

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR YEAR ONE:
(JULY 15, 2004 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2005)

The Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project (EAC)
USAID Agreement No. 263-A-00-04-00018-00

Awarded to

THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT (ARCE)

Address: 8700 Crownhill Blvd. Suite 507, San Antonio, TX 78209 Tel: (210) 821-7000

by the

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Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project
Annual Implementation Plan
July 15, 2004 – September 30, 2005

INTRODUCTION

This is the implementation plan and budget for Year One of the Egyptian Antiquities Conservation (EAC) Project, Cooperative Agreement No. 263-A-00-04-00018-00, awarded to the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) by the United States Agency for Development (USAID) on July 15, 2004. Taking into account that the project implementation period will be for five years, ARCE will submit reports and plans according to the U.S. government fiscal year reporting schedule, (October 1-September 30). Therefore, ARCE will collapse the three-month project start-up period from July 15 through September 30, 2004 into the first year plan.

The goal of the EAC Project is to safeguard Egypt's cultural heritage and to promote tourism through the development of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities' (SCA) institutional capacity and the conservation of specific historic sites.

The anticipated implementation plan presented below includes some adjustments to the program description outlined in the Cooperative Agreement. This is due to a shift in criteria on which project acceptance was based in response to recent requests from St. Anthony's Monastery for ARCE's assistance in recording and conserving an archaeological find at the Church of the Holy Apostles, to which ARCE and USAID are committed. Additionally, ARCE is interested in responding to an urgently needed 'first aid' treatment of unique Roman wall paintings at Luxor and has integrated this into a new project summarized below (Item 5).

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Upon award of the EAC agreement, ARCE reviewed the proposed EAC operations budget and assessed the availability of its resources and existing workloads for its remaining conservation projects: 1) the ADP Project, currently scheduled to close out by December 31, 2005; and 2) EAP Post-Grant activity, consisting of approximately 12 subgrants scheduled to continue through 2007. Based on this assessment, ARCE will determine how best to allocate both local and expatriate staff over the EAC, EAP and ADP during Year One. The resulting project management restructure will involve no increase in the 5-year operations budget, and a reallocation of costs from operations to programs, if required, will be requested at a later date.

CYCLE ONE PROJECTS

The following five projects are planned for Cycle One subproject implementation, scheduled to commence in Year One. The components of the five projects cover all four of the goals called for in the Project Description of the EAC Cooperative Agreement (Institutional Development, Preservation of Egypt’s Cultural Heritage, Archaeological Excavation, and Promotion of Underdeveloped and Eco-tourism Areas). They also cover four of the time periods in Egypt’s history, and cover a broad geographical area throughout Egypt.

As detailed in the project descriptions below, work performed on monuments and sites will include such components as architectural and photographic documentation, historical research, excavation, conservation analysis, engineering, conservation, stabilization, cleaning and consolidation, site management, signage, lighting, hard landscaping, tourism promotion, and publication.

During the nine months that elapsed between ARCE’s proposal for the EAC Cooperative Agreement, and its final award, certain conditions led to a revision in the five proposed “illustrative projects” scheduled for implementation early in the project.

Due to changing circumstances, the project, “*Restoration of the Temple of Osiris Heqa-Djet at Karnak*” and “*Coptic Icons in the Coptic Museum*” are no longer viable and have been cancelled. The funds allocated to these projects will be reprogrammed as described below.

The following project descriptions describe planned activities under the EAC Program Plan for Cycle One funding (October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005).

1. SUBPROJECT: FIELD SCHOOL FOR SCA INSPECTORS

PROJECT TYPE/PERIOD: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBGRANTEE NAME: ARCE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. MARK LEHNER, GIZA PLATEAU MAPPING PROJECT

LOCATION: GIZA PLATEAU

Introduction:

ARCE has conducted five previous field schools; four at Memphis and one at the Fayyum, where over 90 inspectors were trained in the techniques of archaeological excavation, recording, documentation, conservation, and other aspects of standard archaeological practice. In addition, five inspectors were sent to the US for training in current US techniques. Some of these five individuals have acted as on-site supervisors in the ARCE Field Schools, teamed with US supervisors, to train between four to six persons per excavation trench. The fifth season of the work under the EAP sub-agreement has been completed. The SCA has requested more of this training.

