



DONOR IMPACT REPORT

# Project Grants: Shepard Urgent Action Grants 2020-2023



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# 2023 Donor Impact Summary



\$59625

awarded to  
emergency  
conservation  
efforts

8

emergency/  
stabilization  
projects  
funded

## Organizations & Universities of Recipients:

- *University of Palermo*
- *Hatay Mustafa Kemal University*
- *Ilia State University*
- *Humboldt University of Berlin*

## 2023 Scholarship Recipient Names:

- *Paula Sconzo*
- *Murat Akar*
- *Mariam Eloshvili*
- *Anke Weber*

## Names of Projects & Initiatives:

- *Rescue Operations at the Site of Cham Pashaya, II*
- *Post-earthquake Action at Tell Atchana/Alalakh (Hatay, Turkey)*
- *Emergency Excavation for Data Collection from the Late Neolithic Settlement at Khramis Didi Gora, Georgia*
- *Stabilizing History. Emergency documentation and consolidation of the pillars in the burial chamber of the tomb of pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt*





## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

# Rescue Operations at the Site of Cham Pashaya, II

Dr. Paola Sconzo (2023)  
University of Palermo

Thanks to the **Shepard Urgent Action Grant**, a Kurdish-Italian team carried out a three-week salvage mission at the the Site of **Cham Pashaya, II (Iraq)** as part of the ongoing **ReLand (Resurfacing Landscapes: Mosul Dam Archaeological Project)**.

Cham Pashaya II is a burial mound located in KRG of Iraq. It has a great cultural bearing as it apparently belongs to the Late Chalcolithic period, a critical phase which sees the establishment of the first "proto-urban model" in Upper Mesopotamia.

The site, flooded in 1988 by the Mosul Dam Lake, has remained mostly underwater, resurfacing only twice, in 2018 and in 2023. it is vulnerable to flood-related destruction, vandalism, and looting.

The grant enabled the team to clear a **150 square foot area, uncover 25 graves, and fully excavate five** before the cemetery returned underwater.



*Dr. Sconzo consults with the project's partner, Dr. Bekas Jamaluddin Hasan Al-Brifkany, from the Duhok Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage.*



*One of the largest graves.*



*An anthropologist at work.*



*Sconzo Cham Pashaya Examples of Cist Graves.*

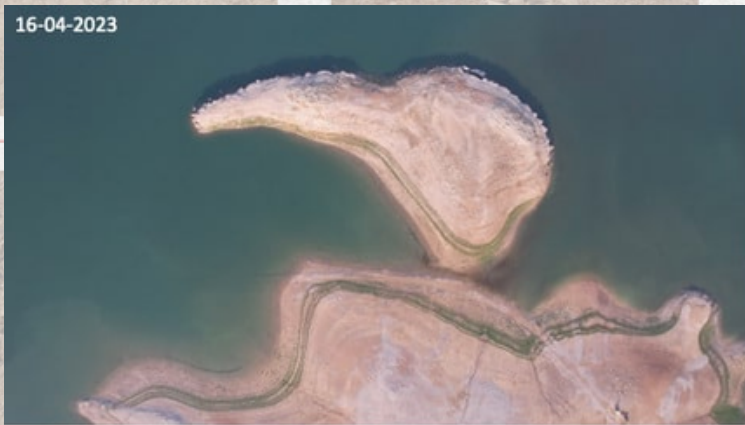


# Before & After:

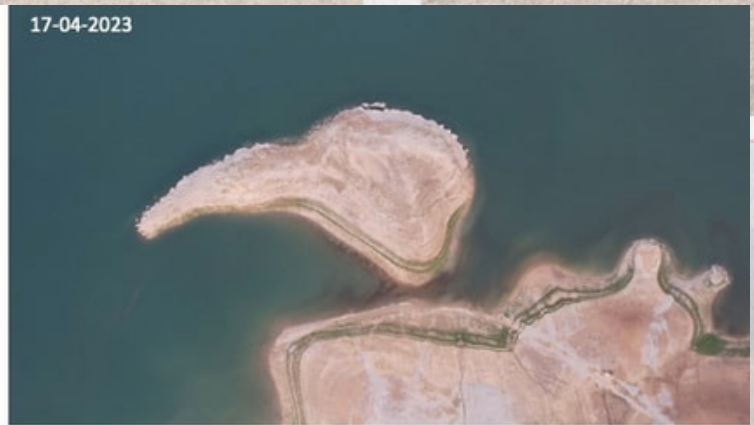
## Cham Pashaya II, returned to the sea

Along with natural catastrophes and destruction during conflict, artificial dam construction and the consequent water impact are primary causes of the loss of archaeological heritage. Once submerged, most flooded sites do not re-emerge. Others periodically resurface due to the reservoir's exceptional or cyclical water fluctuation processes, and once again reveal the evidence of their past. Without the swift action permitted by the Shepard Urgent Action Grant, the cist graves of Cham Prashaya would have returned underwater unexamined in the flooding a few days before the team's departure.

