

The National Agency for Protected Sectors and Its Role in Safeguarding Cultural Heritage During Crises

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Abstract

Through this article, we will address the concept of the protected sector in Algeria and explore the mandate of the National Agency for Protected Sectors and its crucial role in safeguarding cultural heritage within Algeria's protected sectors. We will then shed light on experiences in cultural heritage protection in some Arab countries, such as Egypt, Syria, and Sudan. Next, we will clarify the importance of cultural heritage for national and human identity, and the various challenges it faces in emergencies, such as natural disasters and armed conflicts. Through a historical review of international agreements and key events that have contributed to shaping cultural heritage protection, I will analyze the legislative frameworks and policies guiding the agency's work. Furthermore, I will present case studies illustrating the agency's interventions and the challenges it faces, including resource constraints and legal obstacles. Based on the concept of an Emergency Plan, we will review the main reasons that necessitate preparing such a plan for the purpose of crisis preparedness. In the conclusion of the article, we will propose the essential strategies for enhancing crisis preparedness, such as strengthening risk awareness and leveraging technological innovations. Finally, we will identify the current gaps in practices and policies, providing recommendations for future improvements, while emphasizing the necessity of sustainable international cooperation to protect cultural heritage from imminent risks.

Keywords: *Cultural Heritage, Crisis Management, Protected Sector, Emergency Plan, Risk Awareness.*

Introduction

Cultural heritage is a fundamental pillar of national identity and human history. It reflects the achievements, traditions, and collective values of communities and serves as a bridge connecting generations. Preserving cultural heritage is not only about safeguarding the historical and cultural fabric of society but also enhances the sense of belonging and pride among its members. In times of crises, whether caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts, or economic instability, cultural heritage often faces serious threats. These challenges can lead to an irreversible loss of historical artifacts, architectural masterpieces, and intangible cultural practices, which are essential for understanding our shared past and shaping our future. In an increasingly globalized world, heritage reminds us of the uniqueness and richness of human civilizations. However, preserving it often faces challenges due to various crises, highlighting the need for coordinated efforts at both national and international levels.

Cultural heritage is particularly at risk during crises, which can take many forms, including natural disasters, armed conflicts, and economic disturbances. Such events often lead to the destruction, looting, and neglect of cultural assets, with long-term consequences for affected communities. For instance, the Arab region has witnessed the devastating impact of armed conflicts on cultural heritage, as elucidated by Boujemaadghish and (Mansour, 2022). The authors discuss how crises like the COVID-19 pandemic have burdened local communities, complicating efforts to protect cultural assets. Similarly, natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods pose significant risks to cultural heritage, causing severe damage that often makes restoration impossible. Armed conflicts frequently lead to deliberate attacks on cultural heritage, as evidenced by the destruction of archaeological sites in Iraq and Syria. Such acts not only erase historical records but also undermine the cultural identity of affected communities. Economic crises can also impact cultural heritage, as budget constraints and limited resources often compel governments and institutions responsible for heritage maintenance to prioritize immediate needs over comprehensive long-term heritage conservation plans. The economic challenges faced by Lebanon over the past century have affected its

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ability to preserve its cultural heritage, despite its status as a cultural hub in the Arab world (Group of Authors, 2021).

Cultural bodies play a crucial role in protecting cultural heritage during crises. These entities are typically responsible for implementing policies, coordinating efforts, and mobilizing resources to safeguard cultural assets. Their core mission often involves collaborating with various stakeholders, including local communities, international organizations, and government bodies.

Establishing and implementing legislative frameworks that ensure the protection of cultural heritage is one of the primary responsibilities of the cultural authority. These frameworks often include measures to prevent the illicit trafficking of artifacts, establish protocols for emergency response, and allocate resources for restoration projects. As highlighted by researcher (Bassem Mohammed Yassine Al-Shakri 2024), sustainable tourism development can also contribute to preserving natural and cultural resources, providing an economic incentive for protecting heritage sites.

This research aims to provide a forward-looking approach to the role of the National Agency for Protected Sectors in protecting cultural heritage during crises. Through international examples that have successfully adapted to and overcome crises, the research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the agency's efforts in protecting heritage under normal circumstances and its future role in facing the challenges of cultural heritage preservation. As noted by (Ghalion, 2017) reconnecting with historical heritage is essential for enhancing the sense of identity and continuity, especially in times of crises.

