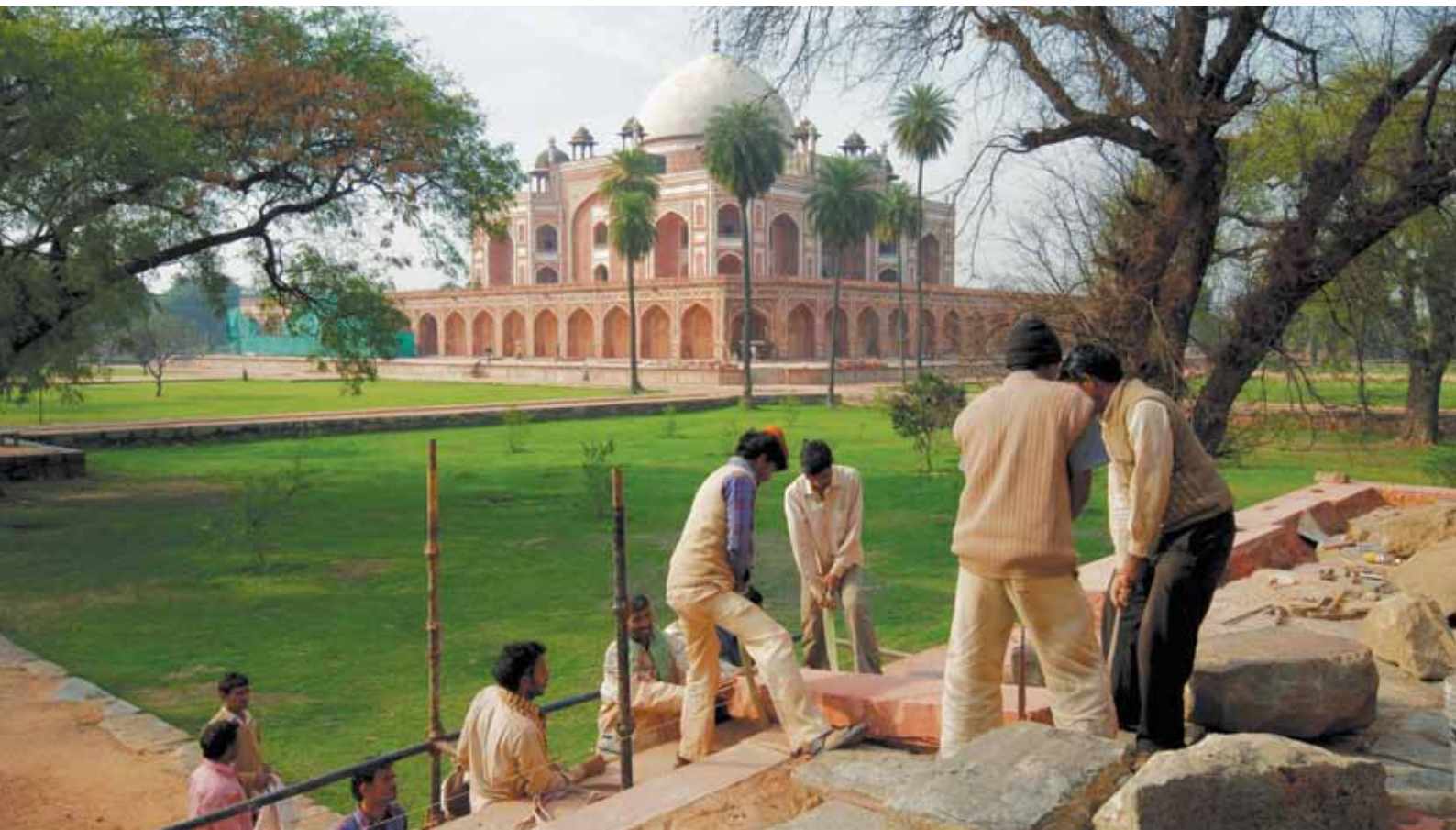




AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Improving Lives through Culture



Reaching 6 million people each year

www.akdn.org

AKDN Culture

The notion of culture as an asset rather than a luxury is still a contested issue in many poorer parts of the world. As a result, a significant part of the world's cultural heritage – much of it in the Muslim world – is at risk, as other needs are considered priorities. The central question has been **how culture, integrated with more traditional instruments of development, can be used to improve lives in urban, poor and even remote contexts.** How can culture provide employment, raise incomes, affect wellbeing, improve health, enhance urban spaces, reinforce a respect for diversity, even restore pride and hope?

