



Science Policy and Sustainable Development

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Archaeomap



Punic mask on display in Carthage Museum. In the course of the long Punic wars (from the Latin word punicus for Phoenician) opposing Rome and Carthage from 264 BC onwards, Carthage occupied territories belonging to Rome, which finally destroyed its rival in 146 BC. Today, Carthage is a World Heritage site, as is Tyr, another Phoenician city.

Photo: UNESCO

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The Archaeomap project – for Archaeological Management Policies – kicked off in the town of Palerme, on the Italian island of Sicily, on 7 December 2007. Financed by the European Commission to the tune of 480 000 euros, the project foresees the establishment of an international committee to coordinate the elaboration of integrated science policies for the Mediterranean's coastal zone. The aim is to develop a common framework for sustainable development of the zone to preserve its natural, cultural and underwater heritage.

Over the next two years, the archaeological treasures of ten pilot sites will be studied: the Aegadian Islands off the northwest coast of Sicily and the Sinis Peninsula on the west coast of the island of Sardinia (both in Italy), the island of Pharos in Alexandria (Egypt), Gibraltar (UK), Empuria on Spain's Costa Brava, the town of Villefranche-sur-Mer (France), Salonika Bay (Greece), the island state of Malta and the Phoenician cities of Carthage (Tunisia) and Tyr (Lebanon).

Under the guidance of the international committee, the project will develop innovative methodologies and interdisciplinary indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable development of the Mediterranean coast. The Committee will meet twice a year in Alexandria, Barcelona (Spain), Paris (France) and Palerme. Within this committee, La Soprintendenza del Mare of the region of Sicily is responsible for overall coordination of the project and UNESCO for scientific coordination specifically. The Archaeomap secretariat in Paris is hosted by UNESCO's Division of Science Policy and Sustainable Development.

Archaeomap was born of a resolution to UNESCO's General Conference in 2005 inviting the Organization to support a regional action plan for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean's marine heritage, as follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. UNESCO was asked to set up an international committee to study the contribution of science and culture to sustainable development in the Mediterranean. UNESCO's Division of Science Policy and Sustainable Development subsequently drafted a project proposal which the Soprintendenza del Mare then submitted to the European Commission for funding on behalf of the co-sponsors.

UNESCO will be organizing an international forum in 2009 to disseminate the information amassed by the Archaeomap project via a symposium and training workshop. International and national experts in natural, cultural and underwater heritage of the Mediterranean will participate in the forum, during which UNESCO will present the World Heritage Convention (1972) and the Convention on Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001). Three of the ten pilot sites being studied by Archaeomap are World Heritage sites.

- [Website](#) (in Italian)
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Recent developments



Committee meets for first time

December 2007 - The international committee for Archaeomap met for the first time at the project's kick-off meeting in Palerme (Sicily, Italy) on 7 December. Some of the committee members are pictured here, including Mustafa El-Tayeb, Director of the Division of Science Policy and Sustainable Development (second from right).