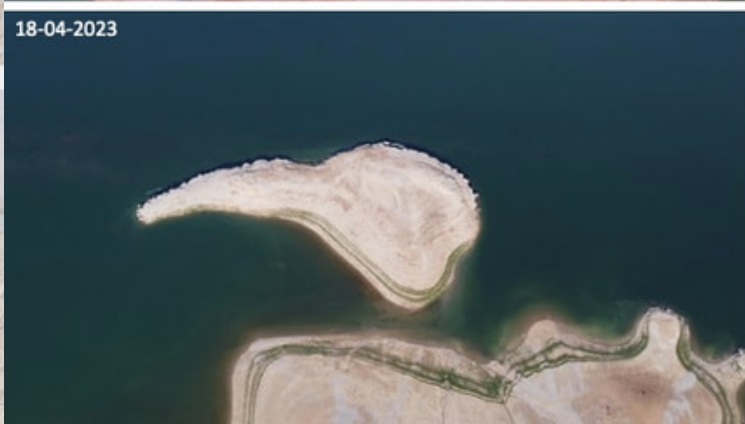
16-04-2023



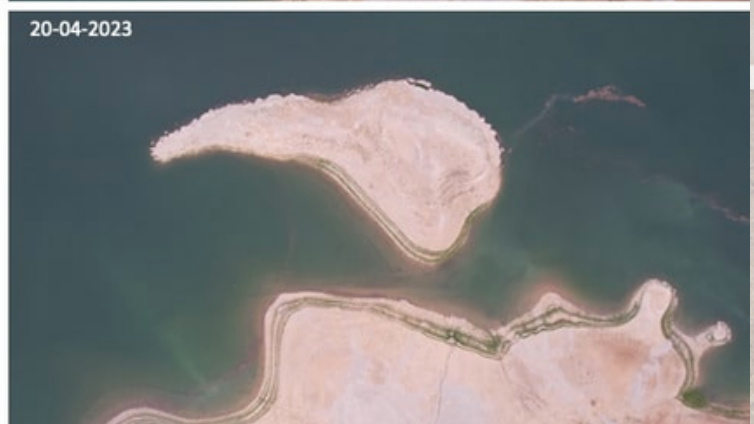
17-04-2023



18-04-2023



20-04-2023



Cemetery Cham Pashaya. Rising of the water level in the days before the departure of the team





# Post-earthquake Action at Tell Atchana/Alalakh (Hatay, Turkey)

Murat Akar (2023)  
Hatay Mustafa Kemal University



The Middle Bronze Age Tripartite Gate System before preservation efforts



The Middle Bronze Age Tripartite Gate System after preservation efforts



The Middle Bronze Age Tripartite Gate System after the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes

**Tell Atchana, Alalakh**, is located along the major branch of the Orontes (Asi) River in the Amuq Valley of Hatay and was the capital of the regional kingdom of **Mukishin** the second millennium BC. Among the remarkable discoveries, the palaces and gate complex exposed in the 1930s stand as hallmarks of ancient Near Eastern architecture.

**Being very close to the fault line, the monuments were severely damaged by the February 6th Kahramanmaraş earthquakes.** A Shepard Urgent Action Grant enabled this team to preserve the culture heritage at this key Bronze Age settlement By using conservation techniques like **mudbrick capping**.

TEL ATCHANA 1939-46  
PLAN OF THE PALACE OF KING YARIM-LIM  
/ LEVEL VII





# PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



**Stabilizing History. Emergency documentation and consolidation of the pillars in the burial chamber of the tomb of pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt**  
 Anke Weber (2023)  
 Humboldt University of Berlin

The tomb of Pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings was flooded several times in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The devastating intrusion of rainwater caused major destruction in the rear part of the tomb, including the destabilization of four pillars in the burial chamber.

A Shepard Urgent Action Grant is enabling a team of Egyptian and foreign conservators to map and consolidate these pillars. They will work together to record the damages and fill the cracks and fissures with appropriate previously tested material to save these areas from collapse.