Statement of the Project:

ARCE proposes to conduct two seasons at the Giza Plateau Mapping Project, under the direction of Dr. Mark Lehner. This will enable a continuing cadre of antiquities inspectors to receive practical and theoretical training.

Implementation Schedule: Two eight-week seasons in 2005-2006

The Field School will take place at Giza under the direction of Mark Lehner as an integrated part of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project (GPMP) excavations. This has been recommended and approved by Dr. Zahi Hawass. The first season will start on 24 January 2005 and will continue for two months. A second season is planned for the Fall/Winter 2005-6.

Sixteen SCA inspectors will be selected through interviews for training in the first season.

The project will provide training to the selected SCA inspectors in modern techniques and philosophy of archaeological fieldwork in the context of the well established and successful GPMP field project beside the Giza Pyramids. The program will comprise work on site, work on data processing and recording of finds and samples, and lectures from archaeologists on different aspects of archaeology.

Year One Activities:

- Pre-implementation period: submission of paperwork to SCA for approvals for first season.
- 1st Quarter: interviews and selection of SCA trainees.
- 2nd Quarter: Mobilization and first field season.
- 3rd Quarter: Final report of first field season.
- 4th Quarter: submission of paperwork to SCA for approvals for second season.

Estimated Budget (LE): 1,926,088 (Two seasons broken down to LE 939,555 in Year One and LE 986,533 in Year Two)

2. SUBPROJECT: MARINA EL-ALAMEIN SITE PRESENTATION PROJECT

PROJECT TYPE/PERIOD: PRESERVATION OF EGYPT'S CULTURAL HERITAGE/GRECO-ROMAN

SUBGRANTEE NAME: AGNIESZKA DOBROWOLSKA (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE POLISH INSTITUTE.)

LOCATION: MEDITERRANEAN COAST

Introduction:

In Ptolemaic and Roman times, the southern coast of the Mediterranean was an important seafaring route for flourishing trade, and was dotted with numerous harbors. Until very recently, Egypt's northern coast had remained for centuries a desert wasteland. This has changed dramatically in the past two decades because the coast has been developed as a holiday destination, attracting huge numbers of visitors and massive capital investment.

Statement of the Project:

The goal of this project is to present the site to the general public, and to protect and preserve it by permitting public visitation in an organized and controlled way. The project plans to remove debris dumps, landscape the area, and integrate existing archaeological digs into a more accessible and recognizable historical site for display and accessibility to visitors. The SCA have constructed a site museum, and are in the process of furnishing it with exhibits. The project plans to design and construct entrance facilities, comprising a parking area, entrance gate, ticket and information office, create a visitor's route through the area, and install signage. The SCA intends to operate a museum in the future and has erected a building to house it.

Implementation Schedule:

The project will take twenty-six months of actual work during the period January 2005 – February 2007

Project Director Dobrowolska will begin the preparatory stages of this site presentation project in the first quarter of Year One, with a duration of eight months. By the 4th quarter, mobilization will be underway for the first of three field seasons is scheduled to commence in October 2005, and will last five months. Reprogrammed funds from the cancelled Osiris Heqa-Djet Project will be reallocated to this project as shown in the accompanying budget.

Year One Activities:

- 1st – 2nd Quarters: negotiations with the Polish Institute, and commencement of design and preparation stages (8 months)
- 3rd Quarter: submission of paperwork to SCA for approval for the first season.
- 4th Quarter: mobilization with start-up in October 2005 (five months).

Estimated Budget (LE): 1,883,065 (broken down into LE 1,069,970 in Year One, and LE 813,095 in Year Two)

3. SUBPROJECT: ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION OF SELECTED STRUCTURES AT THE ROMAN BERYL/EMERALD MINING CITY OF SIKAIT, EGYPT

PROJECT TYPE/PERIOD: ECO-TOURISM/GRECO-ROMAN

SUBGRANTEE NAME: DR. STEVEN E. SIDEBOTHAM

LOCATION: EASTERN DESERT, EGYPT

Introduction:

Sikait is located in Wadi Gimal, south of Marsa Alam in the Red Sea and was active between at least the first and sixth centuries A.D. and perhaps longer. The remains visible on the surface suggest a city of approximately 300 buildings/complexes. This remote area was the sole source of emeralds from inside the Roman Empire. It is a spectacular site with free-standing buildings in a spectacular natural setting, which has recently been declared a Protectorate by the Government. Already, eco-tourism is being

planned, and steps need to be taken both to protect the site and to make it informative to visitors.

