

Cultural Heritage for the Future

**An Evaluation Report of Nine years' work
by Riwaq for the Palestinian Heritage 1995–2004**

Lennart Edlund

**Department for Democracy
and Social Development**

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Sida Evaluation 04/30

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Summary

Aims

The present report is an evaluation of the Riwaq architect foundation's national survey of the cultural building heritage in Palestine over the period 1995–2003. This report also contains an assessment of the effect the development cooperation support has had on Sida's overall aims in the cultural sphere. Among the cultural cooperation goals, special mention can be made of those that aim at strengthening the preconditions for cultural diversity, artistic creativity and sustainable cultural development based on human rights.

Culture is significant for many people and affects several different sectors of society. Therefore, it is also a factor to be considered in assessing the importance of development cooperation support and cultural endeavours on the long-term democratisation process in terms of public influence on the cultural heritage. Another important area is the type of practical use the survey has, especially in the cultural sector and the physical planning of towns and communities.

The evaluation also contains an assessment of the relevance and preconditions for providing support to Riwaq for further undertakings in the field of cultural heritage.

The evaluation's starting point is Sida's goal of providing development cooperation support for cultural cooperation and Riwaq's operations. In addition to this are also a number of questions referring to the project.

The threat to cultural heritage

The Palestine cultural heritage is exposed to continuous destruction. The Israeli occupation causes direct damage by demolishing valuable cultural environments. It also leads to serious damage indirectly through unrestrained new building activities since the municipal and federal physical planning infrastructure has been partially broken down. Even the growing economic problems affect the chances of preserving and caring for the cultural heritage. An additional serious threat is posed by the insensitive location of the Israeli settlements with their accompanying road constructions that severely affect the traditional cultural landscape.

Strategic idea

Considering the threatening picture, it has been important to obtain a general view of the overall value of the cultural heritage in order to be able to follow more methodically what is happening and to take initiatives in different forms of targeted preservation measures. Undertakings under the Sida programme are aimed at increasing knowledge of the cultural heritage and showing its importance to the Palestinian people, thereby creating conditions for care and protection, and hopefully a firmer belief in the future.

Direction of Sida's support

Since 1995 Sida's culture and media division has provided financial grants as well as certain expert support to the Riwaq architect foundation for taking inventories and establishing a national register of all the buildings, places and environments which existed on the West Bank and Gaza before 1945 and which, for historical, architectural, and cultural historical reasons, ought to be protected for the future. Sida's support has also included restoration measures, information activities and forming public opinion, as well as certain research and publishing activities.

Financial scope of the grants

Riwaq has received grants from Sida's Cultural and Media Division totalling SEK 10.7 million during the period 1995–2003 for the above-mentioned undertakings. The grants have been provided for three different periods, and have mainly gone to wages, skills development and expenses for the company employees. Certain purchases of external services have also been made, e.g. remuneration for research and printing costs for publications.

New application 2004–2007

Riwaq has submitted a new application to Sida for a three-year grant for the following main areas: preservation and legal protection, external operations, and research and publishing. The grant would cover the period 2004–2007 and amounts to USD 798,000.

Riwaq architect foundation

The Riwaq architect foundation was established in 1991 in Ramallah on the initiative of an architect, Suad Amiri. From the very outset, the group had a very broad, qualified composition. At present the foundation has 11 employees with university degrees in the fields of architecture, archaeology, art history, history and IT-technology. In addition to the full-time employees, a large number of students from the university in Birzeit have worked at Riwaq, mostly with inventory tasks. Students at Al Najaf University in Nablus have also taken part in Riwaq's operations, for instance in connection with the survey and restoring cultural buildings.

The foundation's competence

Riwaq has gradually broadened and deepened its competence in the field of cultural history and become somewhat of an institution for issues dealing with the Palestinian cultural heritage. The foundation has gained this position by consciously realising its visions and building up its operations with, among others, Sida's support for measures to protect Palestine's cultural heritage.

Survey operations

Thanks to the support received from Sida, Riwaq has carried out a survey of almost all the buildings on the West Bank and in Gaza erected before 1945. Hitherto 50,320 buildings and environs in 385 villages and towns (of a total of 500) have been documented. Riwaq has produced over 200 plans, 480 maps as well as almost 50,000 photographs of the buildings and grounds involved. There are still some 5000 properties that have not been surveyed due to the Israeli blockade. There is still work to be done on an overall valuation and classification of the cultural building heritage.

The survey has been compiled and is accessible in a digitally searchable register, the so-called national register. The register is equipped with an advanced search function where texts, photos and maps have combined in an excellent way. For natural reasons, the register is in Arabic. However, there are plans to translate it into English in the future to allow access by wide target groups via the Internet. The survey material will also be published in catalogue form. The five first volumes of five regions on the West Bank have been edited and are being printed.

The extensive inventory has resulted in a large number of photographs, plans and maps of buildings on the West Bank as well as in Gaza. The foundation has made special note of the need for an archive for the safe storage of this invaluable material.

Other operations

The support from Sida's Culture and Media Division has mainly aimed at taking stock and setting up a national register, thereby creating requisite conditions to preserve and care for the Palestinian cultural building heritage. From this pioneering task and the knowledge and facts that the survey has gained, other project ideas have emerged and have been gradually incorporated into the grant.

These other activities include research, knowledge build-up, and activities for the general public.

Riwaq has carried out research and in-depth studies with its own personnel, but it has also involved others when the focus has been on building history. Hitherto, Riwaq has published 7 works on the art of Palestinian architecture up to the present time. The Israeli occupation has resulted in high unemployment and few commissions for different professional groups in the cultural sector. Riwaq's research initiatives and publishing activities have resulted in employment opportunities for people such as artists, photographers and graphic designers.

Riwaq has also been involved in more general information activities on the cultural heritage where specially selected target groups, important in the long-term perspective, have been approached, for example city tours and school classes for children and youth, who have thus been given the opportunity to see their history and understand the importance of a cultural heritage.

Among the many information activities that Riwaq has carried out, special note can be made of media and exhibitions and especially the photo documentation of the Israeli destruction on the West Bank in 2002. This material was used in the highly acclaimed book, "Earthquake in April" as well as in an exhibition that was shown in Brussels and Stockholm. Besides this, the company has carried out extensive external operations, for instance arranging courses and seminars in caring for buildings.

Riwaq has been involved operationally with building maintenance and preservation planning during the periods it has received support from Sida. Among other things, the foundation has been responsible for planning the restoration of individual buildings and has supplied expert support in conjunction with rehabilitation programmes for Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah. Single buildings, as well as building environs with high cultural value, have thereby been given the opportunity to develop with good precautionary conditions.

The preserved buildings and surroundings stem from many different building periods as well as economic and social levels in the society of the day. In their complexity they are a valuable contribution to increasing understanding of cultural flows and human meetings as a natural part of the development of every society.

The cultural buildings that have been restored with Sida's support are intended for used by the general public. The buildings have been put into order as libraries, meeting places and handicraft premises, for example for women's artist and artisan cooperatives, and for students and school children. In this way equal opportunity and public influence on the cultural heritage have been supported.

During the latest period of Sida's support, the foundation has also contributed to working on new protective legislation. This work is being done in cooperation with other institutions and nowthere is a proposal for an umbrella law to protect cultural and natural values. There has even been some discussion of how to put the proposal into practice.

Riwaq has begun a pilot project in the city of Beitunia to see how the building register can be used into practice for physical planning at municipal level. Public meetings have been held and the municipality authorities have been contacted in an attempt to begin working with democratic preservation processes. There is still a long way to go until participation reaches the levels we are used to, but efforts of this kind open up new ways and increase commitment for the cultural heritage and people's own local communities.

Consequences of the Israeli occupation

The possibilities available to Riwaq to carry out its undertakings and run fieldwork in a planned manner have been considerably complicated by the Israeli blockades. Daily tasks involve constant threatening situations and, from time to time, even direct danger to the life and safety of members of staff.

There is a constant anxiety about the possibilities to get to the office or to the village where the survey is being made. The blockades and occupation have also meant that it has been impossible to reach certain areas for survey purposes. Riwaq has therefore been forced to leave about 5,000 properties for possible later attention. In light of the existing situation and all the worry it implies, Riwaq has had great social significance for many of the people who work there.

Effects of Sida support

Through its efforts, Riwaq has created a practically complete register of the valuable cultural and historical buildings and settings on the West Bank and in Gaza. The register means that there is now a general overview of the cultural building heritage. The register also makes it possible to broaden knowledge about cultural heritage, not only among experts and those working in the cultural sector, but particularly for the general public. In this way the register is an important step towards the goal of satisfying every citizen's right to his or her cultural heritage, regardless of sex, social status or ethnic background.

