

## Risks to the mosaic floors of Tocra and Tolmeita (East Libya): Causes and Solutions



The floors discovered in Tocra and Tolmeita differ from each other in terms of shapes, phases and time periods. There are 64 magnificent mosaic floors covering almost 6369 square meters including Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods. There are 7 floors in the Tolmeita Museum and 11 floors reburied by the Polish mission in 2010. In Tocra there are 3 floors: two of them have been reburied and the third is in a warehouse in Tocra where we removed the old roof and replaced it with a new one.

Work has also been completed on some floors located on the site through cleaning and protecting by the removal of falling stones, vegetation and reburial. Despite the lack of resources and tools, and without laboratories, but through the training courses we have been able to form a working team with the support of the Antiquities Authority.

Our work is concerned with the continued maintenance and protection of the mosaics until the required resources and more experience in the field of restoration are provided, so that these risks can be avoided and we can preserve this cultural heritage for future generations. Currently, there is a project underway to build a store and restoration laboratories in the city of Tolmeita.

Training courses for local professionals and the supply of restoration materials. Latest intervention:

Cleaning, restoration, protection and backfilling of some mosaic pavements located in Tocra and Tolmeita (East Libya) between 2014 and 2016.



(1a and 1b) Removal of vegetation;  
(2a and 2b) Wall reconstruction;  
(3a and 3b) Removal of vegetation and fallen stones from the opus sectile floor;  
(4a, 4b and 4c) Removal of previous and damaged shelter.

All this work is concerned with remedial conservation

### رؤيتنا المستقبلية

The Libyan heritage is currently facing two kinds of risks:  
Natural factors like rain, wind, earthquake, unwanted vegetation, humidity and the closeness to the seaside.  
Some of the human factors having a great impact on our mosaics are:  
Too many buildings close to archaeological areas (urban sprawl).  
Presence of unattended domesticated animals inside the archaeological areas (sheep, cows etc.).  
Here we have some of the problems from which our mosaics suffer.



The proposed solutions are:  
To raise the awareness of local communities.  
To protect the archeological sites in an appropriate way.  
To build brand new laboratories for the restoration activities and new museums  
Training courses for local professionals and the supply of restoration materials.

