

# Yemen

## *Inventory of Cultural Heritage Priority Sites*

2001-2002



*Arabia Felix Map*

*Management:* **The World Bank**

*Funds:* **Italian Foreign Ministry**

*Beneficiary:* **Yemeni Ministry of Culture**

*Scientific Direction:* **GOAMM (General Organisations of  
Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts)**

*Planning and work  
execution:* **Memar Montassegni SpA**

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*Ishsha Palace in Tarim, Wadi Hadramaut*

### **General methodology**

*“Yemen - Inventory of Cultural Heritage Priority Sites”*, carried out by Memar Montepassigni, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and run by the World Bank in cooperation with Yemeni government Institutions, set the goal of testing and initiating a national catalogue of cultural landmarks for the purpose of creating a *“single cultural heritage register”* by means of the establishment of a Central Regional Office in the capital, Sana’a, and of a prime Regional Office in Sayun, in the Region of Hadramawt.

It has been an authentic cataloguing project: we have striven to achieve an awareness as the necessary prelude to acting for the safeguard and use of the cultural landmarks.



*Internal of mosque in Sana'a*

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*Saiun town*



*Ribat village, Wadi Daw'an*



*Ahmed Bin Zin's Qubba  
in the village of Al Hauta*



*Mausoleum of Hud's prophet  
in Wadi Masila*

### SANA'A

#### **Nationwide information system of documentary sources**

In the capital, Sana'a, we established a valid technical and operational method for the entire country, which enabled us to gather information in the field, in each region, on the site complexes and on the archaeological and historical monuments by means of records, photos and surveys. At the same time, we created a documentary source archive: books, articles, papers, maps, etc. Here the foundations were laid for a fully equipped central office in space provided by the Archeological Museum of Sana'a.



*Mosque of Huwaira in Wadi Daw'an*



*Castle of Al Yafê in the village  
of 'Oqdat Al Naqib*

### WADI HADRAMAUT

#### **900 cultural assets catalogued**

- 3 towns (*Tarim, Shibam, Saiun*)
- 392 villages
- 65 qubba
- 7 mausoleums
- 106 mosques
- 83 castles
- 182 siqaye
- 123 archaeological sites



*Siqaya near the village  
of Hautat Sultana*



*Rupessian tombs in the necropolis  
near Al Mashhad*

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*Bin Laden's family home  
in the village Ribat in Wadi Daw'an*



*Internal of mosque in Sana'a*

In the provinces of Wadi Hadramawt and its emissaries these activities involved the creation of a fully equipped office in space provided by the Archaeological Museum of the town of Say'un, making it possible to work in the future as well with local personnel, which Memar first selected and then trained in the course of the project.

Here, by means of direct field survey, we created an archive of the sites and monuments studied. We proceeded to their recognition by means of GPS, and to their illustration on oriented cartography.

### **Inventory of towns and villages**

We completed a catalogue of historical sites (*ca. 400*) made up of small towns and several villages of the main wadi and of secondary wadis.

The Yemeni operatives under the guidance of Memar teachers recorded the main sites and monuments, using the methodology provided by the Council of Europe, and documented with photos and sketches.

### **Inventory of archaeological sites**

We organised the catalogue of archaeological sites (*ca. 125*). The Yemeni archaeologists, trained and guided by Italian operatives, recorded and documented by means of photos and sketches all the sites previously studied by the French, American and Russian archaeological missions.



*Siqaia in Wadi Masila*



*Palm groves in Wadi Daw'an*

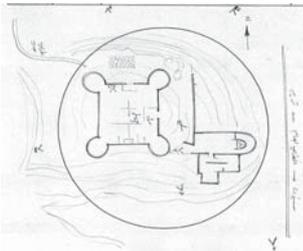


*Inhabited village of Al Khashab*

# Yemen

## *Inventary of Cultural Heritage Priority Sites*

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*Fortification settlement  
of Husn al Mutahhar*

### Sketches

On the ground, during the survey, all the archaeological sites were illustrated with sketches.

For the monuments, in particular the mosques, a “summary survey” was carried out:

- archaeological sites: *ca. 125*
- complexes and monuments: *ca. 200*

In all cases, the reliefs featured the same points of view as the photographic studies.



*Al Faluqa' s castles  
in Wadi Masila*

### GPS

The position of the archaeological and historical monument sites was surveyed on the ground with satellite instruments:

- archaeological sites: *ca. 125*
- complexes and monuments: *ca. 200*
- sigqayas: *ca. 180*

Subsequently, their coordinates were posted on the map and then inserted into the GIS named GEOSEM.

This last operation also functioned as a test of the accuracy of the data gathered on the ground.



*Al Aglaniya' s castle  
in Wadi Al Ain*

### Photos

The digital photos with captions, orientation and univocal code were divided into the following categories:

- archaeology (*ca. 1.000*)
- cities, villages, monuments (*ca. 4.000*)
- siquayas, wells, etc. (*ca. 500*)

After processing, the circa 5,500 digital images were associated with the records.