The aim has also been to use the other undertakings to increase knowledge about the cultural heritage, strengthen social commitment in the community, and further improve the possibilities for caring for and preserving historical building values. The effects of these activities are difficult to assess at this time since they have a long-term impact. Hitherto it has been noted that the authorities and a number of institutions concerned are showing a clear commitment to the new protective legislation. There is also an increase in the demand for planning and actual building conservation methods as well as cultural heritage studies in the schools. From the universities an increasing interest is being shown in courses in cultural history, continued research projects and participation in preservation processes. In addition to this positive picture there is an increase in the demand for different contributions from Riwaq as well as increasing membership in Riwaq's Friends, its auxiliary organisation.

Overall assessment

The overall assessment is that Riwaq has carried out the survey of the cultural building heritage on the West Bank and in Gaza in a manner consistent with the aims of the development cooperation programme. On the whole, the inventory is comprehensive and, based on field studies and spot checks, the survey information has been judged to be reliable. The register has been set up and is easy to use. All in all, the inventory and register are of very good quality. Among important measures that remain to be attended to, a culture-historical valuation of the buildings deserves special mention.

It is also felt that the other operations have been carried out in a methodical, purposeful manner leading to the desired effect of widening and deepening knowledge of and support for the cultural heritage.

The Riwaq foundation has carried out its undertakings in accordance with the programme agreed with Sida and with very good quality. Competence and experience have been developed to such a degree that there are good chances of expanding activities to other areas in the region.

Sida's goal is that its support to other activities will result in long-term effects in the cultural sphere and support the democratisation process. The overall assessment is that Sida's support has contributed to positive development in the cultural sphere and has strengthened support for the cultural heritage and public participation in the preservation process.

Application for support for the period 2004–2007

Riwaq's plans for the coming three-year period are based on the knowledge and facts that have emerged during the work of the last few years. The aim is to use this in a targeted manner in the areas with the most acute needs in order to preserve and manage the cultural heritage and create a broad understanding of its importance. Efforts are aimed at the following main areas:

- Projects emerging from the National Register
- Community Out-Reach Unit
- Research and Public Unit

Assessment

The proposed tasks build upon the results of earlier projects and periods of support. There is thus a natural progression in the development of Riwaq's work with the Palestinian cultural heritage. During the final stages of the latest period of support, work has been increasingly directed towards using knowledge and facts in practical application in terms of building care, legal protection, preservation and in a pedagogical sense. This is a development that improves the chances of preserving the cultural building heritage in both the daily perspective and in a wider, more long-term political context.

Considering the manner in which Riwaq has carried out the projects supported by Sida and the importance these have for the cultural heritage in Palestine, it is recommended that support be granted fully in accordance with the application for the forthcoming three-year period, 2004–2007.

1. Background

1.1 The threat to cultural heritage

The Palestine cultural heritage is exposed to continuous destruction. The Israeli occupation causes direct damage by demolishing valuable cultural environments. It also leads to serious damage indirectly through unrestrained new building activities since the municipal and federal physical planning infrastructure has been partially broken down. Even the growing economic problems affect the possibilities of preserving and caring for the cultural heritage. An additional serious threat is posed by the insensitive location of the Israeli settlements with their accompanying road constructions that severely affect the traditional cultural landscape.

1.2 Strategic idea

Considering the threatening picture it has been important to obtain a general view of the overall value of the cultural heritage in order to be able to follow more methodically what is happening and take initiatives in different forms of targeted preservation measures. Undertakings under the Sida programme of support are aimed at increasing knowledge of the cultural heritage and showing its importance to the Palestinian people, thereby creating conditions for care and protection, and hopefully a firmer belief in the future.

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Review and examine Riwaq's efforts during the entire period during which it has received support from Sida, with the main focus on more recent decisions.
- Assess the results and fulfilment of stated goals
- Assess the effects the contributions have had in supporting the collective aims in the culture and media field.
- Assess the relevance and conditions for further contributions with this evaluation as a starting-point.

2.2 Starting-points of the evaluation

The starting points of this evaluation have been formulated in the following five issues that are connected with Sida's aim in contributing financial support to Riwaq:

What effect has the contribution had hitherto on the declared aim of creating conditions for cultural diversification, artistically creative activities, and a sustainable cultural development based on human rights through cultural cooperation with Sida?

What significance have Riwaq's efforts had on strengthening the processes of democracy and influence, as well as promoting equality in the Palestinian cultural society? In the first place, this refers to safeguarding public influence over the preservation of the Palestinian cultural heritage.

How can the present register be used in a practical way to protect the national heritage and what regulations should then apply?

Under what conditions should a possible continuation of Sida's contributions to Riwaq's operations be made, and which aims should then be supported? One question of great importance is how the legislative work carried out by the authorities is to be directed towards the protection of the Palestinian heritage.

For what fields other than the creation of the national register should support to Riwaq be considered?

3. Applications and decisions made

3.1 The decision-making process

The evaluation concerns the entire period that Riwaq has been in receipt of support from Sida i.e. from 1995 to 2004. Contributions have been made in three-year periods. Decisions on the contributions have been based on the applications that Riwaq has submitted for each period. The applications include descriptions of planned actions and estimated expenses for the different measures taken. Sida has made evaluations in the form of memoranda for each decision made. At the end of every period, Sida has summarised the period in terms of finance and tasks implemented. The interim reports submitted by Riwaq should also be mentioned.

3.2 Expenses

Riwaq has received a total monetary contribution of SEK 10.7 million during the period 1995–2003. The amount is a result of Sida's decisions based on the applications and cost estimates made for each period. The cost estimates are listed by year and divided among the different measures undertaken in each period.

3.3 Evaluation

Based on Sida's requirements, Riwaq has accounted for its operations in the applications and reports. From earlier comments and observations, there have sometimes been delays in submitting reports or providing other requested information. The reason for this has not been investigated or discussed further in this report, and may be due to several causes that are not easily delved into at this stage. There is good reason to review and stipulate the routines that should apply before the next period of support.

Another aspect concerns the degree of detail in the financial reports and the possibility for Sida to receive a more accurate report with the costs presented for each activity. In this respect, demands should also be clearly stated so that both parties know exactly which routines apply. In the current evaluation it has been difficult to know the exact cost-effectiveness of specific measures, for instance the inventory fieldwork, in order to be able to make a comparison with other similar activities.

4. About Riwaq

The Riwaq architect group was founded on the initiative of Suad Amiri, an architect in Ramalla, in 1991. From the start the group combined a broad range of skills. Today Riwaq consists of ten university-educated architects, archaeologists, historians, and IT- technicians. Riwaq also employs office assistants and a janitor. In addition to the permanent work force, a large number of students from the University of Birzeit have worked for Riwaq chiefly with inventory tasks. Students at the University of Nablus have also participated in some activities, for example the restoration of cultural buildings.

4.1 Some brief remarks on the development of the company and its collective tasks

1991–1994: The company was founded with it's a business concept of focusing on documenting and creating understanding of the content and significance of the cultural heritage. The possibilities of conducting field activities were limited due to the Israeli occupation. Specific preservation activities included a photo exhibition of the cultural heritage, courses in building preservation and the documentation of the mosaic floors very typical for the Palestinian culture.

1994–1998: Riwaq's development was strengthened substantially thanks to the establishment of the Palestinian government (1994). During this period, the range of operations widened. Among activities initiated at this time, the inventory of the cultural building heritage (The Register of Valuable Buildings and Places), extensive planning and preservation activities within the city centres of Betlehem, Ramallah and Jerusalem, as well as a revitalization plan for the oldest part of Hebron are worthy of special note. Co-operation between Sida's Culture and Media Division and Riwaq was established at this time and the decision was made on Sida's first contribution. Sida regarded Riwaq as a precondition for supporting work with the cultural heritage.

1998–2001: During this period, Riwaq discovered that the results of the initiatives needed to be processed and disseminated in order to increase interest in and understanding of the heritage preservation operations. The inventory had collected interesting facts about the building heritage as well as a great number of photos, both new and old. Operations therefore grew to include public activities and research/publications. This led to a number of publications, exhibitions, courses and seminars for teachers and youth groups. During the period the inventory of the building population continued as previously, as well as the development of a functional data register.

2001–2004: This period of time was characterised by an increase in research activity based on the information base created by the inventory. Employment was also created by restoration projects. Other Riwaq activities involved the introduction of work on new legislation protecting the cultural heritage and discussions with authorities concerning preservation planning of towns and villages. During the period, the inventory work and the building heritage register were completed.

4.2 Evaluation

In issues concerning the Palestinian cultural heritage, Riwaq has become something of an institution. The company has reached this position by purposefully realising its visions and basing its operations on sound knowledge. Riwaq has been a necessary pre-condition for Sida's contributions to the cultural heritage of Palestine and also a driving force for its success. The general opinion is that Riwaq has been successful in its endeavours throughout the entire period, and that Sida's support has been of great importance for the development of the company. There have been some small difficulties con-

cerning the reporting activities. It is recommended that Sida explains the preferred reporting routines to Riwaq in order that improvements can be made.

Conversations with employees indicate that Riwaq maintains a satisfactory psychosocial working environment with opportunities for variety and development of working tasks, and a positive attitude towards the management of the company. The atmosphere at the office is open and friendly, with the wide experience the management possesses instilling a feeling of security.

Of special interest during the present and final phases of the previous period are the difficulties encountered in carrying out organised field operations due to considerable limitations on movements across Palestinian territories due to the Israeli blockades since the start of the second Intifada in 2000. The daily work involves repeated situations including threats, violence and direct danger to the life and safety of the employees. The work also involves the stressful uncertainty about the possibilities to get to the office or the place where the inventory is being made. In view of the existing tense conditions, the Riwaq management has handled these issues mentioned in a commendable way worthy of imitation, creating an atmosphere of friendship and safety.

5. The National Register of Historical Buildings

5.1 Background

Contributions from Sida's Culture and Media Division have concentrated mainly on the creation of a national register in order to establish conditions for preserving and safeguarding the values of the Palestinian cultural heritage. From this pioneering work and the knowledge and facts generated by the survey, ideas for other projects have also emerged.

In the evaluation report, the national register has been divided into two different phases, the Inventory and the National Register. The first concerns the survey, i.e. the field inventory and collection of facts. The second one deals with the compilation of the collected facts into a digital database, the so-called the National Register. The National Register is an end in itself, but at the same time it will serve as a basis for many of the plans for further development in the field of cultural heritage.

5.2 Inventory/fieldwork

Using the contribution from Sida, Riwaq has established an inventory of almost all the buildings on the West Bank and in Gaza that were constructed before 1945. To date, Riwaq has documented 50,320 buildings and milieus from 385 villages and cities. In total, Riwaq has produced more than 200 drawings, 480 maps and 50,000 photos of relevant buildings and constructions.

5.3 Method

The survey has been made as a general inventory, which is a well-known method of gaining overall knowledge of an extensive number of buildings spread over a large geographical area. Under the guidance of Riwaq, mainly architects and architect students have carried out the fieldwork. Furthermore, they have been trained in inventory methods in connection with their tasks.

The fieldwork has included registration on standardised forms, sketches and drawings, as well as photographic documentation. The documentation of each object contains information about the building position, construction, function, design, age, owner, and other relevant facts. In some cases, measurements and descriptions have been made of objects of special interest.

After a careful examination by supervisors from Riwaq, the field material is transferred to digitalised media. The most intensive period was in the year 2000 when over 15,000 buildings were registered. Other data about the registration, time and costs are given in the annual reports.

The first volumes are now ready for printing. They cover the governorates of Jenin, Salfeet, Qalqilya, Tulkarem and Nablus.

5.4 The digital register

The field forms have been typed into a database. It contains the same objects and information as the forms. The database contains more than 50,000 pages of information and more than 50,000 photos. The material also contains over 400 GIS-coordinated maps. For every documented property, there are a number of pictures showing the exterior, interior and surroundings. A selection of these pictures has been chosen for the digital version of the register. Today, the register is typed in Arabic. Riwaq is planning an English version with aspects of international interest.

5.5 Technical aspects

Obviously a lot of time and effort demanding skill and knowledge have been put into compiling the digital material. Riwaq has not been able to buy ready-made software. Instead they have developed their own software systems. The knowledge of register construction Riwaq has gained by doing so should be a possible asset in other circumstances, not least, in the light of possible expansion of operations into other areas within the region.

Riwaq has compiled many of the maps in the register from scratch by measuring photographs, since there is a great shortage of maps. This is also true of small villages as well as some of the larger towns. One of the most qualified tasks has been creating the map of Old Jerusalem.

5.6 Target groups

From the planning stage, the register has had a few well-defined target groups. Among the most definite target groups are those in charge of planning the physical environment. Basically these are public administrations, authorities, larger house-owners, organisations, and consultants in the construction and planning sectors. Other target groups are house-owners wanting to know more about their property, village etc. The register is also of interest to universities at different stages of research and courses for students of architecture, fine arts, history and urban planning. In a future scenario, the inventory might also be of interest to the tourism sector. If the register becomes accessible through the Internet, it will also reach international target groups, not least media wishing to cover the effects of the Israeli conflict on the cultural heritage in Palestine.

The usefulness of the register also has another dimension concerning the threat to the future existence of the cultural heritage, a threat based on the Israelis' ruthless destruction and ravaging of buildings of considerable cultural value. It is possible that the destruction of the cultural heritage is a conscious strategy since it affects historical identity and collective self-confidence. Tearing down relics is a well-known war strategy, focusing on power and humiliation. The register offers a good general picture of the Palestinian cultural heritage and much greater chances than earlier to follow and note what has

happened in individual cases, and then to place this information in a wider cultural historical context. The threat also comes from the problematic situation in the Palestinian community with the lack of planning and interest in the physical environment. Thus, the register makes it possible to keep track of what is happening to the cultural heritage.

5.7 Planned course of action

During the forthcoming period of support, the aim is for Riwaq to concentrate on developing plans to safeguard the source material in the database, i.e. forms, photos and the maps. Future plans ought to include measures to keep the register updated.

5.8 Evaluation

The inventory has been carried out with great care and, on the whole, is of high quality. Samples show that the inventory material is true to actual conditions in terms of the appearance and construction of the buildings. The maps, sketches and measurements are also reliable. The general opinion is that the work on the historical survey has been successful, especially considering the growing obstacles gradually being erected by the Israeli occupation forces. The survey will be completed during May 2004 and will contain a high-quality national register with satisfactory coverage.

The descriptions are extensive and the historical and art historical observations are well documented and supported. Field visits have verified the sketches. The lack of maps for the inventory has been a recurrent problem. To overcome this problem, Riwaq has produced maps itself, based on measurements and photos. This could have been an element of uncertainty, but test samples have proven the maps to be reliable also.

A number of buildings and milieus (around 5,000) have been excluded for compilation later since the barricades of the occupying power severely limit inspections. At times visiting specific areas has involved too much danger, with the result that they have had to be omitted and will be reported on later. This shortcoming has been gradually rectified, but there are still some information missing. In the latter part of the previous project, Riwaq registered buildings in villages in areas of Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Jerusalem with assistance from students from Nablus.

Another reason why the inventory has not achieved full coverage is that some sites have been discovered late in the inventory planning process due to the lack of maps. The risk that cultural sites of major concern are among the category mentioned is slight due to the fact that most of the valuable buildings and environments were known earlier.