Statement of the Project:

Included is architectural stabilization of three key buildings on site:

- 1) A small rock-cut temple dating to the third century A.D.
- 2) A large rock-cut temple, with remains of a monumental Greek inscription above the main entrance, hieroglyphs, and a Christian cross carved on an interior back altar and numerous travelers' graffiti.
- 3) A so-called administration building.

Signage and other aspects of visitors service will be a part of the project in keeping with the planned function of the site as an eco-tourism/cultural tourism destination.

Implementation Schedule:

The project is planned to be carried out in two phases. The first field season will be devoted to examination of the three above-mentioned structures, followed by immediate stabilization efforts, development of a site plan, and recommendations on how to proceed with more permanent conservation efforts. This phase will take six weeks in Year One. The second phase will consist of one or more field seasons for the implementation of extended conservation, excavation and the site management plan.

The final decision on this project is still pending because of delays in obtaining security clearance for the project director. ARCE plans to impose a cut-off date on 14 July 2005, the first anniversary of signing the EAC Cooperative Agreement. Unless definite security approval and permission to work on site have been received by that date ARCE will cancel the project in its present form and the implementation will be redesigned based on an appraisal of the level of useful impact possible in the allocated time period. An alternative which we are currently considering is to concentrate more resources on the site management aspect of the project instead of the archaeological.

Year One Activities:

- 4th Quarter: Pre-implementation period: submission of paperwork to SCA for approvals for the first season, as indicated below:

If permit received by 14 July 2005: Aug. – Oct. 2005: mobilization.

If permit not received by 14 July 2005: Aug. – Oct. 2005: review of SOW and redefinition of objectives, identifying new personnel and submitting new paperwork to the SCA for approvals. Project Director to prepare Site Management Plan.

Estimated Budget (LE): 1,702,165 (LE488,004 estimated for first season in Year One and LE 1,214,161 in Year Two)

4. SUBPROJECT: CONSERVATION AND DISPLAY OF EARLY CELL AND CHURCH AT ST. ANTHONY'S MONASTERY.

PROJECT TYPE/PERIOD: PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE/COPTIC

SUBGRANTEE NAME: TO BE DETERMINED (A TEAM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF FR. MAXIMUS AL-ANTHONY WILL WORK ON THIS PROJECT)

LOCATION: MONASTERY OF ST. ANTHONY.

Introduction:

During recent renovation work in the Church of the Holy Apostles at the Monastery of St. Anthony, it became necessary to remove part of the floor which had subsided. Under the floor the remains of an earlier church were discovered. This earlier church was itself built over and into the remains of an early monastic cell which may belong to the earliest phases of the monastery's history.

Statement of the Project:

It is proposed that this group of early structures relating to the historic development of the monastery be conserved and displayed to visitors to enhance their understanding of the site. A team of archaeologists, conservators and skilled technicians will record the discovery, conserve the structural remains erect a protective shelter over them. Since the discovery is beneath the church floor, this shelter will be covered with a glass ceiling at the floor level of the church so that visitors will be able to look down at the preserved remains. Information and signage will inform visitors about the site.

Implementation Schedule:

The project duration is planned for six months during 2005 into early 2006 depending on permits from the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Estimated Budget: £E 559,410.00 (Two seasons broken down to LE 239,747 in Year One and LE 319,663 in Year Two)

5. SUBPROJECT: CONSERVATION OF ROMAN WALL PAINTINGS IN LUXOR TEMPLE

PROJECT TYPE/PERIOD: PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE/PHARAONIC

SUBGRANTEE NAME: LUIGI DE CESARIS

LOCATION: LUXOR TEMPLE, LUXOR

Introduction:

Remains of unique Roman wall paintings survive in the Luxor Temple datable to the reign of the Emperor Diocletian in the late 3rd century AD. Their condition is precarious and deterioration is accelerating due to atmospheric conditions and their unprotected location.

