



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE



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FIRENZE  
**SAGAS**  
DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA,  
ARCHITETTURA, GEOGRAFIA  
ARTE E SPETTACOLO



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO

**ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
FLORENCE UNIVERSITY**

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS Development Cooperation in Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries**

The Conference aims at debating development cooperation approaches to the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage in fragile contexts, with a geographical focus on the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent. An in-depth exploration will be devoted to the case study of the World Heritage Site of Bamiyan, Afghanistan, in the aftermath of the fall of the Afghan government in August 2021.

Day 1 opening session is dedicated to a review and comparison between methodologies and operational approaches to cultural protection actions implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and selected international non-profit organizations active in the field of heritage in the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent.

Contributions will offer evidence of key relationships between the protection of cultural heritage and the generation of sustainable development, with a focus on how cultural protection actions contribute to mitigating social and economic fragilities affecting the contexts of intervention.

During the closing session of day 1, a round table will bring into dialogue Italian universities, research centres active in the field of cooperation and cooperation actors, to discuss the role of cultural heritage as a driving wheel for socio-economic and territorial development.

Day 2 focuses on the case of the World Heritage Site of Bamiyan. The morning sessions offer a review of the main actions of cultural heritage protection realized in the area, with the aim of discussing achievements until the Taliban takeover and of highlighting the most critical issues and the sectors mostly in need of further intervention.

The afternoon sessions expand on the relationships between the protection of cultural heritage and the policies to manage the exponential urban and demographic growth, a key topic in the Afghan cities. The contributions presented in these sessions pay particular attention to align conservation interventions and social dimension. The contributions presented in these sessions are based on data collected during field research that took place immediately before the Taliban takeover (April-June 2021). The conference foresees a final session aimed at discussing the main outcomes and future perspectives.

Following events are offered during the conference:

- *Cultural Heritage and Climate Change*, Exhibition organized by **Imam Rajabi and Ejaz Ahmadi** (Florence University)
- *Bamiyan Living Culture*, Video Installation organized by **LaGeS and Studio Azzurro** (Milan)

Under the patronage of UNESCO



and of



Regione Toscana



**10<sup>th</sup> November 2022** (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Florence, Aula Magna Palazzo Fenzi

**Welcome Greetings**

9:15 am - 9:30 am

**Alessandra Petrucci** (Rector of Florence University)

**Titta Meucci** (Councilor for University and Research, Florence Municipality)

**Regione Toscana authority**

**DGCS/MAECI authority**

**Introduction**

9:30 am-10:00 am

**Leonardo Carmenati** (Deputy Director AICS)

**Mirella Loda** (Delegate for Development Cooperation, Florence University)

**Session 1: Cultural Heritage in Fragile Contexts: mitigating social and economic fragilities for sustainable development**

Chairs: **Paola Abenante**, AICS Office III, Rome; **Cristina Menegazzi**, AICS Islamabad

10:00 am - 10:20 am

**Nao Hayashi** (UNESCO, Word Heritage Center)

10:20 am - 10:40 am

**Georges Khawam** (ICCROM)

10:40 am – 11:00 am

**Emilio Cabasino** (AICS Amman)

11:00 am - 11:20 am

**Samir Abdulac** (ICOMOS working group on the safeguarding of Syrian heritage)

11:20 am – 11:40 am

**Coffee break**

11:40 am - 12:00 pm

**Alessandra Piermattei** (AICS Beirut)

12:00 pm - 12:20 pm

**Elsa Urtizverea** (ALIPH Foundation)

12:20 pm - 12:40 pm

**Edoardo Greppi** (International Institute of Humanitarian Law)

12:40 pm – 1.00 pm

**Discussion**

**Lunch**

*2:30 pm – 4:30 pm*

Florence, Aula Magna Palazzo Fenzi

**Session 2: Cultural Heritage in Fragile Contexts: actions in Afghanistan and Pakistan**

Chairs: **Paola Abenante**, AICS Office III, Rome; **Cristina Menegazzi**, AICS Islamabad

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2:30 pm - 2:50 pm | <b>Abdul Samad</b> (Directorate of Archaeology and Museums of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) |
| 2:50 pm - 3:10 pm | <b>Emanuela Benini</b> (AICS Islamabad)   |
| 3:10 pm - 3:30 pm | <b>Ajmal Maiwandi</b> (AKTC Afghanistan)  |
| 3:30 pm - 3:50 pm | <b>Rosario Centola</b> (former AICS Kabul)  |
| 3:50 pm – 4:10 pm | <b>Discussion</b>   |
| 4:10 pm - 4:30 pm | <b>Coffee break</b><br>Videos on Bamiyan, Afghanistan and Barikot-Pakistan        |