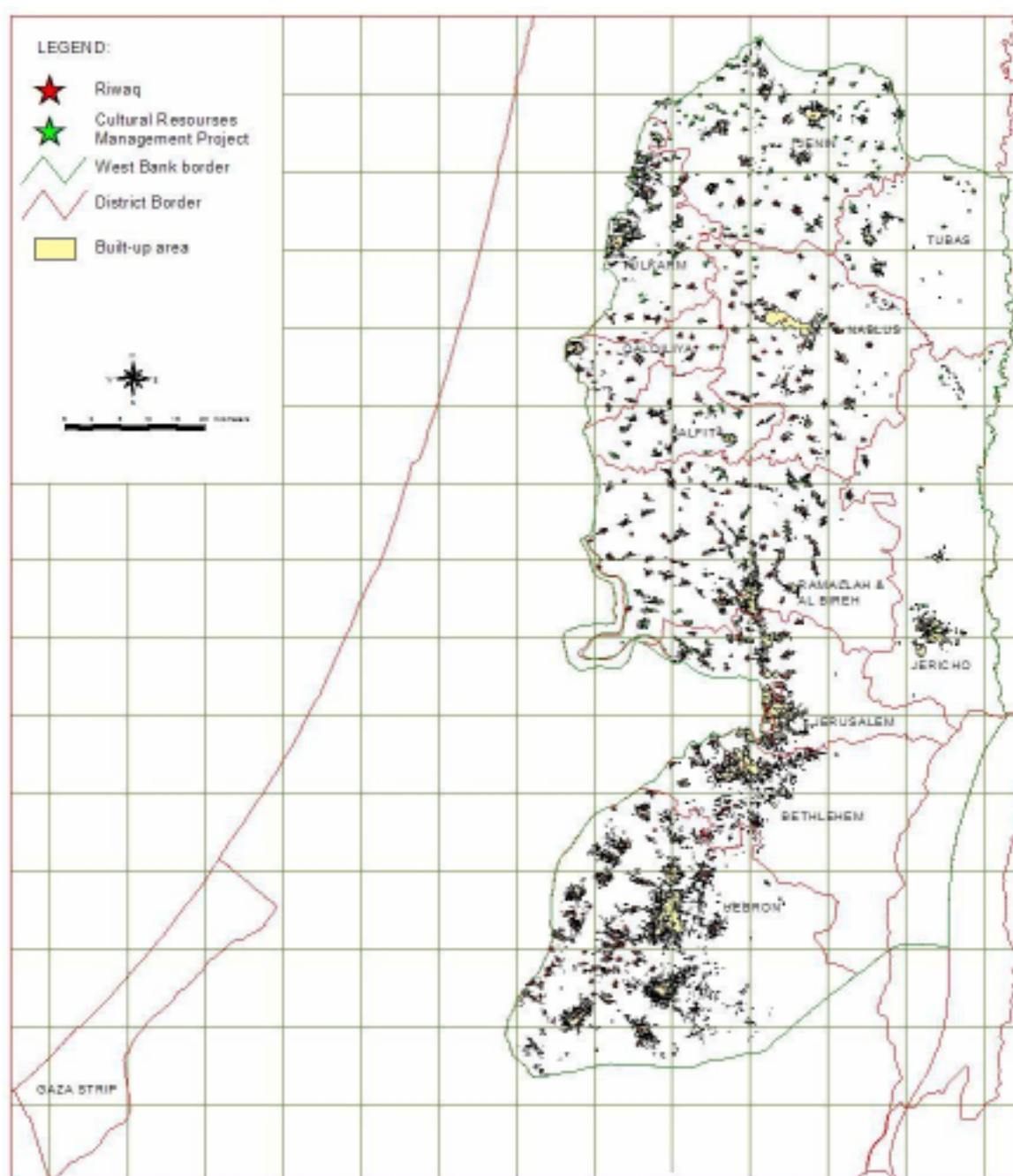
The register seems to be easy to handle with well thought-out ways into the system. The register's strong points are its text-picture links, and the possibility of cross-referencing. These functions provide rapid access to pictures and texts, and relate them to a position on the map.

The barricades and the unpredictable situation at the Israeli checkpoints have sometimes affected the possibilities of achieving the planned aims of the inventory. A reflection from my latest visit is that the wall/fence will make it harder to visit the places that have been left out from the register for safety reasons. Perhaps this needs to be taken into account in the future.

5.9 Updates

Even though the inventory is finished and the register is nearly completed, it is a matter of major concern that it retains its current interest through continuous updates. In cases where Riwaq receives knowledge about changes concerning buildings and environments included on the inventory, the register should be updated. Thus, the register will maintain its current interest and become high quality material for the public in the long run. Experience has shown that if the administrative authorities do not make plans for updating registers from the very beginning, there are often problems in returning to those questions later on. The present application needs to be supplemented along these lines.

National Register of Historic Buildings Registered Sites in the West Bank



5.10 Future Ownership and Public Access to the Register

The inventory material, register and photo collection all constitute large financial and scientific values. One basic premise for Sida's contribution has been that it should be for the use and benefit of the public. Therefore, a matter of great concern is to resolve the issues of ownership, usage, and availability of the register in the long run. Legally, Riwaq is most likely the owner of the material, but the question is if they want to, and are able to, remain so in the future. Is it reasonable to consider a commercial use for the material, for example selling information, pictures, etc? A possible solution is to give the material away to a suitable authority with Riwaq still managing the administration and being permitted to charge a fee in commercial situations. It might not be entirely impossible to consider Riwaq as the owner provided that certain basic demands for accessibility and usage are satisfied.

6. Public Activities

6.1 Background and motives

Increasing knowledge of the cultural heritage including knowledge about its importance is part of the motive behind Riwaq's broad activities directed towards the general public. Another way of expressing it would be: without a heritage, there would be no identity, and therefore no future. A broad outgoing operation with many target groups would serve as a foundation for the long-term preservation efforts and support of the cultural heritage.

6.2 Target groups

Riwaq has established focused, outgoing operations for the purpose of spreading information and strengthening interest in the cultural heritage through direct visits and the media. Activities have been directed towards different groups in society and adjusted to their different circumstances.

In early stages, efforts were made to gain the support of authorities and influential people by exerting an influence on public opinion, but today these efforts have been expanded to include developing wide public support for the cultural heritage and its importance. Working with children and youth is a strategic choice made by Riwaq which has also been successful. The intention is to increase these types of activities during forthcoming years. Meetings with municipal politicians responsible for planning issues have also given a satisfying response on cultural heritage issues, and increasing interest in more careful treatment of the building environment.

6.3 Activities

Riwaq has produced exhibitions and publications, participated in radio and TV shows, and arranged seminars and courses. Photo exhibitions on the architectural historical heritage have been held in Ramalla, Birzeit University, Bethlehem Peace Centre and Nablus.

Among the activities that have attracted the most attention has been the Riwaq ambition of documenting and informing about the destruction by the armed forces of Israel of the Palestinian cultural heritage ever since the start of the Al Aqsa – intifada. A pictorial publication visualising what happened to the people and cultural surroundings in Nablus and other cities on the West Bank in April 2002 during the entry of the Israeli armed forces was issued in the beginning of 2003. This was also shown during an exhibition in Sweden and at the EU parliament in Brussels.

The courses and seminars have included a two-week course for 60 architect students hosted by skilled lecturers from ICROM on careful building conservation. Other activities have been lectures and summer camps. Here it is also important to mention the work and support of “The friends of Riwaq”.

6.4 Planned activities

Riwaq’s intention is to develop its work with children and youth in a more specific way during the forthcoming three-year period, by educating teachers and through direct activities with elementary school classes, for example lectures, field studies, and guided historical walks etc. Municipalities and authorities are other important target groups to plan activities for. There the aim is to stimulate their interest in physical planning and increase motivation for a more careful treatment of building environments.

6.5 Evaluation

From the beginning, Riwaq has had a clear strategy for increasing knowledge of the values and importance of cultural heritage, thereby strengthening conditions for preservation of the cultural heritage within a wide spectrum of Palestinian society by arranging different public activities. These outgoing activities have been set up in line with the stated strategy and gradually directed towards new target groups. One of those is the younger generation.

The effect of the public activities is hard to assess due the lack of adequate references. However, conversations with Riwaq indicate that interest and commitment have increased thanks to their activities. One such example is the exhibition on the encroachment of Israel 2002 and the strong feelings it raised among many Palestinians. According to Riwaq, interest and vigilance for the cultural heritage has increased due to these types of activities. Other examples are the results of school contacts, where historical tours arouse great interest among children in the architectural details and the historical relics of their native land: an interest they will hopefully take home with them, spreading the information further to their parents and friends. Riwaq stresses that programmes on the local radio channel, articles in newspapers, and questions regarding careful restoration have increased noticeably during recent years.

7. Research and publishing

7.1 Background and motives

There were basically two reasons why Riwaq started its research and publishing activity in 1999: the need to make up for the lack of research and publications on the historical building heritage in Palestine, and the urgent need to provide students with practical research tasks, employment, and the opportunity to publish their research. These activities have been carried out mainly by architects, archaeologists and historians.

The occupation of Palestine has limited opportunities for university studies as well as research and publishing. Barricades and violations against students have made it more difficult to pursue university studies. Even so there is a great interest in university studies. People struggle against heavy odds, waiting for hours at the barricades or making long detours on foot just to get to their university. This treat-

ment might have a deterrent effect in the short run, but on the other hand it surely leads to stronger motivation for the studies.

Riwaq's research and publishing activities, as well as its co-operation with the universities in Berzeit and Nablus, are to be seen against this background. Thanks to the inventory, Riwaq has collected a great number of facts on the cultural building heritage and thereby opened up opportunities for young researchers in the field. Through the agency of Riwaq, the students can also publish their research reports.

