

WORK PLAN FOR NO-EXTENSION PERIOD

July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

**Cultural Heritage Tourism Project in Egypt (APS)
USAID Agreement No. 263-A-15-00007**

**Awarded to
THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT (ARCE)
Address: 909 N. Washington Street, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22 314, Tel: (703) 721 3479**

**By the
USAID Program Office of Productive Sector Development / Office of the Environment /
USAID / Egypt**

July 2018

In collaboration with the United States Agency for International development and the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities.



The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) was awarded the Cultural Heritage Tourism in Egypt (CHTE) cooperative agreement on February 18, 2015. The award was scheduled to end on June 30, 2018. On March 15, 2018 ARCE requested an extension of the award completion date to December 31, 2018 in order to complete planned deliverables that were delayed by factors outside of ARCE's control. The extension was approved by USAID on June 14, 2018 under Modification No. 8 to the award. This workplan describes the activities planned for the period from July 1st to December 31st, 2018.

SOHAG IMPLEMENTATION

The Red and nearby White Monasteries are only a 45-minute drive from Sohag airport. Before the January 2011 uprising, Sohag Governorate was undergoing rapid development in the tourism sector focused on cultural tourism initiatives. While tourism has been drastically reduced, and heightened road security limits ground travel by foreigners between cities in Upper Egypt, efforts continue to be focused on developing local tourism initiatives that may, in the future, encompass foreign tourism once more.

Since 2003, ARCE, in partnership with USAID, has conducted a comprehensive conservation project at the sixth century Red Monastery Church. The MoA, the Coptic Church, and ARCE are all in agreement that the treatment of the nave and its integration into the already completed part of the church ('triconch') is a crucial component of the site management project.

The goals of ARCE's programs at the Red Monastery in Sohag are a combination of conservation, training and cultural resource management. To guarantee the sustainability of USAID's commitment to the preservation of the Red Monastery Church, ARCE has combined a conservation and training field school with site management, community awareness and capacity building training. Each is aimed at safeguarding the site by respecting the multiple significances the church has for different groups, e.g. the religious community that currently use it, and cultural tourists.

Summary of Year activities as of June 30th 2018:

Over the three and a half years of the project, work on architectural conservation in the nave of the church was carried out under the direction of Dr. Nicholas Warner, Heritage Architect. The fine conservation of wall paintings in parallel with instructive and on-the-job training in the nave of the church was performed by De Cesaris, Srl, a team of seven conservators led by Alberto Sucato and Emiliano Ricchi. Meanwhile, the development of cultural heritage awareness in the community and tourism sector surrounding the Red Monastery, was led through capacity-building training by Heritage Consultant Dina Bakhom.

PROGRAM 4: Red Monastery Nave Conservation and Training

Under the CHTE award, ARCE continued with one assessment season followed by five campaigns of conservation work, including the original plastered and painted walls and stone sculpture in the nave of the church with the Italian conservation team that completed the painted tri-conch in the sanctuary (De Cesaris, Srl). Conservation work occurred in tandem with 4 campaigns of training for SCA conservators, numbering in total of 24 (14 men and 10 women). Six students attended three campaigns, nine students attended two campaigns, and the remaining nine students attended one campaign. A detailed description follows, with photos showing the progress of wall cleaning and painting conservation.

Assessment Season (23 November - 12 December 2015) - Ten test cleanings that acted as samples, enabling us to study the state of preservation and working methods in various representative areas of the nave. On the basis of these observations, we were able to identify which restoration techniques should be employed. The test cleanings contain sufficient information to predict what the final result in terms of esthetics and conservation of the future restoration work will be for each area of the nave. The conservators explored in greater depth the methods that will form the basis of the on-the-job training program during future restoration campaigns. Number of Italian conservators: 7



Figure 1: View of the nave walls after Fall 2015 campaign

Campaign #1 (30 March - 20 April 2016) - Test cleanings carried out on the right side of the north wall assisted the conservators to ascertain whether there are wall paintings in the area where the current state of preservation of the surfaces has prevented them from formulating a solid theory. The restoration of a section of the west wall was completed (comprised of unpainted surfaces), working from the top downward. No MoA clearance was received to resume conservation of painted decorations. Number of conservators: 7



Figure 2: View of the nave walls after Spring 2016 campaign

Campaign #2 (7 November - 17 December 2016) - During this campaign the Conservation Team did not have clearance to work on any painted surfaces since a final solution had not been reached for protecting the paintings after conservation is completed. No MoA clearance was received to resume conservation of painted decorations. A three-week on-the-job training course was run for 11 Egyptian conservators, all graduates of Faculties of Conservation of Art in Egypt. Number of Italian conservators: 7