The research will explore different aspects of the agency's work, including its legislative framework, emergency response mechanisms, and cooperation with local and international partners. It will also highlight case studies that demonstrate the agency's effectiveness in protecting cultural heritage during crises. By identifying best practices and areas for improvement, the research aims to contribute to ongoing efforts to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.

Protecting cultural heritage is a global responsibility that requires collective action. International frameworks such as the World Heritage Convention of 1972 provide a foundation for preserving cultural and natural heritage sites of outstanding universal value. As noted by (Authors, Theoretical Research and Case Studies, 2023), the World Heritage Convention is one of the most successful international tools for protecting cultural heritage, offering a model for addressing the challenges posed by crises.

The National Agency's cooperation with international organizations is critical for leveraging global expertise and resources. By participating in initiatives such as the World Heritage Fund and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, the agency can enhance its capacity to protect cultural heritage during crises. These partnerships also facilitate knowledge exchange and best practices, enabling the agency to adopt innovative approaches to heritage preservation.

Cultural heritage is an invaluable asset that embodies collective memory and human identity. Preserving it is essential for promoting cultural diversity, fostering mutual understanding, and ensuring the continuity of human history. However, cultural heritage faces significant challenges in times of crises, underscoring the need for coordinated efforts at both national and international levels.

The National Agency for Protected Sectors plays a pivotal role in protecting cultural heritage during crises. Through its legislative framework, emergency response mechanisms, and international cooperation, the agency addresses the complex challenges associated with cultural heritage preservation. This research, by analyzing its strategies and contributions, aims to provide insightful perspectives on the agency's effectiveness and identify opportunities for improvement.

In an era of increasing global interconnectedness, protecting cultural heritage requires sustainable efforts and international collaboration. As highlighted by (Al-Arabi, 2021), addressing the challenges of cultural heritage preservation is a shared responsibility that transcends national borders. By working together,

countries can ensure the protection of cultural heritage for future generations, preserving the richness and diversity of human civilization.

Concept of the Permanent Plan for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Protected Sector

The Law on the Protection of National Heritage, in Article 41, addresses the concept of the protected sector in general, defining it as all urban or rural groups such as kasbahs, cities, palaces, villages, and traditional residential complexes characterized by the predominance of residential areas, which possess historical, architectural, artistic, or traditional significance that justifies their protection, rehabilitation, and enhancement (Algeria, 1998).

Based on the primary goal of establishing the protected sector, which aims to safeguard the area included in the PPSMVSS from all forms of human and natural encroachment, the permanent plan for the preservation and rehabilitation of the protected sector replaces the Land Use Plan (POS). Consequently, all renewal and internal and external preparation works affecting properties within the protected sector must be subject to the approval of the National Agency for Protected Sectors (Algeria, 1998).

Protected Sectors in Algeria

The same law, in Article 42, discusses how protected sectors are established and their boundaries determined by a decree based on a joint report from the ministers responsible for culture, interior, local communities, environment, urban planning, and civil engineering. A proposed project for a protected sector can be suggested to the Minister of Culture by local communities or civil society movements (Algeria, 1998).

