Global Heritage Fund  
Cyrene, Libya  
Interim Progress Reporting

GHF PROJECT BACKGROUND

Site Name and Country:  Cyrene, Libya.

Date GHF Started:  2005
Project Director:  Serenella Ensoli.

Date of Report:  September 14th 2007

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SITE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE
Brief site backgrounder indicating significance and universal value.

According to Herodotus, Cyrene, the wealthy colony of Thera (today the island of Santorini), was founded by King Battus in 631 BC. It soon became a focal point of exceptional importance for Mediterranean trade. The city, sacred to Apollo of Delphi, was constantly enlarged and given an increasingly monumental character through the course of the Classical and Hellenistic periods, and it also flourished in the Roman period and in late antiquity.

Only the earthquake of AD 365, the ferocious hostility of the peoples who inhabited the interior and, in particular, the growing aridity of the region brought about a partial decline. Nevertheless, the city was reconstructed on its own ruins and saw the rise of splendid Christian churches, even though pagan religion held out for some time in the countryside, as shown by modern research and noted by the bishop Synesius in the 4th and 5th centuries AD.

The city plan of Cyrene was established at the time of the foundation of the colony and was retained in the Hellenistic and subsequent Roman imperial periods. It is known from excavation in different parts of the city and from study of aerial photographs. The polis was divided into seven city-quarters, which conventionally have been named the Acropolis (in the south-west), the Apollonion (in the north-west), the northern hill (to the north), the Agora (to the south), the Olympeion (in the north-east), the Central Quarter (to the east) and the Southern Quarter (to the south).

The Sanctuary of Apollo is the most fascinating and distinctive site in Cyrene, lying on the Myrtosion aipos, a natural plateau on the north slope of the Acropolis. From here rose the springs sacred to the god and to the nymph Cyrene, which were the main feature that caused the Theran colonists to settle in this location. The Myrtousa plateau, described by Callimachus and Apollonius of Rhodes, is divided into a series of sloping terraces. Originally these were narrower and steeper, but in later periods they were shored-up by vast retaining walls. The
Upper Terrace was known as the Spring of Apollo because of the springs located there. It overlooked the Lower Terrace, which, with its temples of Apollo and Artemis (the patron deities of Cyrene), formed the heart of the sanctuary.

From 1980, when the excavation of the Greek Propylei was entrusted to Serenella Ensoli, Stucchi began a new phase of research in the Sanctuary of Apollo which continued uninterrupted until 2006.

In these last 28 years the area of the sanctuary has been the subject of a complex series of stratigraphic excavations, architectural studies, restorations and reconstruction of monuments, without ever neglecting the technical and academic development of the Libyan staff.

Finally, since 2005, the sanctuary, along with the Apolloion Quarter and the Central Quarter, has been the focus of an excavation contract signed by the President of Libyan Antiquities, Giuma Anag, and by Serenella Ensoli, Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Cyrene (MAIC) from the Second University of Naples (SUN).

**THE THEATRE-AMPHITHEATRE OF THE SANCTUARY OF APOLLO AT CYRENE**

The Theatre-Amphitheatre of Cyrene has been built in the Sanctuary of Apollo, at the extreme western side of the Terrace of the Myrtousa.

This monument is the oldest and most imposing of Cyrene's theatre buildings. It was built in six phases of construction dating from the end of the 6th century BC to the Roman period (2nd - beginning of the 3rd century AD) when the Greek Theatre was transformed into an Amphitheatre. At this time the Wall of Nikodamos was built to separate the area of the ludii (games) from the area devoted to sacred rites.

Excavation and conservation history and GHF intervention.
The excavation seasons undertaken by MAIC in 2005 began the graphic, topographic and photographic documentation needed for the restorations and re-erection of the Theatre-Amphitheatre, which is located at the western extremity of the Myrtousa.

The new research, which has also influenced the computerized inventory of the 2500 or so architectural elements that were placed on the terrace to the west of the monument in the 1900s, took place alongside stratigraphic excavation.

The work has already had an important impact on the reconstruction of the monument in the Greek and Roman periods, let alone the research for the impressive plan of the restoration and for the first phase of reerecting the architectural elements. This grand new project has been undertaken in collaboration with the Cyrene Department of Antiquities and the Global Heritage Fund (Palo Alto, USA). It is the most important study at a monumental level taking place in Libya today.

GHF INVOLVEMENT
Brief project backgrounder. How did the project it develop? What were our primary goals? What changes occurred? What progress was made? Challenges and accomplishments.

The excavation seasons undertaken by MAIC in 2005 began the graphic, topographic and photographic documentation needed for the restorations and re-erection of the Theatre-Amphitheatre. The works has been continued in 2006 and 2007.

Please, see encolsed the attachments A (2005 MAIC Report, sent already), B (July 2006 MAIC Report, sent already), C (July-August 2007 MAIC Report, sending now) concerning the works made with changes and progress occurred (for the October 2006 MAIC Report see the book of MCP realised in CD sent by postal delivery last November 2006).
FOR EVERY PHASES: School of training and formation for the local staff (from Universities, Superintendens etc.).

The restoration and anastylosis of the Theatre-Amphitheatre, the most “poetic” building in Cyrene and perhaps Northern Africa, could be the most monumental archaeology project of Greek and Roman antiquities in Libya today. This accomplishment, will greatly benefit the global tourism sector. Musical talent from all over the world would relish the opportunity to perform in such a monumental Amphitheatre. The reconstruction of the Amphitheatre in “concert” with advances of work in the Sanctuary of Apollo and Cyrene’s Master Conservation Plan will make the landscape of Cyrene a irresistible attraction for world tourism.

MASTER CONSERVATION PLANNING
Does the work and other progress conform to master plan? What changes have occurred, advantages, disadvantages of revisions? Local authority’s reactions to master planning process? Has the master plan been enforced?

As you can see through the attachments above (A, B, C, sent already), The Epicenter (December 7th 2006, sent already), Master Conservation Plan (sent already) and Multiphases and Multiyears Project 2007-2011 (sent already), the drastically reduced funding as support on the Theatre-Amphitheatre Restoration Project it doesn’t permit to reach the whole of goals planned. I would like to remark that local Authority’s reaction to master plan and to the works, diggs and conservations, accomplished during last July-August MAIC 2007 Campaign, has been enthusiastic.

CONSERVATION
Targets reached.

See the attachments above (A, B, C, sent already), The Epicenter (December 7th 2006, sent already) and MCP (sent already).
What has been achieved in site management, planning, training and sustainability? What checks and documentation have been made on scientific techniques?

See the attachments above (A, B, C, sent already), MCP (sent already). I would like to remarke the works accomplished last October 2006 by National Council of Researches (CNR) managed by the Institute for the Technologies Applied to the Cultural Heritage (ITABC). The work of documentation was achieved by high level equipments such as Total Station Trimble 5600, GPS (Leica) with RTK (Real Time Kinematic) System and Scanner Laser 3D.

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REGIONAL RESPONSE AND SUSTAINABILITY
Level of community development, regional development, Tourism?

The programmatic endpoints of Green Mountain Conservation and Development Authority (GMCDA) annonced by Saif al-Islam Gadafi, “Cyrene Declaration - Sustainable Developments in Libya” (Cyrene, September 10th) it has conceived to carry out an terrific increments of community development, regional development and Tourism.

What efforts have been made towards in-country matching funding for GHF conservation effort?

Thanks to the meetings held during the event “Cyrene Declaration” with Francesco Bandarin (UNESCO), Mounir Boushenaki (ICCROM) and Mr. Tatanaki (Oil Libyan Company) I have obtained a technical and scientific support by UNESCO and ICCROM and a deep interesting by Mr. Tatanaki to fund the Restoration Project. It will be crucial for the fund raising the meeting with Mr. Tatanaki will be held in Tripoli the next October.