Figure 3: View of the Nave walls after the Fall 2016 campaign

Campaign #3 (27 February- 7 April 2017) - During the campaign, all the areas with exposed bricks in the lower parts of both the north and west walls were re-plastered. A good part of the plaster in the lower tier of the west wall was cleaned, completing the window splays and tracing the profile of the disc with the cross in the center of the wall. On the left side of the west wall, a large area of plaster was covered with a thick layer of the modern red paint used to paint the exterior of the small church in the south west corner. MoA clearance was received to conserve the painted decorations. The paint had completely obscured a medieval painted cross which was revealed and conserved during the campaign. A three-week training course was conducted for ten Egyptian conservators who are graduates of or students at faculties of conservation in Egypt. Number of Italian conservators: 10



Figure 4: View of the Nave walls after the Spring 2017 campaign

Campaign #4 (6 November - 16 December 2017) – During the campaign restoration of the whole section of the north wall above the line of the gallery was completed, as well as certain sections underneath in the lower tier. Work was done on the bas-relief decoration on the architrave of the north door. The cross

inscribed within the disc at the center of the west wall, another cross to its right, mirroring the one restored during the Spring campaign, and one lower down near the north-west corner of the west wall were all revealed in their entirety. Work was done on the two crosses at the far left of the north wall. A five-week on-the-job training course for four newly joined Egyptian conservators in addition to 14 from previous campaigns. Number of Italian conservators: 9



Figure 5: View of the Nave walls after the Fall 2017 campaign

Campaign #5 (26 March - 27 April 2018) - During the campaign the aesthetic presentation of the crosses on the west wall and the cleaning of all the plaster below them was completed. On the north wall, treatment of all the unpainted plaster to the left of the entrance was completed and, in the same area, work was carried out on all the icons including a newly discovered one over the entrance. A new painted roundel was discovered, also on the north wall, together with new details above the icon of the Saint on Horseback. All the pointing on the west wall was completed. A test cleaning undertaken on the right side of the entrance (north wall) revealed the face of a saint - one of a row of several saints painted the length of the lower tier. On-the-job training continued for 8 Egyptian conservators from previous campaigns. Number of Italian conservators: 6

ARCE staff discussed treatment of the remaining painted surfaces on the north wall, and requested the conservation team to provide an estimate of time and resources needed to complete the work.

After increasing the number of local conservators to thirteen trained students returning from previous campaigns so that the Italian team could concentrate more fully on fine treatment of the painted surfaces, it was agreed that seven to eight weeks was needed for a team of six Italian conservators to complete the north wall.



Figure 6: View of the Nave walls after the Spring 2018 campaign

Activities	Responsible	Dates	Duration
Activity 1: Conservation, Training and Documentation 1.1 Complete the cleaning and conservation of <u>the entire</u> interior surface on the north wall of the nave to include plaster, brick, stone and wall paintings, in conjunction with training and documentation	John Shearman De Cesaris, Srl	Oct. 28 – December 20, 2018	7-8 weeks
1.2 Select up to 13 SCA conservators to continue training in the final Fall 2018 campaign.	John Shearman De Cesaris, Srl	August – September 2018	6-8 weeks
1.3 Employ up to 8 semi-skilled Egyptians to learn skills that can be replicated in other conservation projects.	ARCE	October 20- December 31, 2018	
1.4 Conduct graphic documentation and photographic documentation of conservation work	Sergio Tagliagocci Mauro Cohen	Oct- December, 2018	
1.5 Incorporate into a Sustainable Management Plan guidelines provided by the conservation team for cleaning, maintenance and preservation of the painted surfaces of the church.	John Shearman	December 2018	

PROGRAM 5: Red Monastery Site Management

At the end of the EAC Project in 2014, the contrast between the ruined nave of the Red Monastery church and the conserved interior of the sanctuary created a striking disconnect, making it hard to relate to the two parts of the building. Rehabilitating the nave through further conservation thus restored the wholeness of the church for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The church is part of a larger area comprising an archaeological site under the stewardship of the MoA. Exposed and deteriorating archaeological discoveries lie to the north, including a deep well currently unfenced and hazardous. The tower (keep) is an historic red brick structure standing immediately beside the south wall of the church. It has two floors and a roof, presently connected by an internal staircase around a central circular open shaft. Severe water damage has occurred to the brick base and foundation of the tower. This situation was made worse by the installation of a reinforced concrete ring beam at ground level around most of the perimeter of the structure by an SCA project in the 1990s.