For over three decades, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture has shown how culture can be a catalyst for improving the quality of life – in its broadest sense – even in the poorest and most remote areas of the globe. From Afghanistan to Zanzibar, from India to Mali, the Trust's support to communities has demonstrated how culture – in many instances the only asset at the disposal of the community – can provide a springboard for both social and economic development.



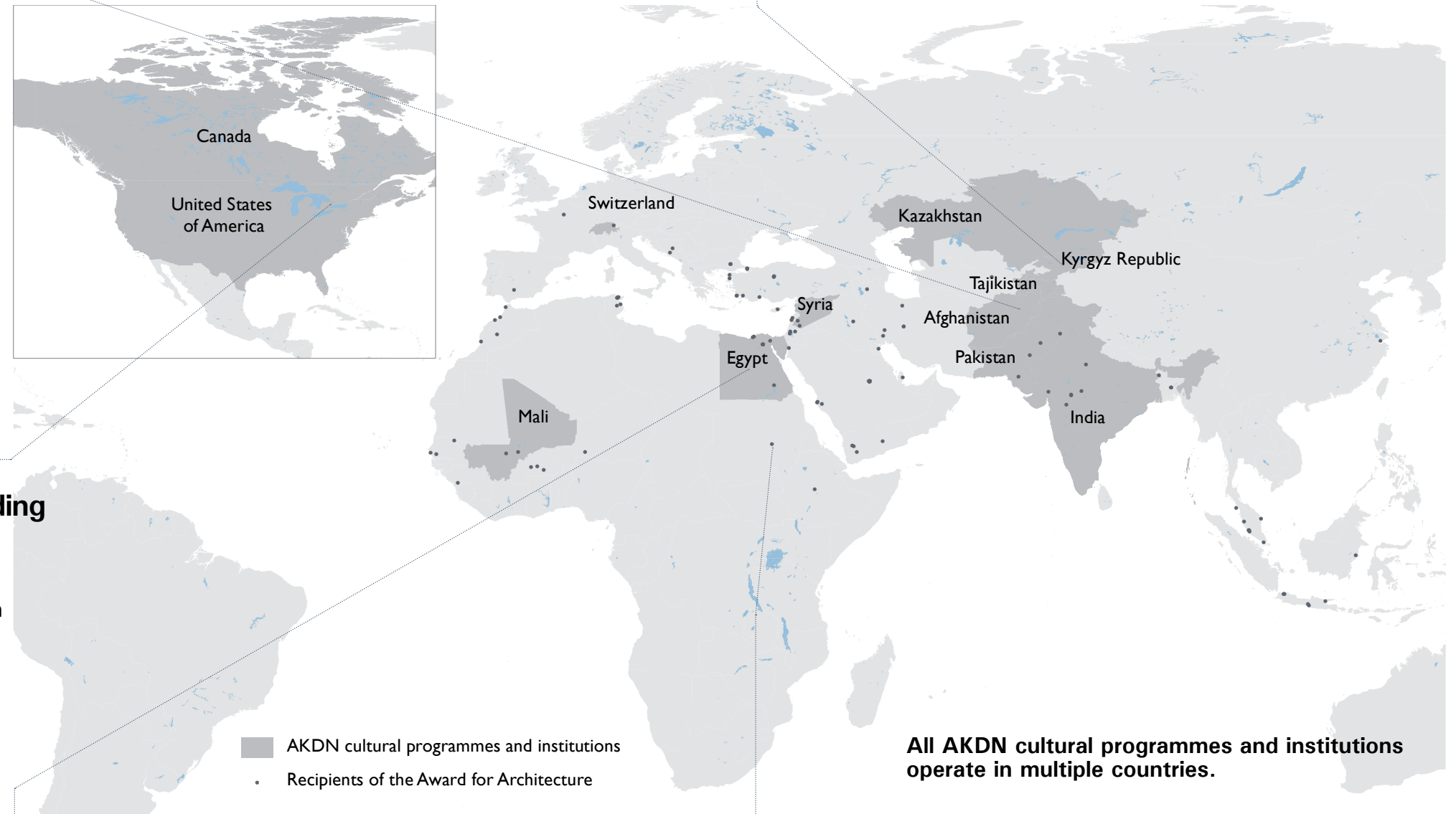
Green Sanctuaries

The AKDN has built or rehabilitated 19 parks, gardens and urban open spaces, which provide **beautiful environments in rapidly urbanising cities** of the developing world.



Reinforcing Identity

In addition to documentation and touring programmes, the Aga Khan Music Initiative supports the **teaching of traditional forms of music and the promotion of new compositions** in Central and South Asia and Africa.



All AKDN cultural programmes and institutions operate in multiple countries.



Fostering Understanding

The Aga Khan Museum, in Toronto, is the only museum in North America dedicated to presenting an overview of the **artistic, intellectual and scientific contributions that Muslim civilisations have made to world heritage.**



43 million

Visitors to parks since 2004 (5 million per year)



+ 350

Monuments and historic sites conserved, 13 UNESCO awards



Urban Regeneration

The Historic Cities Programme works in distressed areas to **restore and regenerate cultural, social and economic assets** that can then be leveraged in ways that create opportunities and lift residents out of poverty.



Models of Excellence

Considered one of the most important awards of its kind, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture identifies and promotes **exemplary buildings and public spaces that, when replicated, can improve lives.** Award recipients are indicated in the map above.

THE AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

The Trust's central purpose – to improve lives through culture – is carried out in four main areas: the identification of architectural models that can raise standards of living; the preservation and revitalisation of cultural assets; the reinvigoration of cultural traditions; and the creation of education programmes that seek to be as a primary objective a catalyst for mutual understanding and tolerance.

Architecture Programmes

