



## A Comprehensive Framework for Heritage Site Management: Challenges and Strategies for Sustainable Preservation

Adel H. Jassim<sup>1</sup>, Shatha A. Hasan<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Ammar Khalil Ebraheem<sup>1,3</sup>, Mustafa Abduljalil Ebraheem<sup>1,3</sup>,  
Moheb Kamel AL-Rawe<sup>1</sup>, Amer Shakir Alkinani<sup>1</sup>, Falah Almosawi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Urban and Regional Planning Center for Postgraduate Studies, University of Baghdad, Baghdad 47251, Iraq

<sup>2</sup> Department of Architecture, University of Baghdad, Baghdad 47251, Iraq

<sup>3</sup> Iraqi Architectural Heritage Preservation Society, Baghdad 47251, Iraq

Corresponding Author Email: [shatha.a.h@coeng.uobaghdad.edu.iq](mailto:shatha.a.h@coeng.uobaghdad.edu.iq)

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### ABSTRACT

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This study investigates the complex challenges of managing heritage sites in Iraq, focusing on the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon due to its religious, historical, and architectural significance. The site exemplifies critical management issues, including institutional fragmentation, limited technical and financial resources, and insufficient legislative frameworks. Left unaddressed, these challenges threaten the site's material integrity and symbolic identity through uncoordinated interventions and neglect. The research aims to propose a context-sensitive framework for sustainable heritage management by combining theoretical perspectives with practical analysis. Using a case study methodology, the study draws on field observations, historical documentation, and spatial analysis to identify the key threats affecting the shrine. It further assesses their impacts on the site's physical structure and cultural relevance. Findings reveal that the lack of centralized governance and the absence of qualified conservation professionals have led to ineffective restoration practices and the alteration of original site features. The study emphasizes the urgency of legal reform, institutional coordination, and the application of advanced technologies such as GIS and BIM for monitoring and planning. It also highlights the role of community engagement and public-private partnerships in ensuring long-term preservation. The research contributes to bridging the gap between heritage policy and local practice, offering a replicable model for other heritage sites in Iraq and similar post-conflict contexts. Future research is encouraged to test the proposed strategies in diverse cultural and geographical settings to enhance their generalizability and impact.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Heritage sites are concrete representations of cultural, historical, and architectural value that link current generations to their ancestry. The work of this committee strives to reflect the diversity of sites in the different categories (including but not limited to ancient monuments, historic buildings, cultural landscapes, and intangible traditions linked to a specific place) designated for inclusion. Like the tickling of reddish-brown trinkets pressing against the dandy glass facade, they are a key carrier of knowledge, an avatar coiled with the identity, traditions and values of a community. In essence, heritage sites act as an irreplaceable component of societal cohesive material by cultivating cultural pride and continuity; wherein the cultural heritage enables the society as a whole to develop and carry from generation to generation the collective memory of the nation. Additionally, tourism and global cultural exchange encourage economic development, and conserving heritage sites is also important for sustainability for the next generation.

### 1.1 Importance of historical heritage management

The management of historical heritage has become a critical global concern, particularly in regions experiencing rapid urbanization, political instability, and environmental threats. Heritage sites are not only physical remnants of the past but also active agents in shaping cultural identity, social cohesion, and sustainable economic development [1, 2]. As highlighted by UNESCO and ICOMOS, the degradation of heritage resources due to mismanagement undermines the collective memory of communities and jeopardizes intergenerational knowledge transfer. In post-conflict contexts like Iraq, where tangible and intangible heritage are under constant threat, the imperative for coherent and sustainable heritage management frameworks becomes particularly urgent.

### 1.2 Comparative context: The shrine of Prophet Tho Al-Kifl in Iran and beyond

The Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine has parallels in both Iraq

and Iran, with various attributions and architectural interpretations present across the region. In Iran, similar shrines—often attributed to prophetic or religious figures—are maintained under centralized religious endowments, though they also face challenges related to authenticity, urban encroachment, and inconsistent restoration practices [3]. Comparative studies on shrines in countries like Jordan and Turkey reveal that integrating community participation with digital documentation tools significantly improves preservation outcomes [4, 5]. These comparative insights reinforce the need to evaluate the Al-Kifl site not in isolation, but within a broader regional context of shared heritage vulnerabilities and management models.