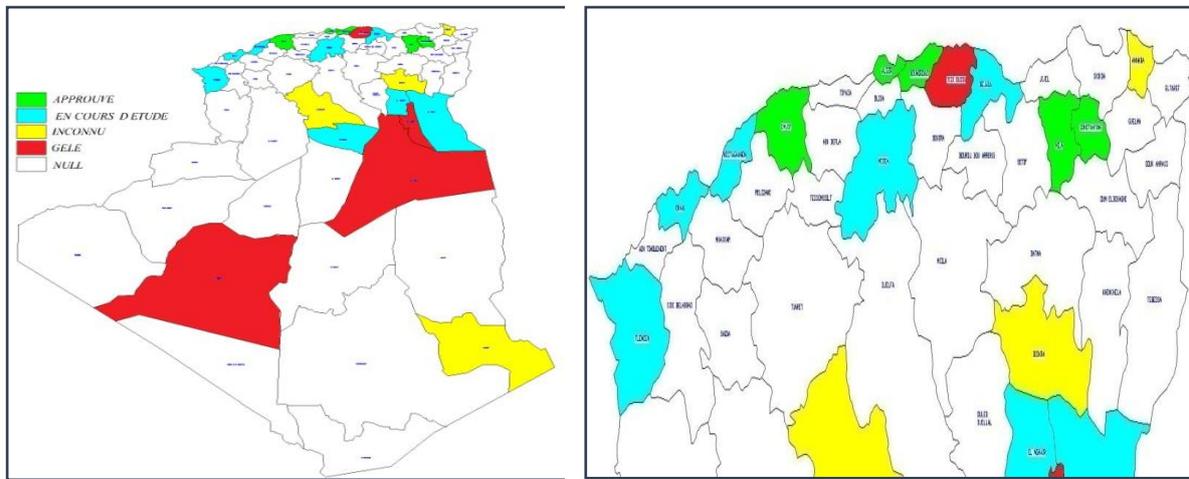


Figure 1: Protected Sectors in Algeria

The National Agency for Protected Sectors

Recognizing the importance of the protected sector and the scale of work it requires, the Algerian state established the National Agency for Protected Sectors by Executive Decree No. 11-02 dated January 5, 2011, published in the Official journal on January 9, 2011. It is considered a public institution with administrative characteristics, enjoying legal personality and financial independence (Algeria., (2011)).

Main Tasks of the National Agency for Protected Sectors

The executive decree specifies in its fourth article the main tasks of the National Agency for Protected Sectors, which include (Algeria., (2011)):

1. Ensuring the preservation of the heritage character of the protected sector.
2. Implementing preservation, restoration, and enhancement operations as outlined in the permanent plan for the preservation of protected sectors and evaluating them.
3. Monitoring the implementation of operations that fall within the framework of the permanent plans for preservation and evaluating the protected sectors.
4. Providing a technical opinion regarding interventions in the protected sector upon request from the relevant authorities.
5. Ensuring that studies and works related to the restoration of properties located in a protected sector and their rehabilitation and preservation align with the applicable standards in this field.
6. Providing a technical opinion on files related to the use or employment of any restored historical monument or the division, subdivision, or fragmentation of classified historical monuments or those proposed for classification, which are subject to prior licensing from the Minister of Culture.
7. Taking all measures to prevent the destruction of real estate properties in accordance with the applicable regulations in coordination with the relevant authorities.
8. Providing the relevant authorities with information related to the final or temporary resettlement of individuals outside the protected sector and their reintegration into restored buildings and expropriation operations for public benefit.
9. Preparing assistance files for the benefit of private owners of real estate properties located in the vicinity of the protected sector intended for the rehabilitation and restoration of places.
10. Raising awareness among residents and informing them about all matters related to preserving the protected sector and protecting and conserving classified historical monuments as well as the techniques for maintaining old buildings.
11. Ensuring all tasks related to information and consultation regarding the aspects related to interventions and the use of real estate properties located in the protected sector.
12. Conducting studies within the framework of its assigned tasks.

The Role of Cultural Institutions in Crisis Scenarios

Cultural heritage is the cornerstone of national identity, embodying the stories, traditions, and artistic achievements of communities across generations. However, during crises such as armed conflicts, natural disasters, and climate events, these valuable resources often face significant threats. Cultural institutions overseeing this heritage play a pivotal role in its protection. This section addresses the legislative frameworks regulating these bodies, their coordination with international organizations, and real case studies highlighting their interventions.

The work of cultural institutions is based on a legislative framework that provides a suitable field for protecting cultural heritage during crises. These frameworks include international and regional agreements aimed at protecting cultural heritage as an integral part of humanity's collective identity. The World Heritage Convention of 1972, as explained by (Jo, 2023), serves as a fundamental tool for many bodies globally. By

recognizing the universal value of cultural and natural heritage, the convention lays down guidelines for preservation strategies and responses during crises (Jo, 2023).