As is usually the case in activities such as research and publishing, the work carried out by Riwaq has been a demanding challenge. Perhaps much more demanding than what was expected when the project was planned and initiated. Distributing suitable tasks, finding the right people, and not the least keeping to the time schedule and the budget, have been time-consuming. It was also a matter of finding and contracting suitable photographers, illustrators, translators, proofreaders and graphical designers at reasonable prices etc, in light of the circumstances.

7.2 Publications

In the first place, the research activities and publications have been based on the facts collected by Riwaq during the field inventory. The work has been done partly together with IPS (the Institute of Jerusalem Studies). Most of the books have been printed in 2000 copies. In total, the activity has generated seven publications since it started in 1999. The publications are:

Traditional Floor Tiles in Palestine (Amri and Subeh, 2000)

Memoirs Engraved in Stone: Palestinian Urban Mansions (Khasawneh, 2000)

Artas and Solomons's Pools: The Loss of an Ancient Water System (M Jaradat and J Bargouth, May 2002)

Earthquake in April (Eds. Saud Amriry and Muhannar Hadid, Dec 2002)

The Architectural History of Ramallah (N Ju'beh and K Bshara, Dec 2002)

Manateer: The Agricultural Watch Towers (F Rahhal and S Amiry, March 2003)

Throne Village Architecture (S Amiry, August 2003)

The Palestinian Village Home (S Amiry and V Tamari)

7.3 Planned activities

Based on a scheduled programme, Riwaq's plan is to continue with its research and publication activities during the forthcoming three-year period.

7.4 Evaluation

It must be emphasised that Riwaq not is a research institution in the true sense of the term. However, Riwaq supplies material and facts on the cultural building heritage, and thereby involves other institutions and persons in further studies.

In the long run, it would be interesting to put Riwaq's research and publication activities in a wider research perspective in order to find out more distinctly where the real areas of support are to be found and which ones are covered today. It is suggested that a reference group be created for the purpose of discussing focus and co-ordination with university research activities.

After a laborious introduction phase, the research and publishing activity now has stabilised routines. Long-term planning is now satisfactory, and activities are planned and prepared in different steps for the forthcoming three-year period. The articles for 2004 are ready for layout and printing. The subjects for 2005 and 2006 have been decided on and the authors have been contracted.

It is felt that Riwaq has contributed to creating opportunities in the building historical field for students and research-workers in a society where such opportunities are extremely limited. The publications, which are met with great interest and are in great demand, must therefore be treated as a valuable contribution to the general increase in knowledge of the cultural heritage and its values. This increase in knowledge of the cultural heritage, and what is happening to it, should also be seen as an important element in the process of democratisation. In view of this, Sida is urged to continue its contribution to the Riwaq research and publishing activity while keeping in mind what has been said above regarding additional information.

8. Preservation Planning

8.1 Riwaq's Activities

Over the years, Riwaq has been in charge of the renovation of individual buildings as well as the development of preservation plans for city centres and small communities. During recent years, Riwaq also has become involved in the ways the current protection instruments work and whether they fulfil the requirements for effective, secure cultural heritage protection.

The key aspects of the efforts are related to the response and interest shown by people in charge at political and management levels. Another central issue concerns the organisation – that is, whether cultural heritage is a part of a bigger revitalization plan as it is in Hebron, or if preservation is to be treated as a separate issue. Both of these procedures have advantages, but being part of a bigger plan takes time, is more complicated, and makes preservation plans harder to carry out. On the other hand, if preservation is involved in a wider context from the outset, it can be carried out at an earlier stage. The advantage of a preservation plan is the opportunity to focus on the cultural heritage and its protection. The recommendation is to try both methods. However, more effort should be put into pure preservation plans in order to gain experience about the present and forthcoming coming opportunities for legal regulation.

8.2 Pilot Project

The model of working with municipalities and preservation planning has been practised as a pilot study in Beitunia, a small village to the west of Ramallah, to some extent in Bethlehem, and on a much larger scale in Hebron. Above all, the experience gained from the Beitunia pilot project is encouraging.

8.3 Planned actions

In the forthcoming three-year period, Riwaq intends to intensify its commitment to the area of protection. It will also perform case studies of preservation programmes and select a few villages and towns in order to find out how current regulations and the renewed legal restrictions are working. The idea is to select a number of places with different characteristics and thus gain knowledge about the application of the regulation as well as its own ability to work with these kinds of tasks.

The selection is limited to sites with a cut-off at one hundred buildings where the “fabric” is intact. Due to the problems associated with moving across the West Bank through the Israeli barricades, Riwaq has chosen to conduct its activities in the region of Ramallah where conditions are slightly better. The application contains a list of 36 villages and cities and the order in which the work is scheduled. The aim is to work with six objects a year. That makes a total of 18 cities and villages over three years.

Furthermore, the intention is to work methodologically, based on a declared plan of procedure from the first contact with those responsible for the city/village up to the final preservation programme, including appropriate protection.

8.4 Evaluation

In order to shed light on its usefulness, Riwaq has made methodical, practical use of the national register for two pilot projects. It was found that the register is very useful in terms of the physical planning of city environments. It is easy to gain access to facts and thereby also to present the local authorities with a useful planning base, something that is normally lacking. In the Beitunia pilot project, Riwaq has received positive feedback, and there are greater chances of developing a more careful plan for the cultural heritage than what would otherwise have been the case. This positive attitude seems to be the case in other villages and towns Riwaq has been in contact with.

The possibilities of using existing protection instruments in municipal planning have also been tried. Experience gained hitherto is that the instruments are very useful for protection and preservation, but that they are not that easy to handle. What is important are attitudes towards preservation.

Even if the present situation makes it difficult to carry out practical planning, the discussions and ideas concerning preservation are a valuable investment for the future and under other circumstances in Palestine.

Our recommendation is that Riwaq should continue their preservation operations in a number of selected cities and villages, in close cooperation especially with the responsible municipal authorities, and that Sida should support this

9. New legal protection of historical and natural values

9.1 Background

Since 2003 Riwaq has raised the issue of how to begin work on legislating for adequate regulations to protect the Palestinian cultural heritage more systematically.

9.2 The working group

Riwaq is part of a working group that drew up a draft version of a new law for the protection of historical and natural values in 2003. The group is under the leadership of the faculty of law at the University of Birzeit and consists of carefully chosen, competent people. The university won the tender for the project. The initiative for new cultural and natural regulations came from the MTA (Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage) and originated in the Bethlehem 2000 committee.

9.3 The Process

The proposal has been circulated among interested parties in Palestine for comments and has generated a positive reaction. The law proposal was preceded by a policy document in which the conditions and preservation policy were stated. Thus the policy document, which draws inspiration in part from cultural heritage protection in the West, constitutes the basic document for the direction of the preservation policy. In the process there have been a number of workshops, where experts from different fields have participated.

9.4 Aim of the proposed law

The proposal is unique in the sense that it comprises both cultural and natural values – an interesting approach that hopefully will last throughout the entire process. The advantage of combining the two values is that the Palestinian landscape is cultural ground, i.e. shaped and processed by mankind over thousands of years. This means the natural values are a part of the cultural heritage and should by all means be judged and protected as such. Experience has shown that it is difficult to combine these two scientific disciplines in one activity, but hopefully this project will make it possible.

9.5 Application of the proposed law

Work on the regulations also involves the ways in which the legislation are to be administered, and the authorities that are to administer it. In 2003, the working group came up with a proposal that will be processed and hopefully decided upon in 2004. The proposal focuses on giving the administrative authority a democratic profile with definite participation by different experts in the field of cultural heritage.

The law and its application are built as a process involving different steps, i.e. temporary protection, a preparatory and investigative process, and a final decision. While awaiting the creation of more radical regulation, improvements to existing laws have also been discussed.

9.6 Planned actions

Riwaq has a strong commitment to the legal process and intends to keep working with these issues during the next three-year period. With its experience and expertise, Riwaq plays an important role in the continuing work of developing legislation. It is also important to test the outcome of the protection regulations and draw up plans for future efforts.

9.7 Evaluation

Riwaq has seen its commitment to the work of renewing cultural heritage legislation as a natural step in developing the building history register. The legislative task is extensive and to some extent complicated by the involvement of many different parties with widespread interests. The project has the support of the central authorities and has come a long way in developing its proposal. Perhaps the most critical issue concerns combining the cultural heritage and natural values in one single regulation. The issue and discussions are in a critical phase on whether it is possible to continue working towards a joint regulation. Other problems of a critical nature that seem to have been solved are the procedures for the decision-making and preparation processes and practical applications at the operational level.