Summary of Year activities as of June 30th 2018:

Under the CHTE award, ARCE continued with architectural conservation of the nave and adjacent tower in the ancient church at the direction of Heritage Management Architect Nicholas J. Warner. Six campaigns of conservation work were conducted. The illustrations above may be referenced while the following paragraphs provide a description of the work:

Campaign #1 (1 September - 3 November 2015) After completing the detailed design, planning, and specifications, Dr. Warner, with his foreman and team of ten skilled craftsmen worked onsite in the nave of the Red Monastery to install limestone paving and electrical cabling and lighting, installation of three wooden doors in the nave and tower portals, repointing and conservation of interior and exterior walls, anastylosis of granite columns, and to complete repairs to the perimeter walls and the tower.

Campaign #2 (23 March – 28 April 2016) Major tasks completed in the Spring 2016 campaign were: rebuilding a section of the missing south wall of the nave above the Church of al-Adhra to provide future support for the planned shelter in the southwest corner of the nave, reinstatement of 50 limestone cornice blocks [40 on ground, 10 on top of tower] to their original location on top of the perimeter wall, removal of all plumbing inside south hall and tower, removal of secondary structures on roof and stairwell, installation of a new full height ventilation pipe from base of tower to roof with banded clips, and removal of an external reinforced concrete beam around base of tower.

Campaign #3 (24 September – 10 November 2016) Work on the tower continued in Fall 2016, including: stonework and flooring throughout the tower and roof, installation of steel balustrades, handrails, decks, and doors, replacement of termite-infested beams in the roof, brickwork and related construction on the stairway, roof and electrical installation.

Campaign #5 (10 April – 4 May 2017) Work was completed in the tower, involving repointing of external stone quoins at the corners of the tower, removal of a reinforced concrete beam at the base of the east wall of the tower and the south wall of the tower, additional repointing and repairs to the lower sections of the walls where water damage has occurred, treatment of movement joint at junction between east wall of tower and south wall of church, new lime re-plastering [as per request from the Sohag Inspectorate] in rooms on the ground floor, staircase and all corridor spaces, and installation of two display cabinets in northwest room on ground floor of tower.

Campaign #6 (2 May - 26 June 2018) This campaign was devoted to the treatment of termite infestation inside and around the perimeter of the church sanctuary.

Outstanding work:

Due to lack of permission from the MoA Permanent Committee, there have been delays in implementation of the three interventions that were included in ARCE's plan for the Red Monastery church from the inception of the award. ARCE received permission from the permanent committee in late March 2018 for the following tasks, necessitating a no-cost extension in order to complete the work.

New door in the wall built by the Comité in 1912: Permission was granted for ARCE to open a new door at the north end of the stone wall built by the Comité de Conservation des Monuments de l'Art Arabe.

This door will show the original arrangement of the basilica with three doors between the nave and sanctuary. It is needed to improve visitor circulation, for liturgical purposes, and to provide an alternative emergency exit.

Protective shelter for wall paintings: Cleaning and conservation carried out on the west and north walls of the nave of the church have revealed historic wall paintings on the lower parts of the walls. Prior to cleaning, these paintings were mostly obscured and their full extent was not known. It was proposed to install a wooden shelter to protect the paintings from the sun, rain, dust and bird droppings. The proposed design was intended to denote an authentic element of the building in the form of the gallery by following the evidence of columns and beam slots in the walls that show the former position of the gallery. A good example still in use is at the Church of Abu Serga in Old Cairo.

Note: This task cannot be carried out during the no-cost extension. After repeated refusals by the MoA Projects sector for the shelter, ARCE re-allocated funds earmarked for it to complete necessary unforeseen work scope in the Tower in 2016. ARCE will seek funding outside of the CHTE award to complete this work in 2019. The cost of materials for the shelter was estimated at approximately \$31,418 in January 2016. Labor, travel, and the consultant’s fee were estimated at approximately \$44,000.

Partial reconstruction of the south wall of the nave: This wall was proposed to be in the position of the lost original and will be made of limestone. The wall will be 90cm wide and 40cm high in the central part and stepped at the western end. The wall will have two openings, and will indicate the original form of the church, as at the White Monastery (Sohag) and prevent the risk of injuries as there is a difference in floor level between the two areas of the church.