The **Aga Khan Award for Architecture**, established in 1977, is given every three years to projects that set new standards of excellence in architecture, planning practices, historic preservation and landscape architecture. Attention is given to building schemes that use local resources and appropriate technology in innovative ways, and to projects likely to inspire similar efforts elsewhere. The **Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture** at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) works to educate architects, planners, teachers, and researchers who can contribute to meeting the building and design needs of Muslim communities. **Archnet.org** is the most comprehensive archive of resources on architecture, urban design and development in the Muslim world.

The Historic Cities Programme

Was set up in 1992 to undertake the restoration, rehabilitation and revitalisation of historic structures and public spaces in ways that spurred social, economic and cultural development. It seeks to demonstrate that cultural concerns and socio-economic needs can cross-fertilise each other. To that end, the Programme **works with other AKDN agencies to combine state-of-the-art restoration, conservation and urban development principles with social and economic initiatives**. Its ultimate aim is to create self-sustaining assets that improve the quality of life for the residents of historic quarters.

The Music Initiative

Is an interregional music and arts education programme **whose mission is to support talented musicians and music educators working to preserve, transmit, and further develop their musical heritage**. It works in three distinct but closely interlinked areas: Music Education and Mentoring; International Performance and Outreach; Artistic Production and Dissemination.

The Aga Khan Museum

Is dedicated to presenting Islamic arts and culture in their historic, cultural and geographical diversity. Through education, research, and collaboration, the Museum **fosters dialogue and promotes tolerance, respect and mutual understanding amongst people**.

Support the AKDN

Partnerships

Typically, when the AKDN refines its development approach in a given area, it looks to partners to help expand the scale. A significant portion of the funding for AKDN activities therefore comes from national governments, multilateral institutions and private sector partners. For more information, visit: akdn.org/partners

Individuals

Individuals can support the AKDN. For more information, visit: akdn.org/support

Join the conversation