Based upon results of test cleanings, ARCE will consider the feasibility of a project in three phases to clean, document and conserve these paintings.

Implementation Schedule:

The preliminary test cleaning phase (described below) of this project is scheduled for approximately two weeks during Year One. Based on the results of the test cleanings, further conservation work will be planned for implementation in Year Two.

Before any decision can be made to proceed with conservation, cleaning tests are required to assess the scope and scale of the work. The team of Italian conservators, led by Luigi de Cesaris, who are known for their work on the ADP and EAP projects at St. Anthony's and St. Paul's Monasteries and the Red Monastery, Sohag, would carry out the project. Test cleanings will be conducted in the 4th quarter by de Cesaris and two restorers.

Reprogrammed funds from the cancelled Osiris Heqa-Djet Project have been reallocated to this project as shown in the accompanying budget.

Year One Activities:

- 3rd Quarter: submission of paperwork to the SCA for approvals for test cleanings.
- 4th Quarter: mobilization and start of test cleanings.

Estimated Budget (LE): 111,008 in Year One (remainder of funding to be programmed in Cycle Two)

CYCLE TWO PROJECTS

An open competition will be initiated by a Request of Proposals (RFP) to be issued on May 1st, 2005. The RFP will be posted on the ARCE website, in *Al-Ahram Weekly*, and will be distributed to ARCE consortium members, the Council for American Overseas Research Centers, Getty Conservation Institute and other professional conservation and archaeological organizations including the foreign institutes in Egypt.

The proposals will be reviewed by ARCE and those selected will be forwarded to the SCA and then to USAID for review and approval. It is expected that eight to ten proposals will be accepted for award of sub agreements in Cycle Two.

The review procedures will be based on an evaluation of responsiveness to the following criteria as explained in the RFP.

- Compliance with ARCE and USAID requirements.
- Appropriateness of proposed project to current political and social conditions in Egypt and according to current agendas of the SCA.
- Environmental impact of proposed project in terms of health and safety and impact on the archaeological, cultural and natural environment of the site and its surroundings.
- Advantages for tourism and other economically important activities involving local and regional development.
- Relevance of proposed project: eg. The chance to preserve a unique example of architecture or art, or to document a severely endangered monument.
- Known past performance of applicant and/or proposed team members regarding cost and quality control, compliance with schedules and regulations, familiarity with locality of project and working conditions.

Improvements to Sub agreement Selection and Award Process

ARCE plans to make improvements on the EAP model in the following ways:

- 1) A more user-friendly RFP format will be created by modifying and simplifying the existing one.
- 2) A more streamlined internal ARCE approval process will be used with standard forms and electronic transfer to the appropriate Committees.
- 3) A less complex sub-agreement document will be developed.

Year One Activities:

- 1st Quarter: preparation of RFP.
- 2nd Quarter: RFP Issue date: 1 May 2005
- 3rd Quarter: Closing date for receipt of proposals at ARCE, Cairo: 1 August 2005
- 3rd – 4th Quarters: review of proposals and selection of projects by ARCE/EAC followed by ratification by ARCE Executive committee
- 4th Quarter: review and agreement for selected proposals by SCA, followed by USAID approval to proceed

CONCLUSION

Project Year One will see progress on the Cycle One projects and preparations for Cycle Two as follows:

- The ARCE field school at Giza will complete its first season in the period January to March and begin its second season in the Fall or Winter.
- Marina al-Alamain will complete its first season of fieldwork in August to October 2005.
- By 14 July 2005 decisions will have been made concerning the status of stalled projects at Sikait.
- Funds will have been reprogrammed from the cancelled Temple of Osiris Heqa-Djet proposal towards the new project on the Roman Wall Paintings in the Luxor Temple.
- An RFP for Cycle Two will be issued and advertised on 1 May 2005, inviting applicants to participate in a competitive selection for a second round of EAC funding.
- An estimated 8 – 10 sub agreements will be awarded, after ARCE obtains SCA and USAID approval. Successful applicants will be notified to proceed with their projects by the end of the year.
- Necessary preliminary work (cleaning tests) will have been carried out in advance of a new project at Luxor.