### 1.3 Challenges facing the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon

The Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon faces multidimensional challenges that compromise its historical integrity. Chief among these are overlapping institutional jurisdictions, absence of a unified conservation policy, and limited technical expertise. These issues have resulted in uncoordinated restoration activities, including the use of inappropriate materials and unauthorized architectural modifications, which have altered the site's skyline and disrupted its symbolic coherence. Additionally, deteriorating conditions in surrounding elements such as the Khans and Suq Danyal signal systemic neglect and a lack of strategic vision in heritage governance.

### 1.4 Research contribution: A contextual and applied perspective

This study offers a unique perspective by bridging theoretical heritage management frameworks with field-based diagnostics at a specific, yet representative, site in Iraq. Unlike broader heritage inventories or policy reviews, this research provides a grounded analysis of the actual practices and failures at the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine. It also integrates emerging tools such as GIS and BIM within a participatory and multi-stakeholder framework, proposing a hybrid management model that is both locally applicable and

internationally informed. This approach allows for actionable recommendations that respond directly to structural, legislative, and sociocultural constraints.

### 1.5 Research aim

Accordingly, the primary aim of this study is to assess the heritage management challenges facing the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon and to formulate an integrated and sustainable framework that aligns with international heritage conservation standards while responding to Iraq's institutional and cultural context.

### 1.6 Overview of challenges in heritage site management with a focus on Iraq

1. Management of such heritage sites is a complex broader issue which is constantly facing a multitude of challenges. In Iraq, these include Fragmented authority and governance: The multiplicity of jurisdictions under which different entities and places fall at the same time may be in conflict, hindering efficiency and avoiding accountability of decision-making.
2. Budgetary and Technical Limitations Budgetary and technical limitations, along with aging preservation and the loss of qualified professionals in heritage conservation, continue to contribute to the decline of ancient sites.
3. Unfettered Expansion of the City: The construction of new infrastructure has increasingly encroached on heritage sites, resulting in irreversible damage to their historical context.
4. Environmental and Security Issues: Major threats related to the environment and security arise from natural disasters, climate change and armed conflict, compromising the structural and cultural integrity of the sites.
5. Public Not Aware About Heritage Resources: When the public is not engaged with the heritage resources projects, it actually leads towards a neglect and misuse of the heritage resources (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Challenges in heritage site management

By addressing these problems, the study calls for integrated management frameworks that harmonize preservation and development imperatives. The case in Iraq is an instructive one, showing how the possession of heritage sites can be a matter of national pride but also a fragile target that demands coordinated conservation efforts. This research seeks to push forward sustainable heritage management practices around the world by integrating analysis and context-relevant insights.

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: CORE CONCEPTS

### 2.1 Definition and significance of heritage sites

The heritage location occurs by saving data for social memory, identity, culture, and urban continuity, containing a wide range from physical and nonphysical heritage, including historical landmark, religious locations, and cultural natural site; according to Vecco [1], the definition of heritage it developed to unphysical heritage instead of only physical heritage, so the presenting dynamic norms for communities [1, 6].

In addition to their symbolic and cultural dimensions, heritage sites hold increasing value for tourism and local economic development. Historically, these sites act as living testaments to human creativity and technological achievement [7, 8], while culturally they promote national pride and continuity [9]. Economically, they are powerful engines for tourism, job creation, and cultural investment [10]. Figure 2, titled “Integrated Value of Heritage Sites,” illustrates the multidimensional role these sites play—linking historical narratives, cultural pride, and economic sustainability.



Figure 2. Integrated value of heritage sites

### 2.2 Sustainable management of heritage sites

Sustainable heritage site management requires balancing the preservation of historical and cultural values with the needs of contemporary urban, economic, and social development. This includes respecting the authenticity and integrity of sites while enabling adaptive reuse and educational access. The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, as defined by UNESCO, supports the integration of heritage into broader urban planning systems [11]. This values-centered methodology encourages inclusive planning, respects historical authenticity, and aligns conservation with sustainability principles [12].