*Baloonny of Salim Ba Zin Palace  
in Al Khashab*

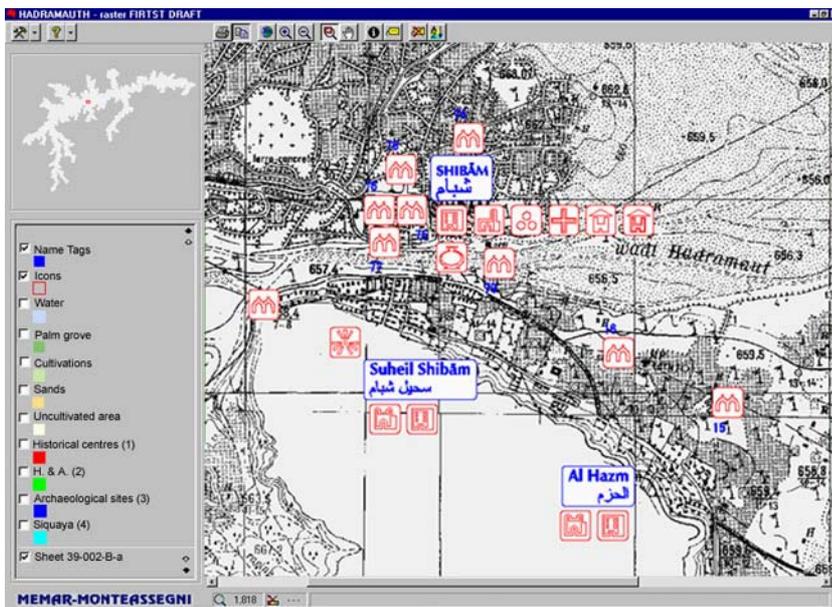


*Fort of Cheil 'Omar  
in Wadi 'Adm*

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### Local information system

We set up a database linked to the oriented digital cartography [1:25.000 e 1:100.000 scale). First, a territorial information system serves the purpose of uniting all this information which would otherwise remain scattered throughout different archives: the images are linked to the records and the territories, while the present is linked to the past by means of documentary sources.

Records and photos can be explored starting with the territory and vice versa.

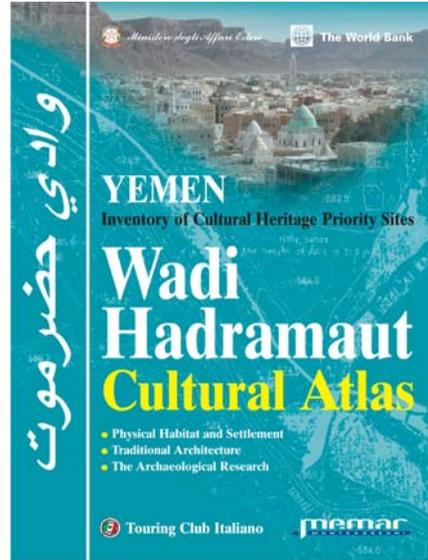
This system of easy utilisation, already achieved for the following projects: “*Cultural Heritage Management of Tunisia*”, “*Territorial Information System of Priority Archaeological Sites of Rumania*” has also been developed for the project “*Yemen – Catalogue of Priority Cultural Heritage Sites*”; of course changes and improvements have been added along the way.



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#### **Wadi Hadramawt Cultural Atlas**

The Touring Club of Italy has been entrusted with the creation of Cultural Heritage Atlas of Wadi Hadramawt, accompanied by a small guide, all in the characteristic style of the products of this important Italian publishing institution.

This prefigures one of the most important uses of the information gathered by us in the course of our inventorying the area's cultural, archaeological and architectural heritage.

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Husain Alhady (*archivist*)



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#### Memar-Montassegni S.p.A.

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Memar-Montassegni S.p.A., with seats in Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Ravenna and Arezzo, is one of the main national firms for data recording and electronic processing, which now boasts thirty years of its highest levels of experience in the field for information services.

The services offered as mentioned below are organised into four well integrated sectors:

- **SIT – Territorial Information Systems:** *cataloguing and increase in value of cultural assets, historical archives, photographic funds, multimedia software planning for reference and divulgation.*
- **Data Entry and Data Management:** *recording and creating a data bank; accounting procedure management; teleprocessing; massive prints and mailings; correspondence management.*
- **GED (EDM) – Electronic Document Management:** *production and electronic document management; paper archives transformation and print spools in organised and catalogued images data banks.*
- **Archives:** *recording service, cataloguing and third-party document warehouse of all the paper documents produced by firms' activities with the aim of a quick copy or original forwarding to the users who need them for consultation.*

Memar-Montassegni counts amongst its clients organisations such as: Ministries and Institutes for cultural activities, Museums, libraries, amongst some of the most important Italian Banks, Financial Societies, Public Services, Chamber Of Commerce, important Private Societies and historic and artistic funds.

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