Herat. Part of a larger effort to preserve historic buildings in the old city, this project trains craftsmen in traditional masonry construction techniques and raises awareness of endangered architectural heritage.

**Pakistan**

Conservation of the 15th-century Shrine of Hazrat Jalal-ud-Din Bukhari in Uch Sharif

$50,035

To support the conservation of a 600-year-old shrine visited each year by hundreds of thousands of Sufi worshippers. The shrine is one of few remaining of its type, distinctive for its architectural features and ancient method of construction. This project involves the replacement of interior wooden beams and tile and masonry repairs—specialized work requiring skilled local craftsmen and local materials.

**India**

Preservation of the 18th-century Estate of Lalgola

$64,533

To support the preservation of an architecturally significant 18th-century royal estate. The project focuses on restoring the estate’s two gates and their adjoining buildings, a Hindu temple, and a guest house, all of which are in an advanced state of decay though still structurally sound. A correctional facility now occupies the site, and the project trains selected inmates to become master conservation masons, giving them valuable skills that they can apply to support themselves upon release.

**Pakistan**

Preservation of Ancient Pashto, Arabic, and Persian Manuscripts

$45,270

To support the preservation of an important collection of ancient manuscripts dating from the 16th to the 19th century. The collection of 450,000 pages, many of them illustrated, covers a broad range of topics and includes some of the oldest surviving manuscripts written in Pashto. The collection suffers from the harsh climate and poor storage conditions. The project involves the stabilization, scanning, and proper storage of the original manuscripts.
Tajikistan
Protection and Renovation of the 9th-Century
Khaja Mashad Madrasa and Mausoleum in Sharitush
$53,405 To support the final phase of restoration work at an important 9th-century madrasa and mausoleum. Many significant historical figures graduated from this madrasa, one of the oldest in Central Asia. However, the madrasa and mausoleum have suffered greatly from water damage, and portions of these architecturally significant buildings have been lost. This project involves the restoration of the main portal, corner towers, ornamental panels, and the cupola of the eastern portion of the building.

Turkmenistan
Preservation of the Bronze Age
Archaeological Site of Gonur-Depe
$14,500 To continue preservation work begun under a previous Ambassadors Fund award at an important Bronze Age archaeological site. Part of the World Heritage Site of Ancient Merv, this site is of supreme importance in understanding the ancient history of Central Asia. Preservation is urgent, since the site is large, uncovered, and highly susceptible to damage and deterioration. The current project focuses on the rooms of the royal residence, palace, and temple complex, and involves practical seminars on site preservation.

Turkmenistan
Conservation of 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-Century
Manuscripts in the National Manuscripts Institute
$38,430 To support the conservation of 15 manuscripts written between the 17th and 19th centuries. This effort, which builds upon work completed under a previous Ambassadors Fund award, focuses on the conservation of selected manuscripts written in Arabic, Turkmen, and Farsi, describing Turkmen history, culture, religion, and literature. Besides the physical restoration of these documents, the project provides training for students who may become the future stewards of the country’s cultural heritage.
The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

07 08 ANNUAL REPORT

U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Front back, and inside front cover: Conservation of early 20th-century wall paintings in the northeastern province of Mahasarakham.

U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand

Conser vation of early 20th-centur y wall paintings in the nort heaster n province of Mahasarakham.

U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand