

« The Dahshur World Heritage Site
Mobilization for Cultural Heritage for
Community Development »

MDG-F Culture and Development Joint
Programme implemented in

EGYPT

Contributions of the Joint Programme to the implementation of UNESCO's Conventions on culture



[1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#)

Joint Programme actions:

- Enhanced institutional capacities to **safeguard cultural heritage**: 45 officials of the Supreme Council of Antiquities were trained in management and conservation of archaeological and World Heritage properties;
- A Local Economic Development (LED) Forum was created in Dahshur and registered as an NGO to provide a sustainable platform for **community-based management of Dahshur**;
- A recommendation was made to include Dahshur Lake and the Palm Grove in the buffer zone of the property inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Joint Programme products:

Several JP products were developed as part of efforts to design an integrated Master Plan for the Dahshur component of the World Heritage Property of Memphis and its Necropolis, in view of safeguarding Dahshur's mixed cultural and natural heritage while also fostering the sustainable development of the area:

- Mapping of Dahshur's cultural and natural resources using Geographic Information Systems;
- Dahshur Tourism Spatial Plan finalised and approved by the Government to provide local communities with sustainable employment opportunities in cultural tourism;
- Ecological assessment and water analysis of Dahshur Lake conducted, and file submitted to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency for Dahshur Lake to be declared a nationally protected area with a view to ensuring the effective preservation of the area's unique biodiversity.



[2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#)

Joint Programme actions:

- **Creativity and protection of cultural expressions** have been nurtured through:
 - Large-scale capacity building of Dahshur locals in the handicraft sector: 330 artisans trained in 5 handicraft sub-sectors (palm tree furniture, basket weaving, palm rugs, carpet products, beadwork and embroidery); special focus on supporting women (83% of trainees) through specific capacity building activities (5 “Women Get Ahead” workshops conducted for more than 100 women; training course in handicraft production conducted for 20 unemployed women; etc.);
 - Financial support for cultural entrepreneurs in Dahshur (local unit created to provide Business Development Services and micro-credits and already benefiting 170 SMEs).
- A **participatory system of local governance in the area of culture** has been ensured through the creation of the Local Economic Development Forum, which enables local stakeholders, community leaders and representatives of disadvantaged groups to participate in managing and coordinating JP activities (the Forum will continue to exist after the JP ends).

Joint Programme products:

Creativity and protection of cultural expressions have been supported through the production of technical sheets presenting new handicraft designs to be used as capacity building tools for handicraft workers and NGOs.