In many countries, national bodies operate under laws that mandate the identification, protection, and restoration of cultural heritage sites. For example, (Saleh, 2020) discusses how Syrian legislation expanded its scope to include crisis management and disaster planning during the recent armed conflict. This legal development enabled authorities to respond more effectively to threats posed by war, ensuring the restoration and preservation of affected sites for future generations.

However, legislation alone cannot ensure the preservation of cultural heritage; its implementation requires well-coordinated policies and enforcement mechanisms. Policies often focus on preventive measures, such as conducting risk assessments and establishing emergency response protocols. For instance, Salah et al. (2022) emphasize the importance of identifying alternative storage sites for artifacts and archives during emergencies, a practice often overlooked but crucial for ensuring the survival of heritage materials. National agencies also work to raise public awareness by educating communities about the importance of cultural heritage and their role in its protection.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. (Debon, 2023) points out, many cultural institutions face difficulties in maintaining sufficient funding and resources for implementation, putting some sites at risk during crises. Therefore, balancing legislative ambition with practical feasibility is essential for effective protection. Protecting cultural heritage is not solely a national responsibility; it requires international cooperation due to the shared value of these sites. National agencies frequently coordinate with international organizations such as UNESCO, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to enhance their efforts during crises.

UNESCO, through its World Heritage program, provides technical assistance, funding, and advocacy for threatened sites. The organization also facilitates knowledge exchange and best practices among member states. For instance, during the Syrian conflict, UNESCO played a crucial role in training local heritage specialists to document damage and develop restoration plans (Saleh, 2020). This partnership enabled cultural institutions to leverage global expertise to tackle local challenges, which is what agencies tasked with heritage protection must strive for. (Al-Hajri, 2022) highlight the importance of this training in equipping staff with the necessary skills to respond effectively to crises. Additionally, ICCROM's research initiatives contribute to developing innovative solutions, such as digital documentation techniques, which national agencies can benefit from.

Collaboration with these organizations also extends to advocacy efforts aimed at preventing intentional destruction during armed conflicts. For example, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict provides guidelines for protecting heritage during war. By partnering with UNESCO and other bodies, national agencies can utilize these guidelines to safeguard sites and prosecute those responsible for deliberate damage. Despite the positive impact of international coordination, challenges remain in aligning global strategies with local realities. As (Al-Jabri, 2021) notes, disparities in priorities and resource allocation can hinder effective cooperation. Addressing these gaps requires deeper integration of local knowledge into international frameworks, ensuring that global efforts are adapted to specific contexts.

Real-life examples illustrate the critical role cultural institutions play in protecting cultural heritage during crises. These case studies highlight success stories, challenges, and lessons learned, offering valuable insights for future interventions. The Syrian conflict, which began in 2011, had devastating effects on the country's cultural heritage. Famous sites like Palmyra and the Old City of Aleppo suffered severe damage from bombing and looting. In response, overseeing cultural institutions implemented a comprehensive plan to address these threats. (Hussein 2020) describes how these institutions collaborated with UNESCO to document the damage, establish preventive measures, and plan for post-conflict restoration. Notable initiatives included creating digital archives for endangered artifacts, ensuring that their details are preserved even if physical pieces are lost.

This intervention not only preserved Syrian cultural heritage but also demonstrated the importance of resilience in heritage protection. By leveraging international expertise and adapting to local conditions, cultural institutions were able to mitigate the effects of the crisis.

Egypt boasts a rich cultural heritage spanning thousands of years; however, its archaeological sites face increasing threats from natural disasters such as floods. (Khaled 2024) discusses how Egyptian authorities developed response strategies to protect heritage sites during these events. Cultural bodies collaborated with local communities to create flood barriers and drainage systems around vulnerable sites like the temples of Luxor and Aswan. Furthermore, the agency worked with ICCROM to train staff on emergency preparedness, ensuring a swift response to future disasters.

This case study highlights the importance of involving local communities in heritage protection. By fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility, the agency was able to enhance the effectiveness of its interventions. In Sudan, cultural heritage is closely tied to tourism, making its preservation crucial for economic stability. The book by (Bin, 2023) explores how cultural institutions in Sudan addressed crises by integrating heritage protection with tourism management. During periods of political instability and economic hardship, the agency prioritized restoring key sites to attract visitors and generate revenue. Collaborative efforts with UNESCO and regional organizations played a vital role in achieving these goals.

Drawing on past experiences and aiming to adapt to crises, the National Agency, in its direct oversight of protected sectors, must develop its strategies to anticipate disasters and work according to a comprehensive plan to achieve its objectives of protecting cultural heritage. In this regard, the role of national bodies in protecting cultural heritage during crises is multifaceted, encompassing legislative frameworks, international coordination, and direct interventions. While challenges such as resource constraints persist, the successes of agencies in Syria, Egypt, and Sudan demonstrate the potential for effective heritage protection through collaboration and innovation. To enhance their efforts, national agencies should continue to refine their policies, invest in capacity building, and strengthen international partnerships. In doing so, they can ensure the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations, even in the face of adversity.

Strategies to Enhance Crisis Preparedness

Preserving cultural heritage during crises is a complex and multifaceted endeavor that requires proactive strategies and forward-looking methodologies. Given that crises such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, and pandemics pose serious risks to cultural sites and artifacts, enhancing crisis preparedness is crucial. This section will address three main strategies: building a culture of risk awareness among stakeholders and local communities, leveraging technological innovations in cultural heritage protection, and emphasizing the importance of training and capacity building for heritage protection workers.

Building a culture of risk awareness is one of the most critical aspects of crisis preparedness. This involves educating stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, about the importance of cultural heritage and the risks it faces during crises. This awareness ensures that all parties understand their roles in protecting and preserving cultural assets.

Stakeholders and communities must recognize that cultural heritage is not merely a collection of historical artifacts but an essential part of their identity and history. According to (Saleh, 2020), cultural heritage is the cornerstone of local identity and contributes to maintaining the surrounding environment of each community. This understanding can motivate communities to take an active role in protecting their heritage, even in difficult times.

Risk awareness campaigns take multiple forms, such as public workshops, school programs, and awareness events. These initiatives should be designed to fit the specific cultural and social contexts of the target audience. For instance, in regions with a rich cultural history like Syria, where nine thousand years of civilization have produced some of the world's most significant cultural heritage sites, it is crucial to design programs that align with local traditions and values (Saleh, 2020).

Furthermore, effective communication and collaboration between government bodies and local communities are essential. As (Al-al, 2022) points out, cultural policies should support and empower local initiatives rather than impose rigid structures. By fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among local communities, authorities can create a network of vigilant individuals ready to act in the event of a crisis. Data-driven approaches can play an important role in enhancing risk awareness. For example, mapping heritage sites at risk and sharing this information with stakeholders can help prioritize protection efforts. Engaging local communities in the data collection process can also enhance their understanding of risks and the importance of preserving heritage.

However, building a culture of risk awareness is not without challenges. Resource limitations, conflicting priorities, and a lack of awareness among policymakers all hinder efforts to effectively engage local communities. To overcome these obstacles, it is essential to secure adequate funding and integrate cultural heritage protection into broader disaster management strategies.

Technological advancements have revolutionized the field of cultural heritage protection, providing new tools and techniques to enhance crisis preparedness. From digital documentation to remote sensing technologies, these innovations offer unprecedented opportunities for safeguarding cultural assets before, during, and after crises.

Digital documentation is one of the most effective tools for preserving cultural heritage. By creating detailed digital records of artifacts, archaeological sites, and monuments, authorities can ensure that valuable information is not lost in the event of damage or destruction. For example, 3D scanning and photogrammetry techniques can produce high-resolution digital copies of cultural heritage sites, which can be used in restoration efforts or virtual exhibitions.

As BoujemaaAdghish and (Mansour, 2022) emphasized, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of digital tools in crisis management. While their research focused on local governance during the pandemic, the lessons learned can be applied to cultural heritage protection. For instance, the use of digital platforms for disseminating information and coordinating responses can significantly enhance the efficiency of crisis management efforts.