*04:30 pm – 5:45 pm*

Florence, Aula Magna Palazzo Fenzi

**Session 3: Round table on Cultural Heritage and Development**

Chair: **Edoardo Greppi**, International Institute of Humanitarian Law; **Fabio Strinati**, Office III AICS, Rome

**Emilio Cabasino** (AICS Amman)

**Mirella Loda** (Florence University)

**Stefano Pellò** (Ca' Foscari University, Venice)

**Valeria Piacentini** (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan)

**Adriano Valerio Rossi** (ISMEO)

**Umberto Vattani** (Venice International University)

**Coordination of Afghan Students at Florence University**, in presence of **Maria Paola Monaco**

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2022** (9:00 am – 12:00 am)

***The Experience of the Bamiyan Expert Working Group:***

***in Memory of Michael Jansen***

Florence University, Aula Magna Palazzo Fenzi

**Opening speech**

9:00 am - 9:15 am

**Fulvio Cervini** (SAGAS, Florence University)

**Session 4: Achievements in Afghanistan, Bamiyan**

Chair: **Mounir Bouchenaki**, Advisor to UNESCO Director General

9:15 am - 9:35 am

**Bert Praxenthaler** (ICOMOS Germany), *Conservation of the Buddha Niches*

9:35 am - 9:55 am

**Kazuya Yamauchi** (Tokyo University), *The Archaeology of the Bamiyan Valley*

9:55 am - 10:15 am

**Mirella Loda, Gaetano Di Benedetto** (Florence University), *Cultural Landscape in the Bamiyan Strategic Masterplan*

10:15 am - 10:35 am

**Coffee break**

10:35 am - 10:55 am

**Ana Rosa Rodríguez García** (Society for the Preservation of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage), *Prioritising human capital in the protection of cultural heritage*

10:55 am - 11:15 am

**Georgios Toubekis** (Fraunhofer FIT), *Requirements for the protection of the UNESCO World Heritage 'Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley'*

11:15 am - 11:35 am

**Brendan Cassar** (UNESCO Kabul), *The UNESCO Office in Afghanistan: past, present and potential future activities*

11:35 am – 12:00 pm

**Discussion**

**Lunch**

02:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Florence University, Aula Magna Palazzo Fenzi

**Session 5: Challenges in Urban Development**

Chair: **Carlo Francini**, Site manager Historic Centre of Florence,  
Municipality of Florence

- 2:00 pm - 2:20 pm                      **Manfred Hinz** (Passau University), *Framing conservation activities in the social local context of Bamiyan*
- 2:20 pm - 2:40 pm                      **Mirella Loda** (Florence University), **Bashir Amiri** (Florence University), **Nipesh Narayanan** (Institute National de la Recherche Scientifique, Montreal), *Improving urban quality through land titling? Considerations from the Bamiyan case*
- 2:40 pm - 3:00 pm                      **Gaetano Di Benedetto, Giovanna Potestà, Reza Akbari** (Florence University), *Upgrading informal settlements in heritage sites: Bamiyan*
- 3:00 pm - 3:20 pm                      **Coffee break**
- 3:20 pm - 3:40 pm                      **Mario Tartaglia, Masihullah Ahmadzai, Adelina Sultan** (Florence University), *Improving the accessibility of educational facilities in Bamiyan*
- 3:40 pm - 4:00 pm                      **Kamran Lashari** (Walled City of Lahore Authority), *Urbanistic intervention at the Walled City of Lahore*
- 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm                      **Discussion**

04:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
Florence University, Aula Magna Palazzo Fenzi

**Session 6: Wrap up  
Concluding remarks by**

**Mounir Bouchenaki** (Advisor to UNESCO Director General)  
**DGCS Authority** (tbc)  
**Emilio Ciarlo** (AICS, Executive for Institutional Relations)  
**Alessandra Petrucci** (Rector of Florence University)

**Closing dinner**

Registration and link to the conference (Moderators: Andrea Merli, AICS; Matteo Puttilli, Florence University):

[Cultural Heritage in Fragile Contexts - 10<sup>th</sup> November](#)

[Cultural Heritage in Fragile Contexts – 11<sup>th</sup> November](#)

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