It is felt that Riwaq, thanks to its competence and position in the cultural context, is of great importance for the formulation of regulations and their observance in the future. Therefore it is urgent that Riwaq is given the chance to continue working with these issues with Sida's support.

10. Photo archive

10.1 Contents

Making an inventory of the cultural heritage has generated a great number of new photos, colour photos as well as colour slides and negatives. Today, the photo archive contains some 60,000 pictures of which 20,000 have been registered to date. The photographs are sorted in a topographic register. Riwaq also has ideas about old photographs of historical buildings in Palestine.

Ever since the early days of photography, Palestine and the Holy Land's ancient monuments have been of great interest. That is the case for both older photos taken in the 17th century and more recent ones. The backgrounds of the traditional subjects found on most of the photos usually show surroundings and people, revealing a lot about everyday life in Palestine. That is why the photos have other ethnological values as well. At present there are five large photo archives in the Western world containing pictures from Palestine, a few collections in USA, and a number of different-sized collections in the Arab world, such as Lebanon and Syria,. There are about 20 bigger collections in total.

10.2 Planned Actions

Riwaq intends to develop the current collection of photographs into an architecture and building heritage photo archive. Experience and demand indicate that there is a great interest in the establishment of this kind of photo library.

In addition, there is an urgent need to build archives that fulfil the requirements for storing, climate, and accessibility. There is also a need for regular updates and personnel to carry out the tasks. In the long run, resources for making it possible to receive visitors in proper surroundings are also needed.

10.3 Evaluation

Through the inventory, Riwaq has documented buildings and environments of great value for different kinds of preservation planning, care, and renovations. In the long run, the photographs will also serve a documentary purpose as a snapshot of society today. This value will increase too, due to its extended coverage of the building population without any social, economical or political restrictions.

The photograph collection is of high technical quality and it is felt that it provides an excellent complement to the text parts of the inventory to create a complete documentation.

The Photo Archive is listed in the application. It is important that the photograph collection is given safe and climate-adjusted storage. It would be a distinct advantage if the collection can be developed into a public picture/photo archive that focuses on architecture and building heritage. This would improve the opportunity for more people to gain access to their own cultural heritage and that of others.

Setting up the photo archives still requires a lot of work. Riwaq provides an account of what is necessary in the application. Among other things there are study visits to archives, meetings with collectors, copying and digital transferral, filing, storing, and purchase of books.

11. Personnel, Skills and Training

11.1 Staff

In February 2003, Riwaq had 11 full time persons employed at the company.

List of employees:

Suad Amiry	Director
Nazmi Júbeh	Director
Khaldun Bshara	Architect/Restorer
Farhat Muhawi	Architect/Planner
Bahá Júbeh	Archeologist
Muhannad Hadid	Architect
Fidá Touma	Architect/Administrator
Yara Al Sharif	Architect
Sahar Qawasmi	Architect
Harbi Daraghme	Accountant
Mohammed Subhi	Office support

11.2 Competence profile and future needs

When it comes to Riwaq's collective skills, the company has broadened its competence profile. That has been achieved by recruitment, further education, in-house studies of the cultural heritage, knowledge transfer between Riwaq's operational areas, and participation in international seminars and conferences.

In the field of cultural history and IT- technology, Riwaq has broad competence with a profile that focuses on architecture, art history, restoration and archaeology. Riwaq also has international experience and a specific knowledge of the Arabic building culture in a broad sense. This offers Riwaq a great opportunity, not only to carry out its planned efforts in Palestine, but also to extend its activities to other countries in the region.

12. Co-operation and Riwaq's network

12.1 Co-operation and Riwaq's network

Through its different activities, Riwaq has established a broad network of proper working partners as well as a wide spectrum of interested parties. Riwaq's network includes authorities at different levels, organisations in the cultural sector, NGO.interests, universities, international companies, and individuals. Sida and the Ford Foundation, as Riwaq's main contributors, are to be counted as central "specific partners".

12.2 Evaluation

The network is very important to the company's future development and operational focus, not least those parts of the activities that deal with strengthening and gaining understanding for the cultural heritage and its significance for Palestinian people. The network is also important for the staff at Riwaq in terms of providing an exchange of experiences and friendship.

13. Conclusions

13.1 Stated aims and results

As far as possible, Riwaq has followed its plans through their different steps and reached a satisfactory result. A new three-year period begins where the last one left off, allowing the projects to follow a line of development with the overall vision and long-term aim of protecting the historical building heritage. From the outset, the establishment of the National Register has been regarded as a long-term undertaking, whereas other activities have developed during the course of the project.

The situation in Palestine has been, and still is, very complicated. Barricades and threatening situations sometimes make it extremely dangerous to carry out planned field activities or get to work.

Despite these circumstances, Riwaq has followed the time schedule satisfactorily and achieved its stated aims. The work done is also of high quality. On the whole, the results achieved are at the level that was planned for prior to the start of present three-year period.

13.2 Effects of Sida's contributions

Through its efforts, Riwaq has created a register containing valuable environments and buildings on the West Bank and in Gaza. The register has contributed to increasing knowledge of cultural heritage values, especially building history: knowledge that already existed to some extent, but which was limited to a small number of persons or which only covered certain parts of the cultural heritage. Today, it is possible for many of the people of Palestine to gain access to their cultural heritage through the register; an accessibility that has its limitations but still exists. Through the Internet, the possibility of gaining more knowledge of the cultural heritage will soon be available to other interested parties as well, not least internationally. In this sense the register has contributed to fulfilling the human right of accessibility to cultural heritage.

Through the work it has carried out, Riwaq has contributed to the protection of a number of buildings and milieus of high cultural value in the old city centres of Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem.

Thanks to restoration programmes, they can also develop with a good chance of being preserved. Some of the measures might still be discussed and questioned from the perspective of restoration ideology but, on the whole, a number of buildings and milieus of great value have been safeguarded by the operations. This has contributed to saving the diversity of the historical building heritage – a diversity that is of international breadth.

The preserved buildings and milieus can be traced to a wide spectrum of building periods as well as economic and social levels of society at the time. Through their complexity, they contribute to increasing understanding of cultural influences and personal meetings as a natural part of the development of every society.

The publications, the public activities, seminars and courses, as well as exhibitions, also contribute to increasing the Palestinian people's knowledge of and access to their history. One particular target group Riwaq has concentrated on is children and young people who get a chance to learn about their history and the importance of a cultural heritage at an early age.

Another starting point is the way Sida's contribution has strengthened the democratic process and promoted equality in the context of public influence on the preservation of the Palestinian cultural heritage. The historical buildings that have been restored with Sida's help are meant to be used for the benefit of the public. It is planned that several will be used by young people and women. Buildings are ready for libraries, community rooms and handicraft rooms for example, for female artists and handicraft co-operatives, and for students and young people. In this way, equality and public influence over cultural heritage have been supported.

Another area deals with the municipal process of democratic issues regarding preservation and the opportunity the general public has to influence what should be preserved as the cultural heritage. Especially in Beitunia, Riwaq has worked with a kind of democratic preservation process by arranging public hearings, meeting responsible municipal officials and holding general discussions. Nonetheless there is still a long way to go to achieve democratic influence as we know it, but activities such as the ones mentioned above open up new ways and increase involvement in what is happening in the immediate community.

The national register already has proven to be of practical use, especially in the care and preservation of the cultural heritage. Many interested parties are requesting information for planning purposes, for instance municipalities and private house-owners. Riwaq has used the register successfully in the Beitunia pilot study and in the process of selecting suitable villages/cities for further preservation.

14. Three-Year Funding Proposal, June 1, 2004–May 31, 2007.

Riwaq has submitted a proposal to Sida for three years' work with the Palestinian heritage.

The proposal for the next three years emanates from the knowledge and facts connected with work on the National Register, supported by Sida. The main idea is to use this experience to focus on the most urgent areas of action for the purpose of protecting and preserving the cultural heritage and of creating broad public support for its importance. The application focuses on the following three main areas:

- Projects Emanating from the National Register (14.1)
- Community Out-Reach Section (14.2)
- Research and Public Section (14.3)

14.1 Projects Emanating from the National Register

The project is based on facts connected with the National Register. It contains the following sections:

- a. Protection Plans for Cultural Assets in Towns and Villages
- b. Photo Archive
- c. Data Management

a. Protection Plans for Cultural Assets in Towns and Villages

1. Introduction

This project is based on the experience from the previous four projects Riwaq has worked with in recent years: the law proposal project, the Beituina case study, restoration projects (including “Job creation”) plus experience from the out-reach project.

