Development Cooperation agencies, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private activities will be implemented simultaneously.

Existing institutional frameworks in the five Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will be organised during Phase II and Phase III. Two independent evaluations of the programme will be conducted according to their specific mandates, capacities, and geographical scopes. Any major programme change will be invited to participate in the implementation of the programme. The steering committee will meet once a year. Its role will be to give orientations to the programme, define criteria for selecting themes to be addressed and activities, approve annual work plans, regularly assess and evaluate the progress of the programme and strengthen the capacities of the programme.

The Justification for the Programme

Central Asian Earth

KAZAKHSTAN / KYRGYZSTAN / TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN / UZBEKISTAN

Building Capacity for Conservation, Preservation and Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Central Asia

2002/2012

Central Asian Earth 2002-2012 foresees contributions from the State Parties concerned, UNESCO’s World Heritage Fund, UNESCO’s Funds-in-Trusts financed by donor governments, Governmental Development Cooperation Agencies, other ISO, NGO and private foundations. First and foremost, the programme counts upon the continuation and gradual increase of national support to existing institutions which are located within the five Republics. The Steering Committee will be responsible for mobilizing the necessary financial means for the programme. The ambitious programme foresees a need for approximately US$ 300,000 annually during Phase I. Phase II and III will require further support when more activities will be implemented simultaneously.

Programme Management

The orientation of the programme will be determined by a steering committee composed of representatives of each of the five countries, two representatives of UNESCO (WHC and field offices), one representative of CRAterre-EAG. The steering committee can decide to include representatives of other institutions relevant to the project. The steering committee will meet once a year. Its role will be to give orientations to the programme, define criteria for selecting themes to be addressed and activities, approve annual work plans, regularly assess and evaluate the progress of the programme.

UNESCO-WhC will be the programme manager. CRAterre-EAG will be the main technical advisor for the programme. ICOMOS (Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Committee), other UNESCO Divisions and Field Offices and other specialised institutions will be invited to participate in the implementation of the programme according to their specific mandates, capacities, and identified needs. Two independent evaluations of the programme will be organised during Phase II and Phase III.

Support to the Programme

Central Asian Earth 2002-2012 foresees contributions from the State Parties concerned, UNESCO’s World Heritage Fund, UNESCO’s Funds-in-Trusts financed by donor governments, Governmental Development Cooperation Agencies, other ISO, NGO and private foundations. First and foremost, the programme counts upon the continuation and gradual increase of national support to existing institutions which are located within the five Republics. The Steering Committee will be responsible for mobilizing the necessary financial means for the programme. The ambitious programme foresees a need for approximately US$ 300,000 annually during Phase I. Phase II and III will require further support when more activities will be implemented simultaneously.

Issues to Be Addressed

Central Asia possesses an astonishing diversity of immovable cultural heritage, witness to the creativity and interactivity of its peoples who have influenced Asia and the world. However, the attention so far placed on documentation, conservation and presentation of numerous properties has not been sufficient to meet the needs of the variety and quantity of immovable cultural heritage in this region, which ranges from cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, religious buildings, defensive structures, historic towns and vernacular architecture to a rich heritage that remains unknown and insufficiently appreciated by many, both within and beyond the Central Asian region. To orient their conservation policies, define new strategies and strengthen their capacities, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre was called upon by the five republics to take the lead in elaborating a capacity building regional programme at the «global strategy expert meeting of Central Asia» cultural heritage (Turkmenistan, 14-17 May 2000). In particular, the representatives of the five countries requested that a programme for the conservation of earthen architectural heritage be developed through assessing the existing national institutions.
Central Asian Earth programme

Building Capacity for conservation, preservation and management of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Central Asia

**OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective of the Central Asian Earth programme is to build capacity of the site, management authorities and technical experts in Central Asia for enhanced conservation, presentation, and management of the world cultural heritage or future world cultural heritage in this region through close co-operation at international, regional, and national levels.

**EXPECTED RESULTS, ACTIVITIES AND INDICATORS**

**RESULT 1**

A better known and recognised immovable cultural heritage

**Activities:**
- Surveys of types of heritage in each Central Asian State
- Publication of the results of the surveys
- Training activities including documentation and inventory
- Enhancement of national inventory campaigns
- Revision and harmonization of Tentative Lists according to analysis of inventories and State of Conservation of properties
- Preparation of sound nominations for inscription the World Heritage List
- Editing and disseminating varied publications for promotional and educational purposes

**Indicators:**
- Quality of surveys completed and published
- Number of professionals trained
- Number of comprehensive management plans prepared
- Number of national and regional institutions providing training on cultural heritage management

**RESULT 2**

Professionals trained to conserve, manage and present immovable cultural heritage

**Activities:**
- Preparation of comprehensive management plans for at least two cultural heritage properties in each Republic
- Organisation of thematic seminars for institutional development (legislation, management)
- Training on management of immovable cultural heritage organised at the regional level every two years
- Organisation of thematic technical training workshops for addressing conservation needs
- Exchange of training capacities between regional institutions

**Indicators:**
- Number of comprehensive management plans prepared
- Number of professionals trained
- Number of national and regional institutions providing training on cultural heritage management

**RESULT 3**

Professionals trained in enhanced conservation of cultural heritage

**Activities:**
- Identification of common conservation problems in the region, recognition of technical capacity and expertise of gaps in conservation and presentation of cultural heritage properties
- Elaboration, implementation and follow-up of conservation and presentation programmes at selected representative sites (pilot projects)
- Regional on-site training at pilot project sites for sharing experiences and knowledge of conservation and presentation of immovable cultural heritage every two years
- Publication of results of findings and recommendations of pilot project activities and training workshops
- Reinforcement of training capacities at a national and regional level

**Indicators:**
- Successful implementation of pilot projects
- Conservation projects
- Number and quality of publications
- Number of trained professionals
- Number and degree of involvement of regional training institutions

**PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES.**

The programme is conceived to make maximum use of complementary activities developed at the site level (specific conservation projects, research), the national level (surveys, seminars), and at the regional level (seminars, training, research, analysis and planning). An interactive approach, emphasising the exchange of experiences and adaptation to specific needs in the field is taken to guarantee maximum benefits to national and regional institutions, professionals, decision makers, and also to local communities and cultural industries.

The programme is to be implemented over a period of ten years in three broad phases. Phase I (years 1-2) aims at fine-tuning the results of the research and planning. Phase II (years 3-5) aims at defining specific responses to the problems identified and analysed during Phase I, providing training according to the needs of the partner institutions. During this second phase, involvement of existing training institutions, both at the academic and practical levels will be essential. The final phase (years 6-10) will aim at fine-tuning the results of the research and capacity building activities, and at ensuring the sustainability of the programme results. It will comprise a publication programme and assistance to regional educational institutions.