Fig. 3. Pillars in the burial chamber of KV 11 before initial treatment. P1, P5, and P7 (above). P2, P4, P6, and P8 (below). ©The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, The Ramesses III (KV 11) Publication and Conservation Project, photos: A. Weber, 2019

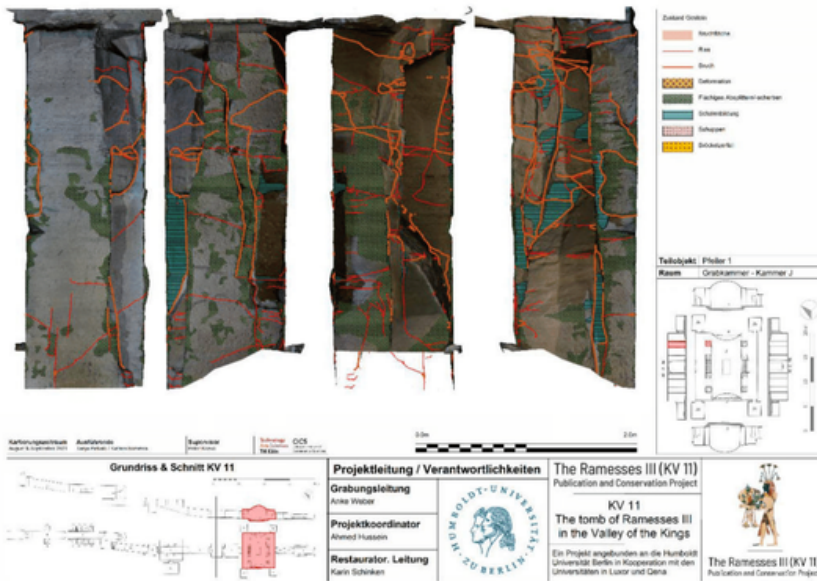


Fig. 4. Examples for damage mapping on pillar P1. ©The Ramesses III (KV 11) Publication and Conservation Project



Drawing by J. Bonomi (©British Library, Robert Hay, Add. MS 29818, p. 29) of the burial chamber with camera lucida in 1823 and overlapping modern photograph. ©The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, The Ramesses III (KV 11) Publication and Conservation Project, photo: J. Kramer, 2019



## *Emergency Excavation for Data Collection from the Late Neolithic Settlement at Khramis Didi Gora, Georgia*

Miriam Eloshvili (2023)  
Ilia State University

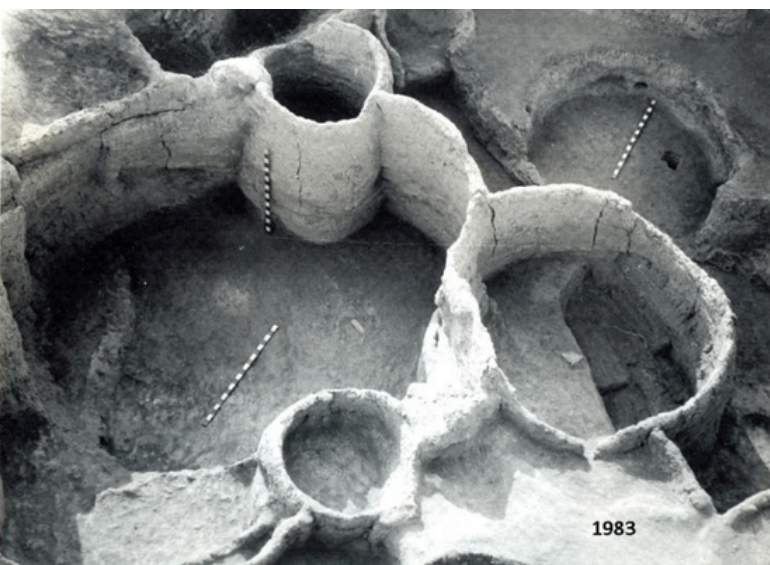
**Khrami's Didi Gora** is the largest Late Neolithic settlement in the southern Caucasus. The site is located in Kvemo Kartli (Georgia), was excavated in the 1970-80s, and has never been published and examined.

The hill is an active modern-day cemetery, which destroys crucial information. The site's excavated layers reflect all the stages of development of the culture from the migration to the Caucasus until its disappearance.

A Shepard Urgent Action Grant is enabling this team to collect data to be able to date all the stages of this culture before its eternal destruction.



*Map of Khrami's Didi Gora location*



*1983 excavation photo*



*The damage expansion on the settlement*





# Before & After: Completed project photos.

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(2021) Fayoum University: *Akhmim Tomb C4, Egypt*



(2022) Sela: *Roman Bathhouse in Petra, Jordan*





*Thank you for all you do to support  
ASOR's mission to protect and conserve  
cultural heritage.*

