This is a report on the some of the work conducted by the CAP in 2005 for the initial phase of an ongoing project. The activities described in this report were supported by a grant from the Global Heritage Fund.

The CAP has undertaken to assist the Department of Antiquities in Shahat (Cyrene) in the development of a modern cultural heritage management system for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cyrene. GHF approved funds were used to begin the development of a Geographical Information System (GIS) for the city of Cyrene and its territory; to initiate the computerization of the Department’s existing paper records; to commence the integration of departmental photographic and site archives; and to begin the training of personnel in the creation and implementation of a modern cultural heritage management system.

This ongoing project—to develop a modern cultural heritage management system for the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cyrene—is critical to inform preservation planning by Libya’s regional Department of Antiquities. Urban expansion of the modern town of Shahat, along with increased tourism, is threatening the site. The modernization work will require several years. The transformation of the Department of Antiquities existing documentation into a modern cultural heritage management system will enable them to manage their cultural resources effectively. This system—the first of its kind in Libya—will be a major tool for the Department of Antiquities and the foreign missions that work at Cyrene.

The CAP also has undertaken to train Libyan archaeologists in modern landscape survey and documentation techniques, thereby providing an opportunity to upgrade the Department’s site management systems. The CAP team includes a dozen professionals (drawn from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Italy) with expertise in landscape archaeology, GIS development, and data management.

Members of the CAP travelled to Cyrene, Libya in January and September 2005. In January 2005, work began on the computerization of the Department’s existing paper archaeological records. A computer, external hard drive, and appropriate software were purchased by the CAP for the Department’s use, as well as funding a month’s training for one of the Department’s inspectors with a computer specialist in the nearby town of al-Beida. This inspector then undertook the training of other inspectors in the use of Excel and Word software and to oversee their data entry work, using an Excel database (for files in Arabic, English, and Italian) created by the CAP. The new database now contains over 275 site records that were transcribed from the Department’s old paper archive. The database will also contain a growing collection of digital photographs of recent finds in the region. The CAP worked with the inspectors in the field in both January and September to instruct them on the digital documentation of sites. Further integration of photographs (both old and new) into this database will continue over the course of 2006.

To enhance the effectiveness of this new database, the CAP is working with a Cleveland based software development firm, Aptigent LCC, to design and implement a web-based document repository for Cyrene’s cultural heritage management system. The repository will provide international access and enable sophisticated key-word search and retrieval of all documents.

During the spring and summer of 2005, the CAP began the development of a basic GIS for the city of Cyrene and its territory. A collection was made of available maps and a selection of satellite images pertinent to the research area (Cyrene and its territory) with appropriate metadata. A basic GIS for the research area was created using geo-referenced maps of the Cyrenaica from the British Huntington Aerosurvey (World War II vintage) and the Italian IGM (1920s), along with a coarse digital elevation model (DEM) of north Libya from Shuttle Radar Survey and coverage from Landsat ETM+.

The work of the Cyrenaica Archaeological Project was the cover story in the September/October 2005 issue of *Archaeology* magazine, a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). This feature story is also posted on the *Archaeology* magazine web site at: www.archaeology.org/cyrene. The Archaeological Institute of America has also initiated a new “Grants for Site Preservation” to involve the AIA in the heritage management of worthy archaeological sites. The first pilot project for which money will be raised is the “Cyrene Pilot Project”, which will involve the support of heritage management, not excavation, at Cyrene, Libya. This choice was made to mark the AIA’s historical association with Cyrene (its first excavation was conducted there by Richard Norton in 1910-1911) as well as to recognize the popularity of Cyrene as a destination of the AIA Tours Program.

Members of the CAP will travel to Libya in January 2006 in order to begin plans for the 2006 season.

Professor Susan Kane
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Director, Cyrenaica Archaeological Project
Inspectors working in renovated computer lab with circuit breakers, junction boxes, wiring in conduits, and new computer (all renovations and one computer paid for by the CAP)
Training of inspectors by CAP team member Sam Carrier and sample of Excel sites database

Department of Antiquities staff in the field with CAP members (January and September 2005)
Landsat ETM+ satellite imagery, Huntington Aerosurvey photo and IGM map