2. Main objectives

By utilising experience and facts from these projects, the intention is to work in a methodical and target-oriented manner during the next three years with the following concrete preservation measures:

- Preparation of protection plans. Identifying suitable villages/towns, limiting relevant cultural zones in the chosen object as well as preparing and setting up protection and rehabilitation plans for the chosen villages/towns. A special group at Riwaq will work on this together with other groups in the company.
- Forming a partnership and planning cooperation with the local municipal authorities/village councils concerned.
- Forming a partnership with the Ministry of the Interior for central support to actual preservation measures.
- Supporting local government and communities on issues related to protection, management and enhancement of cultural heritage
- Examining and identifying the social and economic aspects and incentives for protecting the cultural heritage.
- Actual conservation of a “model” building in cooperation with local municipal/village councils. The example should have positive effects on local development, economy, cultural life, employment etc.
- Community awareness campaign to broaden public interest in the cultural heritage and its importance.

3. Protection by legislation

The task is partly to continue working with the new legislation and partly to see what is possible with the use of existing legislative instruments.

The main objective is to continue work in the legislation group where Riwaq has an important role. The Institute of Law at Birzeit University has the main responsibility for this project. The work Riwaq has planned is divided into three stages: the preparation of a policy framework document that will guide the drafting process for the law, the actual drafting of the law, and finally the preparation of a memorandum for interpretation of the law. Riwaq also sees the need to start preparing protection plans for selected historical sites in order to reduce the future burden on the authorities.

The second approach refers to the study of ways in which existing laws and regulations can be used in the protection of the heritage as it is today.

4. The town of Beituina as a case study

The plan is to continue the case study in Beituina and run it as a complete preservation plan in close collaboration with the local authorities. This is also a type of consulting assignment based on an agreement between Riwaq and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The idea is that Beituina can

become a pilot project and model in drawing up guidelines for future preservation plans in other historical cities and villages.

5. Defining priorities for site selection

The main objective is to use the National Register to identify and select a number of towns/villages with defined criteria. Riwaq plans to work with 6 sites per year during the three-year period of Sida's support. The main criterion is a well-preserved "fabric" (physical and historical structure).

Riwaq is obliged to choose sites situated in the Ramallah region only, because of the siege, the barricades and the problem of mobility.

6. Work plan

This project is divided into five phases based on experience from the Beitunia case:

Phase 1: Mobilization period

Phase 2: Reviewing available literature, documents and plans (Background studies)

Phase 3: Updating collected and reviewed data and information (Field work)

Phase 4: Analysing and studying collected data and information

Phase 5: Delineation and protection plan

The main idea in this project is to create a consistent plan of procedures and use it for all historical sites concerned.

Phase 5 is the final task with actual protection plans in which Riwaq's experience and opinions are very important for the results and opportunities for the authorities. This is the most critical part of the project for influencing opinion among local authorities in favour of protection of the cultural heritage. The project consists of both conservation plans for monuments and protection plans for areas of historical and natural value.

b. Architectural Photo Archive

The plans and application refer to creating a photo archive based on photographs and material owned by Riwaq today as well as researching and copying from international collections. Riwaq already has about 60,000 photos. The project also consists of buying books, researching international archives and a huge photocopying task. The archive's profile is to be buildings of historical and architectural interest.

The total undertaking is divided into eight different steps. Books and photo collections already known to Riwaq are named in the proposal. The application does not specify aspects of ownership, accessibility, future up-dating, and, not least, construction of archive buildings with satisfactory storage and security standards.

c. National Register Data Management

There is a great need for a security strategy in order to safeguard the basic data in the National Register. This material consists of 50,328 information sheets and photo negatives and 420 maps. There is great scientific and financial value in this material and it is important to keep it safe. The idea is to develop a security plan and to follow it with appropriate measures over the next three years. This is not cost-estimated in detail but listed in the application as a lump sum of USD 10,000 a year for these measures, four months for the security plan and after that yearly measures within the lump sum.

14.2 Community Out-Reach Section

This part of the proposal refers to support for eight different phases that focus on the need for a broad out-reach undertaking. The undertaking consists of the following components:

- Exhibitions
- Conservation courses and lectures for architects
- Youth activities
- Media activities
- Book launching and public readings coordinated with research and publication units
- Periodic publications
- Promotional materials, eg. postcards, book marks etc for national and international public.
- Educational materials

Riwaq has also developed an activity plan for these components from June 2004 to June.2007.

14.3 Research and Public Section

This part of the application is focused on the great need for research and publication of books about the cultural and architectural heritage in Palestine. Riwaq wants to fill the gap in this field and to continue the work it started some years ago. Riwaq has built up a great deal of experience and expertise, which is worth taking advantage of and using in order to broaden general knowledge of the Palestinian heritage.

Riwaq intends to produce two books per year. The issues, authors and plans for the publication are already suggested and decided on. Produced books and proposed titles for the new productions are to be found in the proposal.

14.4 Evaluation

My evaluation is based on a review of the proposal for the next three years, the evaluation report from my visit to Palestine in February 2004, and the annual narrative and financial report for the last period submitted by Riwaq. My appraisal is also based on a survey of the total efforts made throughout the nine years Riwaq has received contributions from Sida.

The projects in the three-year funding proposal (2004–2007) all stem from Riwaq's previous work with support and financial assistance from Sida. There is a clear connection between what has been done during the previous periods and what is suggested for the future. In the final part of the previous period, efforts and ideas focused more and more on the practical use of the facts and experiences from the National Register to protect, preserve and raise the significance of the cultural heritage in Palestinian society. This is also the obvious character of the proposal for 2004–2007.

This is also a natural and logical step for the development of Riwaq's efforts to preserve the Palestinian cultural heritage with support from Sida. The idea of converting the considerable experience and what has been gained from research and inventory work into practical activities is also a way of broadening positive opinion in the Palestine society for protection of the cultural (and natural) heritage.

The plans for the different components are reasonable in aim and intention, as is the calculation of costs, in total as well as for the different projects.

Serious threats – a motive for support

The cultural and natural heritage in Palestine consists of buildings, sites and areas of great historical (and natural) value. A heritage, which, even though exposed to exploitation and destruction throughout history by ruthless invaders and rulers, still exists today. There are two main reasons for the damage to the heritage; ongoing destruction caused by Israeli aggression and indirectly due to the problematic circumstances in Palestinian society (e.g. lack of physical planning and maintenance of buildings and structures).

Primarily, the destruction of the heritage is important for the historical identity of the Palestinian people. However, the loss of historical values in the Palestinian heritage is also a serious issue and a responsibility for international society and all mankind.

The three-year funding proposal is a strategic way of taking advantage of and using the progress made with a view to making further efforts to protect the Palestinian heritage.

Suggested supplementary measures

One pertinent issue is the permanent updating of the National Register. Riwaq needs a plan for updating the register as soon as it is completed and closed. That discussion must begin during this period.

Destruction does not only affect villages and cities. It has also had a serious effect on the Palestinian landscape, especially the historical terraced hillsides where settlements and roads are now built rather haphazardly. This leads to the need for a discussion of a survey in order to assess the threats and become aware of what is happening to the landscape. The landscape has great value and is very important, for instance for future tourist development.

Riwaq has raised the question of ownership of the National Register several times. It seems to be a suitable occasion to broach that issue now that work on the register is completed.

Nothing is mentioned in the application about mobility and whether the wall will pose a more difficult situation for Riwaq. In a bad scenario it can cause problems in running the projects as planned. Perhaps an alternative plan is necessary.

It is not evident from the proposal whether Riwaq wants any support from external experts, for instance in the new law project, drawing up protection plans or for restoration of historical buildings.

It is suggested that these issues are discussed and resolved prior to the final decision.

14.5 Recommendation

My recommendation is that Sida should give its full support to the proposal for the forthcoming three years, 2004–2007. The reason is that Riwaq has performed high quality work throughout the entire period and that it has the capacity to continue and also develop its important efforts to protect the Palestinian heritage. The proposal is a constructive step forward for the cultural heritage and Sida has a responsibility for fulfilling the obligation. The project shows a way to proceed: from building up a base of experience and facts to a targeted varied preservation undertaking of great importance for the Palestinian society.

Hopefully during forthcoming periods it will be possible to see results and practical effects from the former investments in the fields of heritage and preservation. The protection work based on the proposal is also a valuable contribution to the long-term democratic process in Palestine.