### 2.3 Role of international organizations in heritage protection

International organizations, especially UNESCO, ICCROM, and ICOMOS, provide essential frameworks and support mechanisms for heritage preservation. Through instruments like the World Heritage Convention, these institutions help states identify, protect, and promote heritage sites of “Outstanding Universal Value.” Their role includes capacity-building, legislative guidance, and promoting community engagement in heritage governance. Furthermore, UNESCO emphasizes the involvement of local communities in decision-making processes, leading to a sense of ownership and responsibility [3, 13].

### 2.4 International experiences in heritage site management

The literature review and many international studies discussed models to administrate and manage heritage locations, these models combine between conservation of these sites and make it accessible to public, by this way, these locations be developed locally. From these examples, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, in this location applied zoning standard to make location zones, every zone has different criteria to develop it reaching location to sustained tourism site [2]. Other sites, Petra in Jordan, depending on comprehensive governance model, that made all local communities be part of the development, beside national authorities and international agenesis [4, 14]. The location of Göreme National Park in Turkey how could from environmental tourism lighting pressure on the environment, and at the same time encroaching public responsivities [5]. All these examples are supported visually by location management model, which ensure conserving unity and locality (Figure 3).

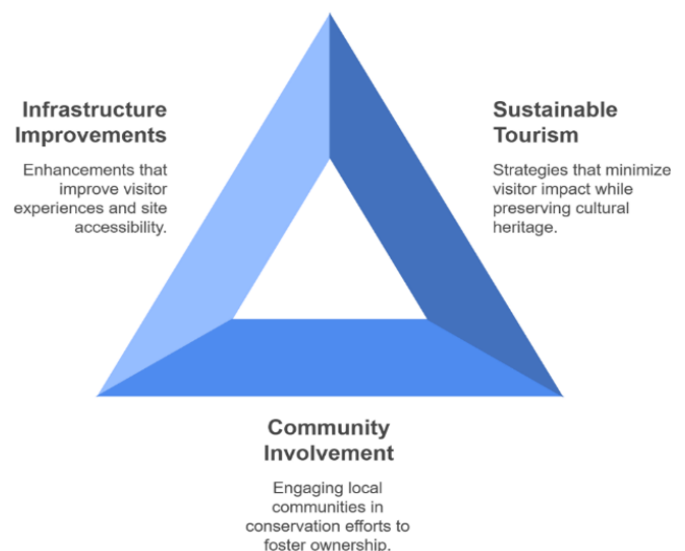


Figure 3. Heritage site management

### 2.5 Local applications and adaptive strategies

International experiences underline the importance of applying multi-stakeholder approaches at the local level. In Sweden, individual participation and local ownership were found essential for long-term preservation [14, 15]. In Italy, heritage education programs successfully engaged youth in protection activities, contributing to socio-economic

revitalization [16]. Advanced technologies such as 3D modeling and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have enhanced conservation techniques, offering detailed mapping of vulnerabilities and guiding restoration efforts. These strategies are illustrated in Figure 4, which emphasizes the role of education, technology, and local engagement in preservation.

## 2.6 Integrated heritage management model

The Integrated Heritage Management (IHM) model presents a holistic governance framework incorporating institutional, community, and private sector perspectives. This model emphasizes site-specific planning indicators that consider ecological, cultural, and economic aspects simultaneously. By promoting responsible consumption and production, IHM aligns with Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11.4 and SDG 12 [17]. Figure 4 also supports

this model by showing how layered management levels can enhance preservation outcomes.

## 2.7 Role of technology in heritage site management

Technological innovation plays a transformative role in contemporary heritage management. Tools such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), GIS, and 3D scanning provide advanced capabilities for documentation, risk assessment, and preventive conservation. The Heritage Care project and related studies illustrate the effectiveness of digital workflows in enhancing site resilience and supporting data-driven decision-making [18, 19]. In particular, the use of fuzzy inference systems to identify vulnerabilities in the Royal Alcázar of Seville [18, 19]. These developments are captured in Figure 5, which shows the strategic application of digital tools in planning and decision-making processes.