Concerning my own self, as I was speaking with John hurd and Stefaan Poortman, I need to have an english translator such as not temporary support for what it concerns all kind of my writing communications and meeting support.

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RISK ASSESSMENT
What are the current and future risks?
See the Multiphases and Multiyears Project 2007-2011, Attachment 1 C (sent already).

Which risks have been reduced? How? What is the strategy to mitigate physical, political and team capacity risks?

With “Cyrene Declaration” the Libyan country has been opened to the international cooperation, to have supports and financial cofundings to accomplish projects such as Restoration Project of Theatre-Amphiteatre.

I would like to remarke that it will be crucial to conceive together a bright communication strategy pursueing to the next October meetings in Tripoli to definitely reduce any kind of risks.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - INDICATORS
Brief overview of achievements and success indicators?

1) The “Cyrene Declaration”
2) Libyan meeting to the next October (Libyan Oil Company, UK, USA and Italian Embassadors)
3) Meeting with UNESCO (Paris) and ICCROM (Rome)

ATTACHMENTS
- Site Maps and Plans- What plans and maps have been started or completed this season?

See the Attachment C (July-August MAIC 2007 Report)

- Photographs- general and detailed views of changes and conservation improvements made this season.

See the Attachment C (July-August MAIC 2007 Report).
I will personally give you on the next Libyan October meeting the CD concerning the photos of general and detailed views of each phase of last 2007 work’s campaign.
• **Details** of the important aspects of the property revealed this season. (Landscapes, animal and vegetable species, monuments etc.).

• During my last 2007 Campaign in Cyrene I discovered an archaeological area outside of Sanctuary of Apollo which shows important evidence concerning atipically aspects of landscape, vegetables species and archaeological remains. It will be necessary more surveys to do on the next campaign.

Concerning the whole voices listed below, see the Attachments (A, B, C, sent already and now enclosed), the Epicenter (December 7th 2006, sent already), MCP (sent already) and Multiphases and Multiyears Project 2007-2011 (sent already).

**Management** - Describe the status of the administrative organization and management that is in place for the site. What are the national, state and local institutions and organizations that are responsible for conservation and protection, development and training? Have these changed since preparation of the master plan, are they changing?

**Monitoring** - What types of monitoring of the state of conservation are being undertaken?
Has a formal monitoring system been established? What is data available for:

- Humidity?
- Stability?
- Erosion from visitors?
- Earthquakes?
- Flooding?
- Salt damage?
- Air pollution?
- Impact of climate change?

**Authenticity** - Has the site’s authenticity and integrity been maintained or improved?
Describe the changes to the authenticity / integrity and name the main causes? Unauthentic Materials - Has cement, iron or steel been used in the site?

*What changes are necessary to improve the authenticity and integrity of the site?*
Staffing - please give a description and number of the staffing of the site- management, monitoring, enforcement, planning, architects, archaeologists conservators, maintenance, administration, workers, security. Is additional staffing needed? Is additional training needed?

Visitation - how many visitors are there to the site monthly and annually? Which are the peak seasons? (Please attach annual 1980-present and 2000-2005 monthly, if available).

Revenues- What is the annual budget? What are the ticket revenues? Concession revenues?

Facilities- What visitor facilities are available at the site- parking lot, visitor center, ticket booth, public toilet, prayer area, museum, restaurant, souvenir shops, hotels and pensions? Handicap facilities?

Interpretation - what visitor orientation, panels and guidebooks are available? Which languages are supported?

Communication - How are the site’s World Heritage values being communicated to residents, visitors and the public? Films, books, magazines, exhibitions, education, posters?

Education - Are there educational programmes concerning the site aimed at surrounding schools?

Rome, September 14th 2007

Director of MAIC
Prof. Serenella Ensoli