Visby 2004-06-02
Lennart Edlund

Appendix 1 Terms of Reference

Background

Sida has since 1993 given support to the cultural sector on the West Bank and Gaza. Since 1995 the support is included in the bilateral programme which is laid down in the Country strategy for the West Bank and Gaza.

Since 1994 Sida has contributed to the Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation in its creation of the first nationwide inventory of historic buildings and sites built before 1945 on the West Bank and Gaza. Riwaq's main objective is to protect in a systematic and orderly way the architectural cultural and historic heritage in Palestine for the succeeding generations.

The register is meant to comprise comprehensive data of totally about 50 000 buildings from nearly 400 towns and villages. At the end of 2003 data from about 45 000 buildings have been collected.

Riwaq was established 1991 in Ramallah on the initiative of the architect Suad Amiry.

From the very start Riwaq acquired a highly qualified and broad professional composition. For the time being the group consists of architects, archaeologists, historians and engineers, totally 10–12 persons.

The contribution from Sida has also included information and opinion work to rouse public awareness of Riwaq's work with the cultural heritage in general and with the national register in particular and with some research and publication activities.

Totally Riwaq has received 10,7 MSEK from Sida primarily to its national inventory.

The national inventory

During its first phase Riwaq concentrated on a broad campaign to enlighten local politicians and the public concerning the importance of protecting historically, architecturally and culturally valuable buildings. During the next phase Riwaq accomplished restorations of a couple of more or less well-known Palestinian buildings. 1994 Riwaq started its work with the national register. Simultaneously Riwaq set about repairing the town centres in Hebron, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

During 1998 Riwaq founded a publication and research unit and started giving lectures on the subject on local government level.

The work with the national register has on the whole been very successful particularly in consideration of the gradually growing obstacles which the Israeli occupation policy has raised. The inventory will be completed during 2003 and contain about 50 000 buildings. A national register of a very special character will then be available.

Riwaq decided before the end of 2001 to issue the not wholly completed documentation so that the publication not be further delayed. About 5 000 buildings then remained to be registered.

Riwaq has after the outbreak of the second Intifada spent some time informing about and documenting of the demolition of the Palestinian architectural heritage by the Israeli army. A photo publication was published in 2003.

Riwaq has since a long time put forward the question how an adequate legislation could be initiated in order to achieve a more systematic protection of the Palestinian architectural heritage. While waiting for a more extensive legislation Riwaq has been contemplating an improvement of already existing laws in the field.

The purpose of the evaluation

A first point of departure for an evaluation of Riwaq's performance is the question which consequences Sida's contribution to Riwaq has had on the overall objectives of Sida's cultural cooperation to create opportunities for cultural diversity, creative activities and sustainable development based on human rights.

A second point of departure is to estimate the significance of Riwaq's work in strengthening the democratic processes in the Palestinian cultural society. In the first place attention must be given to the popular influence on the safeguarding of the Palestinian architectural heritage.

A third point of departure is to assess how the current national register could be of use for the protection of the national architectural heritage and under which conditions the register can be put into practice.

A fourth point of departure is under which conditions Sida can continue to subsidize Riwaq and which goals Sida is prepared to promote. A crucial question is how the legislation work of the Palestinian authorities can be directed towards protecting the Palestinian architectural heritage.

One more question is whether Sida could contemplate giving grants to Riwaq in other relevant fields of action.

Questions to be answered in the evaluation

The following questions shall in the first place be studied in the evaluation and constitute the bulk of the report:

- a) How has Riwaq's national inventory on the whole been accomplished in a qualitative as well as a quantitative respect?
- b) How usable is the register for the proclaimed purpose in its present state? What remains of classifications, priorities, judgements and valuations?
- c) How much is remaining of the registration and documentation work before it can be considered to be completed? Are there any obstacles left apart from the Israeli occupation?
- d) In which ways has Riwaq informed about the registration work? What kind of written information has Riwaq published up to now?
- e) What is the impact of Riwaq's information- and opinion work regarding the protection of the architectural heritage on the attitudes to the subject on the governmental level and among the public at large?
- f) Is it possible to measure any positive effects from the registration work on the skills and competence level among students and professionals in the cultural and natural heritage sector?
- g) Which long-term legislating measures, actions to influence public opinion, institutional reforms and physical planning are necessary to obtain a more permanent protection of the Palestinian architectural heritage? What will be Riwaq's contribution?

- h) How has Riwaq's international cooperation within the heritage sector developed?
- i) How has Riwaq succeeded in its other activities like research and photo archive?

Methodology, evaluation team and time schedule

Methodology

The methodology used for the evaluation shall be participatory and include all identified stakeholders. A participatory evaluation invites different stakeholders to articulate and present their needs, interests and expectations. This process might be particularly significant and relevant in a conflict situation like the Palestinian.

The main emphasis in the evaluation shall be on the analytical part particularly which qualitative and long term results Riwaq's registration work has achieved.

The evaluation should be carried out through

- Studies of relevant documents and reports such as Sida's cultural policy, country strategies, Riwaq's project proposals, agreements and financial and narrative reports, Riwaq's different publications;
- Interviews with Sida officials who are responsible for the administration of the support both at Sida in Stockholm and at the Consulate General in Jerusalem;
- Interviews with responsible officers and possibly, with officials at the Ministry of Culture, with university teachers, cultural workers and other groups with a vested interest in the heritage sector on the West Bank and Gaza;
- Interviews with organisations and special expertise within the sector in Sweden.

Evaluation Team

The consultant shall be an expert in the particular field with a good knowledge of the West Bank and Gaza, a good understanding of the cultural field and of cultural institutions and organisations, of capacity building, administration and management in the cultural sector and be very competent in Swedish and English.

Time schedule

The evaluation will take place in Sweden and on the West Bank and Gaza during January–March 2004. The length of the assignment is estimated to 5 weeks full-time work.

Reporting

The findings will be presented in a report and, if possible, at a seminar at Sida.

The evaluation report shall be written in English and should not exceed 30 pages, excluding annexes. Format and outline of the report shall follow the guidelines in *Sida Evaluation Report – a Standardised Format* (see Annex 1). 3 copies of the draft report shall be submitted to Sida no later than 1 March, 2004.

Within 2 weeks after receiving Sida's comments on the draft report, that is 15 March, a final version in 5 copies and on diskette shall be submitted to Sida.

Subject to decision by Sida, the report will be published and distributed as a publication within the Sida Evaluations series.

The evaluation report shall be written in Word 6.0 for Windows (or in a compatible format) and should be presented in a way that enables publication without further editing.

The evaluation assignment includes the production of a Newsletter summary following the guidelines in *Sida Evaluations Newsletter – Guidelines for Evaluation Managers and Consultants* and also the completion of *Sida Evaluations Data Work Sheet*. The separate summary and a completed Data Work Sheet shall be submitted to Sida along with the draft report.

(Annexes 1, 2 and 3 are retrievable from ‘Sida-mallar’/Sida Evaluations)

Appendix 1

Reference literature

F Rahhal, Suad Amiry, manateer; Agricultural Watch Towers

Suad Amiry, Vera Tamari, The Palestinian Village

Suad Amiry, Throne Village Architecture

Suad Amiry, Mouhannad Hadid, Earthquake in April

Sida, Policy, Policy för Sidas internationella utvecklingssamarbete på kulturområdet

Sida, Methods, Så arbetar Sida

Appendix 2

Persons Consulted

An Najah University Nablus

Eman Amad, PhD., Head of dep. of architecture

Bethlehem 2000 Project

Christiane Nasser, Head of Bethlehem Cultural Heritage Center

Khouloud Daibes

Birzeit University

Vera Tamari, M.Phi., Fine arts program: Lecturer and Coordinator

Consulate general of Sweden, Jerusalem

Göran Berg, ambassador

Annika Johansson, Consul Development Cooperation

Mats Svensson, Consul Development Cooperation

MTA Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage

Riwaq

Amiry Suad, Director

Júbeh Nazmi, Director

Khaldun Bsara, Architect/Restorer

Farhat Muhawi, Architect/Planner

Bahá Júbeh, Archeologist

Muhannad Hadid, Architect/Administrator

Yara Al Sharif, Architect

Sahar Qawasmi, Architect

Sida

Åke Löfgren

Swedish National Board of Antiquities

Lena Flodin, Responsible for Sida projects

Village Council, Beitunia

Dep. of physical planning

Village Council, Beit Wazan

The Mayor

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Ron McGill, Peter Boulding, Tony Bennett
Department for Democracy and Social Development and Department for Africa

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