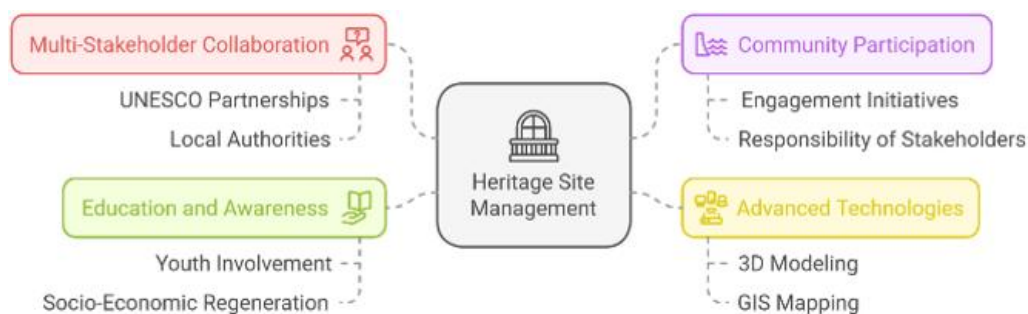


Figure 4. Heritage site management



Figure 5. Enhancing heritage site management

## 3. METHODOLOGY FOR THE PRACTICAL ASPECT

This study adopts a qualitative, case-based approach to investigate the challenges of heritage site management in Iraq, focusing on the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon. The research aims to identify key structural and institutional obstacles and propose practical strategies for sustainable preservation.

### 3.1 Data collection

Data were collected through two main sources:

- Field observation: Direct visual inspection of architectural elements such as the dome, minaret,

khans, and Suq Danyal to assess structural conditions and unauthorized alterations.

- Document review: Analysis of historical texts, legislative documents, heritage management plans, and scholarly literature to contextualize the case study and inform strategy development.

No surveys or interviews were conducted with stakeholders, which is acknowledged as a limitation and discussed in the findings.

### 3.2 Analysis process

The analytical process involved:

1. Identifying challenges based on physical observation



and institutional review.

2. Assessing impacts of these challenges on the shrine's integrity and symbolic value.
3. Developing context-sensitive strategies aligned with international best practices.

### 3.3 Summary of findings and recommendations

To clarify the link between the challenges and proposed interventions, Table 1 outlines the core management issues, their impacts, and recommended strategies:

**Table 1.** Challenges, impacts, and strategic responses

| Challenge                   | Impact  | Strategy                                 |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Institutional fragmentation | Overlapping responsibilities, weak coordination | Centralized management authority         |
| Inadequate legislation      | Legal gaps, poor enforcement                    | Heritage-specific legal reforms          |
| Limited funding & expertise | Incomplete restorations, poor maintenance       | New funding schemes, training programs   |
| Community disengagement     | Site misuse, weak cultural connection           | Awareness campaigns, local participation |

### 3.4 Case selection justification

The Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine was chosen for its architectural complexity, historical depth, and symbolic religious importance, offering a representative model of broader heritage management challenges in Iraq.

