

Iran

IRAN SUSTAINABLE URBAN CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT

Cultural Heritage

Stand alone initiative

Task Manager: Rosanna Nitti/Gianni Brizzi

Year of ITFCSD grant approval: 2002

Status: active

Grant amount: USD 100,000

Disbursements: USD 65,056.22

Commitments: USD 6,840

The ITFCSD has supported the World Bank in the first review of the cultural heritage sector in Iran, which has originated the policy note: “Iran’s Cultural Heritage and Social and Economic Development - *Prospects and Challenges*”. This provides a thorough assessment of the scope, nature and territorial distribution of Iran’s cultural patrimony, the institutional and legal frameworks, the sources of funding and benefits that underpin its protection, conservation and exploitation. Also, it provides a set of recommendations on the measures and actions that the Government could undertake to foster the social and economic exploitation of the cultural patrimony and identifies possible areas in which the World Bank could provide technical and financial assistance.

The proposed task has been carried out by the Regional Advisor for Culture and Development (RACD) of the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank with a team of Iranian and Italian experts funded by the ITFCSD. The team, including two Iranian and four Italian consultants, has been also joined in the first mission held in October 2002 by a representative of the UNESCO World Heritage Center. The draft review has been presented to the Iranian authorities in October 2003, who have contributed to the final editing. The study has been completed in December 2003 and discussed with the Iranian authorities, who have expressed their interest in receiving additional assistance and prepare a possible program for Bank financing.