Remote sensing technologies, such as satellite imagery and drones, also play a crucial role in monitoring and protecting cultural heritage sites. These tools can provide real-time data on site conditions, enabling authorities to quickly detect and respond to threats. For example, satellite images can monitor illegal excavation or construction activities near heritage sites, while drones can assess damage caused by natural disasters. Additionally, advancements in artificial intelligence and machine learning offer new possibilities for analyzing and predicting risks to cultural heritage. AI algorithms can process vast datasets to identify patterns and trends, such as the likelihood of earthquakes or floods in specific areas. This information can enrich risk assessments and guide decision-making processes.

While technological innovations offer significant benefits, they also come with challenges. High costs, technical expertise requirements, and ethical considerations may limit their adoption and effectiveness. To address these issues, governments and organizations should invest in capacity building, establish partnerships with technology providers, and develop ethical guidelines for using these tools.

Training and capacity building are essential elements of crisis preparedness in cultural heritage protection. Ensuring that heritage protection workers have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to respond effectively to crises is crucial for minimizing damage and preserving cultural assets.

Training programs should cover a wide range of topics, including risk assessment, emergency response planning, and conservation techniques. For instance, staff should be trained in stabilizing damaged structures, salvaging artifacts, and documenting losses. Additionally, interdisciplinary training that incorporates knowledge from fields such as archaeology, engineering, and disaster management can enhance the effectiveness of crisis response efforts.

Capacity building should also extend to local communities and volunteers. By involving community members in training programs, authorities can create a network of individuals prepared to assist in emergencies. This approach not only enhances overall readiness but also fosters a sense of ownership and pride in cultural heritage.

International collaboration and knowledge exchange are critical for capacity building. As researcher (Bassem Mohammed Yassine Al-Shakri 2024) noted, sustainable tourism development can contribute to preserving natural and cultural resources. Similarly, collaborative efforts between countries and organizations can facilitate the exchange of best practices, resources, and expertise in cultural heritage protection. However, training and capacity building initiatives face several challenges, including funding constraints, language barriers, and the need for continuous updates to keep pace with emerging risks and technologies. To overcome these obstacles, governments and organizations should prioritize investment in education and training, establish regional and international networks, and leverage online platforms to disseminate knowledge.

In a more in-depth perspective, enhancing crisis preparedness is a multifaceted endeavor that requires a blend of strategies to formulate a comprehensive emergency plan centered on building a culture of risk awareness, leveraging technology, and focusing on training and capacity building. By engaging stakeholders and local communities and investing in skilled workforce development, authorities can strengthen their capacity to protect cultural assets during crises.

Why Do We Need an Emergency Plan?

Emergency planning refers to the preparations made in advance to deal with emergencies and crises to contain their effects and address their outcomes, including mitigating damage and reducing losses caused by various potential crises, primarily natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanoes or human-made crises like wars, internal and external conflicts, and fires (Daniel & Welthungerhilfe, 2015). In light of the above, the National Agency for Protected Sectors must develop a comprehensive strategy that considers the following elements:

- **Achieving Readiness:** Anticipating potential disasters requires the establishment of an emergency plan that prepares institutions and communities to respond effectively to crises by identifying necessary actions and measures for emergency response)Tom Ongesa(2025 ◊.
- **Protecting Lives and Property:** The emergency plan aims to safeguard the safety of individuals and property in emergencies by outlining necessary procedures for evacuation, first aid, and protection from damage)Ferrari(2024 ◊.
- **Organizing Response:** The emergency plan assists in organizing responses during emergencies, including defining roles and responsibilities for different teams, directing efforts to maximize effectiveness)Farcas(2020 ◊.
- **Reducing Chaos and Confusion:** With an emergency plan in place, chaos and confusion during emergencies can be minimized, as everyone will have a clear understanding of the required and expected procedures)Rizvi(2007 ◊.
- **Preparing for Recovery:** The emergency plan aids in preparing for recovery operations after an emergency occurs by outlining necessary steps for rebuilding and swift recovery)Sivak(2022 ◊.
- **Evaluating and Learning:** Extracting lessons from past emergencies to enhance future responses, evaluating the effectiveness of current emergency plans, and updating and developing them based on previous experiences)Adini(2016 ◊.