Note: After repeated refusal by the MoA Projects sector for the built wall, ARCE received permission to install a modified solution: railings along the south side. Additional protective railings are recommended by ARCE to be installed along the west wall where painted surfaces are endangered by human contact.

Sohag Program 5: Red Monastery Site Management – Plan for completion by December 31, 2018

Activities	Responsible	Dates	Duration
Activity 1. Protective shelter for wall paintings: Install a shelter adjacent to the west wall and the north wall of the nave.	NOT TO BE COMPLETED UNDER THIS AWARD		
Activity 2. Partial reconstruction of the south wall of the nave: instead of a built wall, non-obtrusive railing will be installed in the position of the lost original south wall of the nave area	John Shearman Nicholas Warner	Sept- Oct. 2018	1 month
Activity 3. Design and install protective railing along the west wall where painted surfaces are endangered by human contact.	John Shearman Nicholas Warner		
Activity 4. Installation of a new door in the wall built by the Comité in 1912	John Shearman Nicholas Warner	Sept- Oct. 2018	1month
Activity 5. Production and Installation of Visitor’s information signage in the nave and the tower	John Shearman Nicholas Warner	Sept- Oct. 2018	2 months
Activity 6. Incorporate into a Sustainable Management Plan guidelines for maintenance of the church, e.g. electrical and water supply, septic treatment, and termite control.	John Shearman	Decemb er 2018	2 weeks



Figure 7: The Tower of the Red Monastery Church

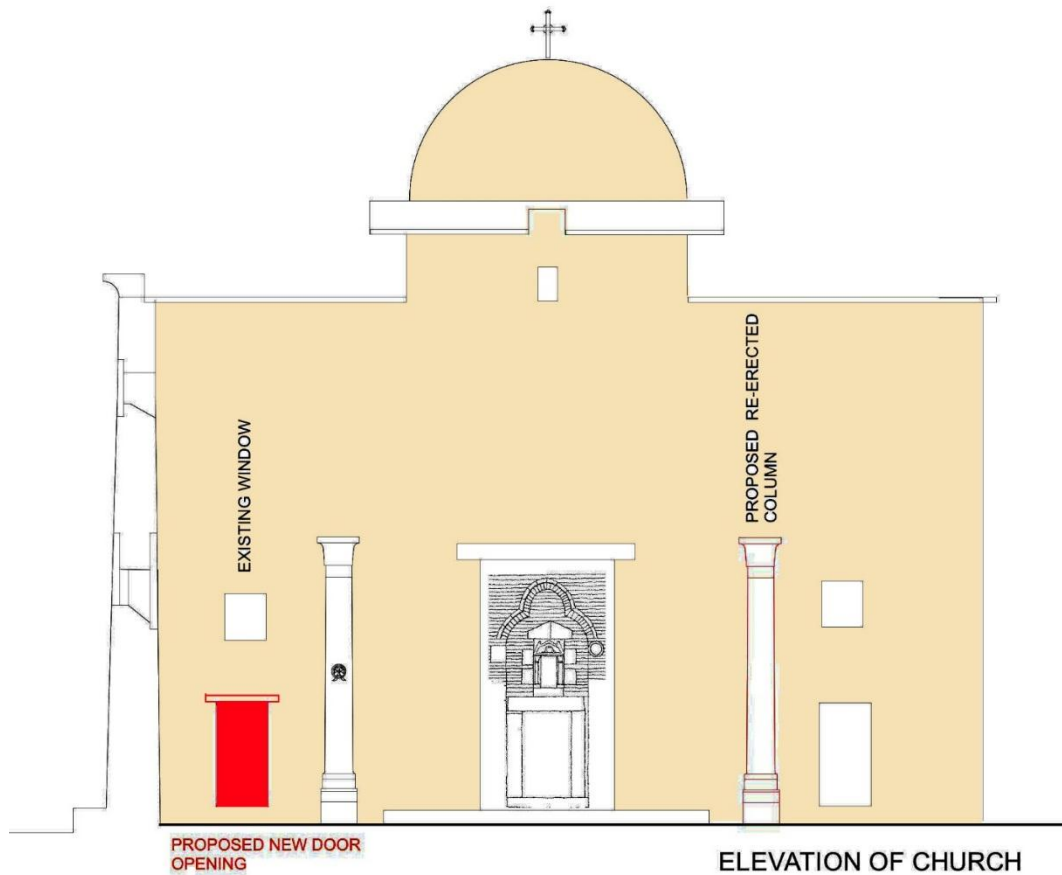


Figure 6: Cross section of Comite wall showing position of new door