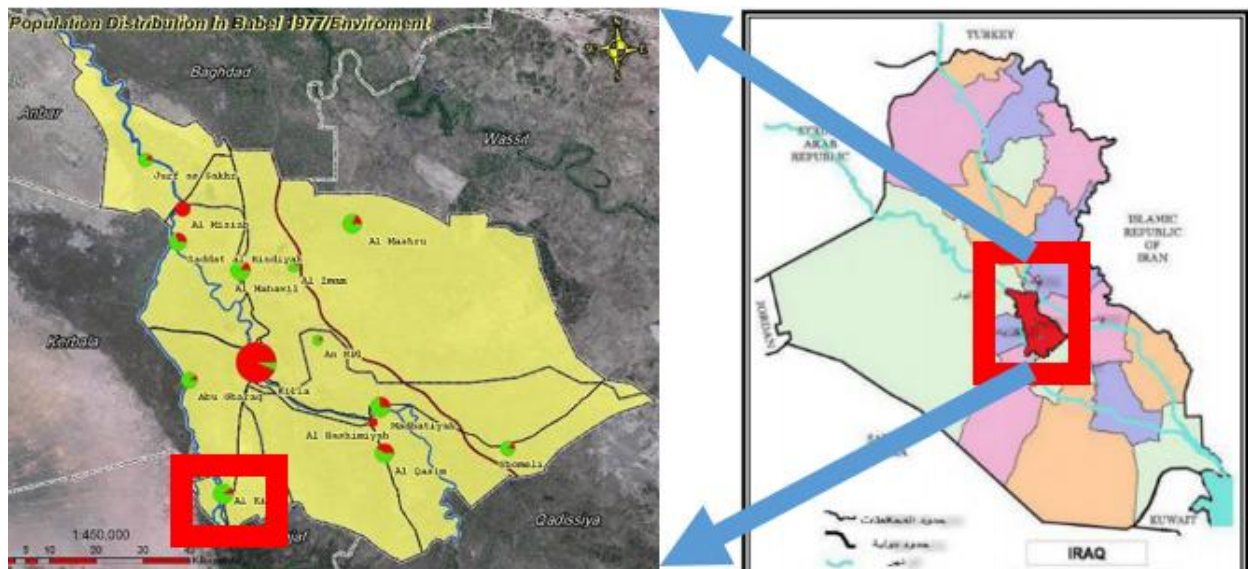
### 3.5 Study limitation

The study did not involve key informants or stakeholder participation. While the analysis relied on observation and document review, future research should incorporate interviews and participatory tools to enrich the findings.

## 4. PRACTICAL ASPECT

### 4.1 Analysis of heritage site management issues and their impacts

Heritage and historical sites in Iraq face significant challenges due to the multiplicity of responsible authorities. These challenges have adversely impacted the preservation and continuity of these sites, leading to structural damage, loss of symbolic features, and inconsistency in their historical narratives (Figure 6).



**Figure 6.** Location of Tho Al-Kifl due to Iraq and Babylon governorate

### 4.2 Case study: Shrine of Prophet Tho Al-Kifl in Babylon

The Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine, located in Kifl City, Babylon Governorate, represents a vital cultural and historical site. This site includes several key architectural elements (Figure 7).

- **The shrine dome:** Dating back approximately 700 years to the Seljuk period (1150-1200 AD), the conical dome exhibits unique architectural and archaeological value. Constructed with bricks and plaster, the dome features interconnected muqarnas and an innovative transition from rectangular to square forms using consecutive arches. This historical artifact remains a cornerstone of the site's identity.
- **The minaret:** The minaret, associated with the Ilkhanid

period (1258-1338 AD), stands 24 meters high. It showcases a cylindrical body atop a square base with a spiral staircase inside. The muqarnas decorations reflect a detailed craftsmanship, integrating plant motifs and geometric carvings executed in deep relief (Figure 8).

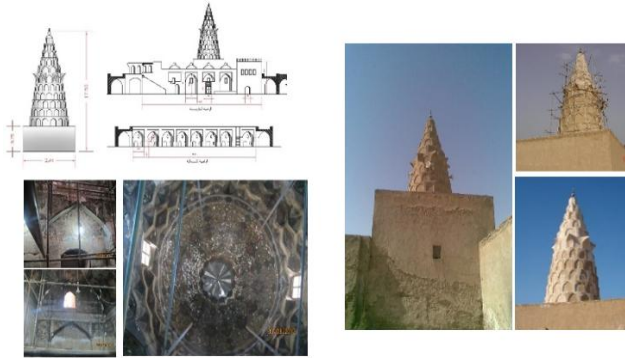
- **The Khans:** Adjacent to the shrine are three historical khans: Khan Quraish, Khan Al-Saif, and Khan Tamur. These structures served as trade hubs and accommodation for travelers, particularly pilgrims visiting Najaf. Despite their heritage designation, restoration efforts have been inconsistent, leading to partial demolition and structural neglect (Figure 9).
- **Suq Danyal:** This market, established in the early 20th century, remains a commercial hub. However, ongoing structural deterioration has undermined its historical integrity, highlighting the need for preservation initiatives

(Figure 10).

### Challenges in Management

The multiplicity of authorities has introduced significant obstacles, including:

- **Divergent Objectives:** Authorities vary in their goals and priorities, leading to uncoordinated efforts.
- **Resource Disparities:** Financial and technical capabilities differ across institutions, causing uneven restoration and management outcomes.
- **Lack of Expertise:** Some institutions lack specialized knowledge in heritage conservation, resulting in improper interventions.



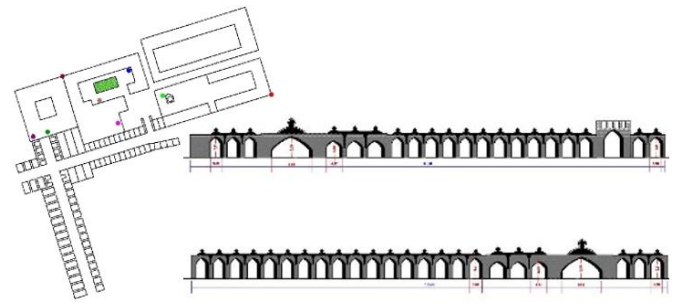
**Figure 7.** Tho Al-Kifil shrine conic dome (inside and outside view)



**Figure 8.** The Ilkhanid Minaret in Alnukhella Mosque



**Figure 9.** Khans around Tho Al-Kifil site



**Figure 10.** Location and elevation (front and side) of Daniyal Suq (Pazar)

### 4.3 Impact of mismanagement

#### 4.3.1 Architectural alterations

Addition of non-historical elements, such as extra domes and minarets, disrupted the skyline and diminished the symbolic dominance of the original structures (Figure 11).



**Figure 11.** Irregular and untheorized modification in Tho Al-Kifil site

The use of incompatible materials (e.g., marble and granite) altered the aesthetic and structural integrity of key elements.

#### 4.3.2 Destruction of historical features

Demolition of the khans and repurposing their sites for non-heritage uses compromised the historical and cultural significance of the area.

Relocation of symbolic graves disrupted the site's spiritual and cultural connections (Figure 12).



**Figure 12.** Contrast between old and recent site landscape

#### 4.3.3 Neglect and decay

Lack of maintenance, particularly for Suq Danyal and the minaret, accelerated deterioration. No substantial efforts have



been made to restore these elements in line with their historical contexts (Figure 13).



**Figure 13.** The distortion in the dome view

#### 4.4 Current management practices

This case study revealed that the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine is managed by overlapping authorities, including religious endowments, local governments, and antiquities departments, each applying their own policies without coordination. No unified management plan exists. Restoration decisions are often ad hoc, lacking technical supervision and heritage-specific guidance. In several instances, renovations were carried out by non-specialized contractors with limited knowledge of historical conservation standards.

#### 4.5 Detailed management challenges

The misalignment of institutional responsibilities has resulted in inconsistent interventions across different site components. For example, while the minaret received partial attention, the khans were subjected to demolition or commercial repurposing. Furthermore, the absence of conservation protocols has led to the application of inappropriate materials (e.g., marble, aluminum) that visually and structurally contradict the site's original character.

#### 4.6 Strategic preservation responses

In response to these challenges, the study proposes a series of corrective strategies:

- Establishing a centralized and legally mandated authority for heritage site management.
- Developing standardized restoration protocols aligned with UNESCO and ICOMOS principles.
- Building technical capacity through training programs for local conservation professionals.
- Mobilizing public-private partnerships for funding and implementation.
- Engaging the local community through educational and stewardship initiatives to foster cultural responsibility.