Conclusion

One of the main aspirations of those overseeing cultural heritage, including the National Agency for Protected Sectors and its affiliates, is to transition from a reactive approach to a proactive one in heritage protection. This includes discussing and experimenting with effective risk management frameworks and applying preventive measures to mitigate potential damage during crises.)Saleh(2020 ‘discussed, integrating disaster risk management into cultural heritage strategies is crucial for reducing vulnerability and ensuring resilience)Saleh(2020 ‘. National bodies must adopt plans tailored to each heritage site, considering its unique characteristics and risks. A comprehensive legislative framework is essential to empower national agencies and ensure their effectiveness. Legal provisions should not only include protection but also penalties for violations and incentives for conservation efforts. According to Abdelilah Bouchebi Tehami)Debon(2023 ‘, the establishment of laws and agreements dedicated to heritage protection has significantly contributed to the global safeguarding of cultural assets)Debon(2023 ‘. Future directions should focus on aligning national legislation with international treaties, such as the World Heritage Convention of 1972, to enhance enforcement mechanisms and strengthen cross-border cooperation.

The reality shows that most of the legislation implemented by cultural agencies, including the National Agency for Protected Sectors, is legislation that applies under normal circumstances, making it subject to criticism as it lacks provisions that specify intervention and protection mechanisms during crisis periods. This places the agency's management in a state of uncertainty, necessitating the urgent preparation of pre-established intervention plans. International cooperation in this field requires conducting virtual exercises to ensure control over emergency plans during their implementation phases.

Community participation also plays a pivotal role in preserving cultural heritage. Agencies must promote a culture of awareness and responsibility among local residents.)Al-Dabaa'in(2022 ‘emphasizes the importance of cultural activities and education in enhancing public understanding of heritage value)Al-Dabaa'in(2022 ‘. Future strategies should include grassroots initiatives, educational campaigns, and collaborative efforts with civil society organizations to instill a sense of ownership and commitment to heritage protection. The integration of advanced technologies in heritage management presents significant opportunities for national agencies. Digital documentation, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and remote sensing tools can aid in monitoring and preserving heritage sites. (Al-Sawy, 2022) highlight the need for agencies to adopt modern systems for inventorying and protecting cultural assets during crises (Al-Sawy, 2022). Investments in research and development, along with partnerships with technology companies, can pave the way for innovative solutions for heritage protection.

Effective heritage protection requires collaboration across multiple sectors and levels of governance. However, many agencies suffer from fragmented efforts and insufficient coordination with international organizations such as UNESCO and the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). (Al-Jabri, 2021) emphasizes the importance of renewing partnerships between governmental institutions and civil society to build a unified framework for heritage protection (Al-Jabri, 2021). These networks can enhance and improve communication channels for collective crisis response.

To address resource constraints, consideration should be given to establishing dedicated heritage funds supported by public and private contributions. These funds can be used to finance restoration projects and capacity-building programs. National agencies should adopt integrated policies that align heritage protection with other sectors such as tourism, education, and urban planning. This comprehensive approach ensures the preservation of heritage sites. Suleiman Bin highlights the potential of heritage-related tourism in enhancing cultural awareness and generating revenue (Bin, 2023).

Training and capacity building are essential for equipping heritage protection workers with the skills and knowledge needed to face evolving challenges. Training programs should cover areas such as disaster preparedness, technological tools, and community engagement.

Cultural heritage protection is a public responsibility that requires sustainable efforts and international cooperation (Ziyada, 2024) discusses the historical role of Arab countries in shaping cultural identity and emphasizes the importance of collective action in preserving shared heritage (Ziyada, 2024). National agencies should participate in international forums, exchange best practices, and contribute to global initiatives for heritage protection. Cultural diplomacy can be an effective tool for promoting mutual understanding and cooperation among countries. By showcasing their heritage, countries can build bridges and strengthen relationships with other nations (Shukri, 2023).

In summary, the aspirations to enhance cultural institutions' role in cultural heritage protection are ambitious yet achievable. By establishing urgent plans to address current gaps and implementing innovative strategies, the National Agency for Protected Sectors can play a pivotal role in safeguarding humanity's shared legacy. Sustainable efforts and international cooperation are essential to overcoming challenges and ensuring the resilience of cultural heritage in the face of future risks. As the global community continues to recognize the value of heritage, the National Agency for Protected Sectors must rise to the occasion and fulfill its vital mission.

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