This study emphasizes the persistent and interconnected challenges in managing heritage sites in Iraq, with special reference to the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon. The case study revealed that the sustainability of cultural heritage is hindered by fragmented institutional structures, inadequate legislation, limited resources, and the lack of specialized expertise. These challenges compromise both the physical conservation and the cultural continuity of heritage assets.

#### 4.7 Structural and governance challenges in the Iraqi heritage sector

One of the most critical barriers identified is institutional fragmentation, whereby multiple authorities operate with

overlapping and often conflicting mandates. The absence of an integrated management framework leads to misaligned priorities, duplication of efforts, and lack of accountability. As Zelli and Van Asselt [20] argue, such fragmentation mirrors global inefficiencies observed in environmental governance and is particularly detrimental in post-conflict heritage contexts like Iraq.

The matter of unfordable legalization frame and missing comprehensive frameworks is very important to deal with complicated heritage sites; the absents of legalization make disorder to all authorities dealing with these sites; the segregate authorities dealing with heritage site in Iraq responsible on random developed project in these site with any coordination, so it is necessary to found new frame of legalization be clear enough to draw boundaries of all authorities in how dealing with this sites, and must accommodate with UNESCO and ICOMOS [3, 21].

The study also identified limited financial and technical resources as a major impediment to sustainable site management. Conservation projects often suffer from insufficient funding, poor maintenance cycles, and dependence on outdated methods. This is further exacerbated by the scarcity of qualified professionals capable of applying context-sensitive conservation techniques or managing technological tools such as GIS and BIM. As Sesana et al. [2] and Darlow et al. [22] point out, the lack of adaptive preservation capacity leaves heritage sites increasingly vulnerable to both environmental and anthropogenic pressures.

Moreover, a pronounced shortage of specialized expertise remains a structural weakness in Iraq's heritage sector. The absence of trained conservators, architects, and planners has led to unsupervised and inappropriate interventions, such as the use of incompatible materials and additions of non-historical elements. In the case of the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine, these interventions have disrupted the skyline, obscured the symbolic narrative, and weakened the visual coherence of the site. The situation calls for sustained capacity-building programs and academic training tailored to the needs of heritage management in Iraq.

#### 4.8 Toward a sustainable and inclusive management model

Findings further reveal that restoration practices driven solely by aesthetic or political considerations often risk compromising authenticity. The Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine exemplifies this, as modern alterations have undermined its original architectural language and spiritual symbolism. Without clear technical standards and continuous oversight, heritage interventions are prone to distortion.

The analysis also highlights the in-operativeness of legislative frameworks, which remain outdated and fragmented. In the absence of robust policies, institutional performance becomes inconsistent, vulnerable to manipulation, and detached from internationally recognized standards. Effective governance requires the establishment of a centralized heritage authority that can coordinate interventions, allocate resources, and enforce compliance based on best practices.

Finally, community-based initiatives have emerged as a promising dimension of sustainable heritage management. Empowering local stakeholders, increasing public awareness, and fostering a shared sense of ownership contribute to long-term preservation. Community inclusion not only enriches the social value of heritage but also ensures that conservation

strategies are context-sensitive and culturally resonant.

#### 4.9 Synthesis

In sum, this study illustrates the multi-layered challenges confronting heritage management in Iraq. Overcoming these obstacles necessitates a comprehensive approach that combines centralized governance, legal reform, technological innovation, financial investment, and community participation. Only through such an integrated model can the continuity, authenticity, and sustainability of heritage sites—such as the Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine—be ensured for future generations.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

This study highlighted the significance of preserving heritage sites as cultural, historical, and architectural assets vital to national identity and community continuity. The Prophet Tho Al-Kifl Shrine in Babylon served as a representative case study reflecting the broader challenges that face heritage management across Iraq. The research identified key obstacles including institutional fragmentation, lack of coordinated governance, limited financial and technical resources, inadequate legislation, and the absence of specialized expertise. These challenges have not only compromised the physical integrity of the site but also diminished its symbolic and functional roles within the urban and cultural landscape.

In response to these findings, the study proposed a set of sustainable management strategies. These include the establishment of a centralized governance model, legislative reform aligned with international standards, capacity-building programs for heritage professionals, integration of digital technologies such as GIS and BIM, and community engagement initiatives that foster local stewardship. Key stakeholders—including heritage authorities, municipal planners, religious endowments, and academic institutions—must collaboratively implement these strategies to ensure long-term preservation and relevance of the site.

The implications of this study extend beyond a single location. They point to systemic gaps in Iraq's heritage governance and the urgent need to adopt integrated, interdisciplinary, and participatory approaches to site management. The research contributes to the field by presenting a context-specific diagnostic framework that links physical site assessment with institutional analysis and strategic planning.

A notable limitation of the study is the absence of direct stakeholder involvement. Future research should address this gap by incorporating interviews, focus groups, and participatory mapping to capture diverse perspectives and validate the proposed strategies. Further comparative studies across multiple heritage sites in Iraq and the region are also recommended to refine and generalize the model presented.

Ultimately, safeguarding Iraq's cultural heritage requires not only technical solutions but also a political and social commitment to recognizing heritage as a living and evolving resource. Sustainable management must therefore be grounded in interdisciplinary knowledge, inclusive governance, and respect for both the tangible and intangible dimensions of the past.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) For both management and conservation of heritage sites, there must be a body through which all activities of heritage sites could be unified. Such a new organization needs to be agile both in terms of communication and allocation of resources, and work with local, national and international stakeholders to make sure that we have an integrated and coherent response to the management.
- 2) New funding mechanisms that are devoted to preservation and maintenance need to be developed. Mobilizing the finance bodies of the private sector and international partners can play an important role in making financing happen. We need to have financial incentives such as tax exemptions introduced as an encouragement for the private enterprise to spend money on heritage projects.
- 3) This would require designing training endeavors that will lead to such modern and sustainable servicing approaches for the heritage practitioners to train them appropriately. Thus, a part of that puzzle is working together with academical institutions in the establishment of field-specific curricula for cultural heritage management. Finally, but very importantly, training opportunities should continue to enable the knowledge transfer that is crucial in filling the expertise gap and in leveraging existing capacities.
- 4) It is only through legislative reforms that we can really secure heritage sites. Potential and Opportunity Amendments to existing laws are needed to include preservation-specific language; clear penalties for unauthorized changes or neglect; and alignment with international conventions such as UNESCO's World Heritage regulations. Thus, matching this data with the international preservation standards, guarantees that the preservation on these factors will not violate the international treaties, strengthening its legal basis.
- 5) Use of intermingling technologies is increasingly important in the modern realm of heritage management. Example tools utilized: e.g., GIS for mapping and monitoring of site vulnerabilities, BIM for detailed documentation and vulnerability assessments. Preventive conservation and restoration can also benefit from tools like 3D scanning and artificial intelligence.
- 6) Equally important are educational campaigns of the public regarding the importance of the heritage preservation. These roles can include citizen science, where citizens participate in scientific research by monitoring the state of local heritage sites or assisting with the management of conservation projects; local stewardship programs, where local communities take responsibility for the management and conservation of historic sites; or paid stewardship programs where individuals are compensated for their role within a guided framework.
- 7) There is a need to establish strong risk assessment mechanisms to mitigate the threat which is environmental due to climate change, natural disasters or even erosion. Heritage sites must adopt measures to reduce the impact of tourism and agglomeration.



- 8) Heritage sites need extensive research to document their historical, architectural and cultural significance. Accessible archives need to be established to help researchers, policy makers and conservationists make guidance decisions and hold long-term plans.
- 9) Close and strong collaboration with international organizations such as UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS is crucial in terms of technical assistance and related funding. It will also help to promote the recognition and safeguarding of the world's cultural and natural heritage on the global agenda.
- 10) At last, we need to pilot new management approaches at selected sites. Lessons learnt from these processes can also feed into refining the strategies as well as apply these success models across the rest of the heritage sites to ensure that they are also conserved for the future generations.

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