

Royaume du Maroc
Ministère de la Culture
de la Jeunesse et des Sports
Département de la Culture

Institut National des Sciences
de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine

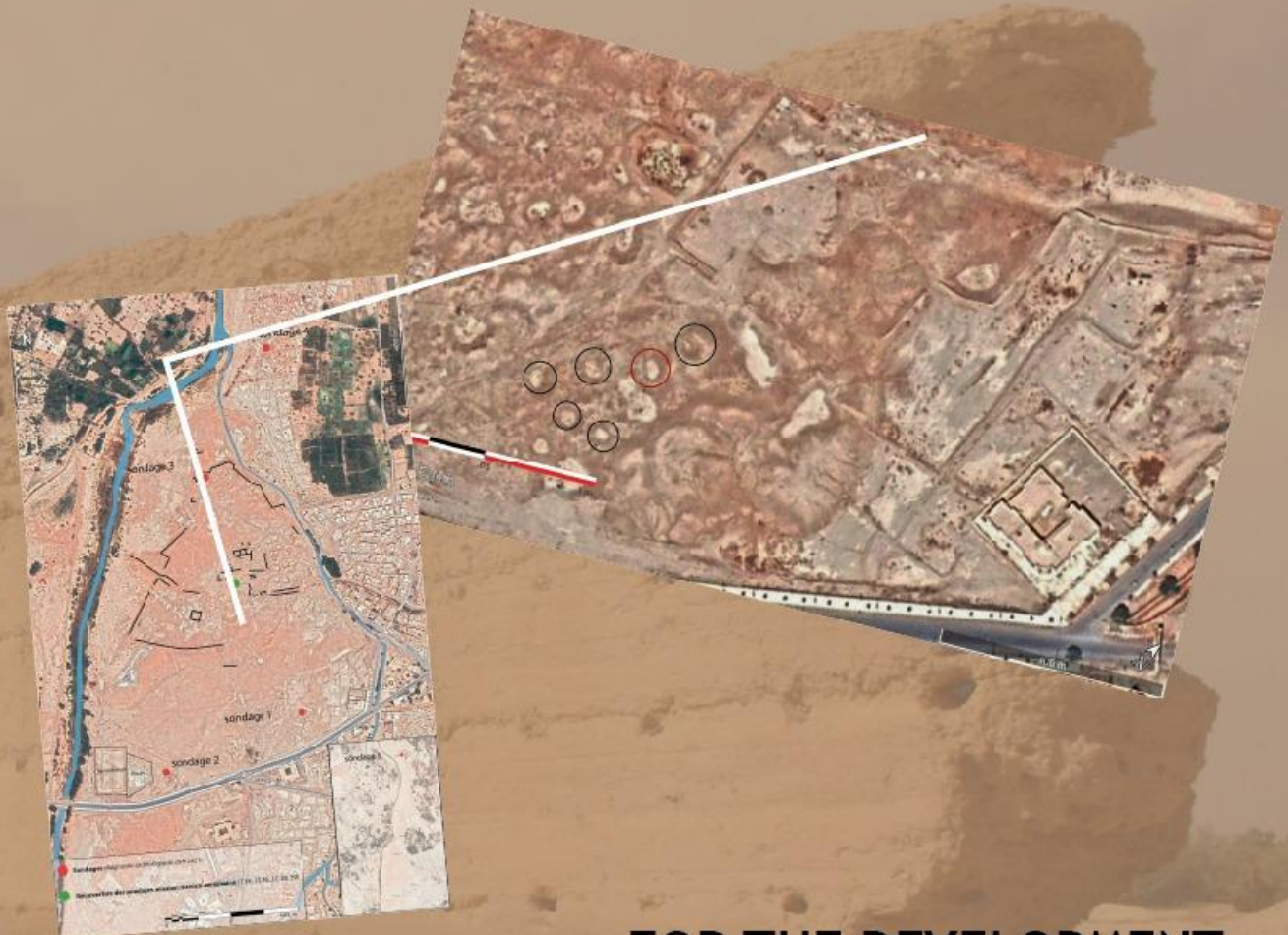


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المملكة المغربية
وزارة الثقافة
والشباب والرياضة
قطاع الثقافة

المعهد الوطني
لعلوم الآثار والتراث

CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL INTEREST



FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
PROJECTS IN SIJILMASSA



JULY 2021

Call for Interest for the Development of Research Projects and Scientific Activities in Archaeology in Sijilmassa (Province of Er-Rachidia, Morocco)

1. Background and Focus

This call for an expression of interest falls within the framework of the strategic orientations of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports - Department of Culture - which aims at promoting archaeological research and the safeguarding and enhancement of cultural heritage. The aim is to implement High Royal Instructions calling for the preservation of Morocco's identity and cultural distinctiveness and the protection of its heritage resources.

In this context, the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco is working to enhance the archaeological site of Sijilmassa--site classified as national heritage (Decree No. 2.17.691 of 23 November 2017/B.O. No. 6628 of 07 December 2017)--through the implementation of a new generation of large-scale archaeological excavation projects pursuant to this call.

Thus, the research work to be undertaken on the archaeological site of Sijilmassa is to begin in the next academic year and should be a highest priority in accordance with the terms of reference related to this call (see below).

The establishment of these projects is motivated by the results of the five soundings carried out recently and which can be found in the document "Diagnosis SIJ21" (see below).

These results have identified five sectors, each of which could be the subject of a dedicated research project.

A sixth project can be developed regarding the medieval fortress of Jbel al-Mudawwar (located approximately 15 km west of the archaeological site of Sijilmassa).

These projects are to be carried out in partnership and under the aegis of the official representative for archaeological research of the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco, namely the Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine (INSAP).

2. Objectives

Through the implementation of these projects, the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco aims to:

2. 1. Encourage the continuation of archaeological research on the site of Sijilmassa, and secondarily on the site of al-Mudawwar, and the dissemination of the related results;
- 2.2 Gain a better understanding of the problems of the chronology and evolution of the city from its foundation to its abandonment, as well as its spatial organization in relation to its environment;
2. 3. Understand the ways of life adopted by the different populations and identify their material culture;
2. 4. Examine the material elements and their major role in the trans-Saharan trade between West Africa, the Sahel and the Mediterranean basin;
2. 5. Identify the proto-urban and urban character of the city as well as its integration into its environment through a multidisciplinary approach mobilising advanced scientific analysis techniques such as GIS, 3D modelling, archaeobotany, archaeozoology, etc.

The implementation of such projects must be subordinated to the promotion of the heritage aspect by ensuring that the exhumed archaeological remains are protected for presentation and enhancement purposes.

3. Archaeological Survey SIJ21

In addition to the conclusions of the previous excavation campaigns, the present appeal is motivated by the results of the 5 soundings carried out at the archaeological site of Sijilmassa -during the first half of April 2021 by a team of expert medieval archaeologists and could serve as a basis for future projects. Five sectors have been identified and the team proposes to add a sixth. Each of the six sectors could be the subject of a separate project (see below).

This diagnosis can be downloaded from the "Call for interest / Sijilmassa" platform on the website: www.insap.ac.ma

4. Proposed Sectors

The proposed projects are to be implemented in locations based on the results of the SIJ21 archaeological survey. This distribution consists of 5 distinct sectors which are to be carried out at the rate of one project per sector. Therefore, for the Sijilmassa site, Figure 1 refers to sectors 1 to 4, while Figure 2 refers to sector 5. A sixth project could take place at the al-Mudawwar site (Figure 3).

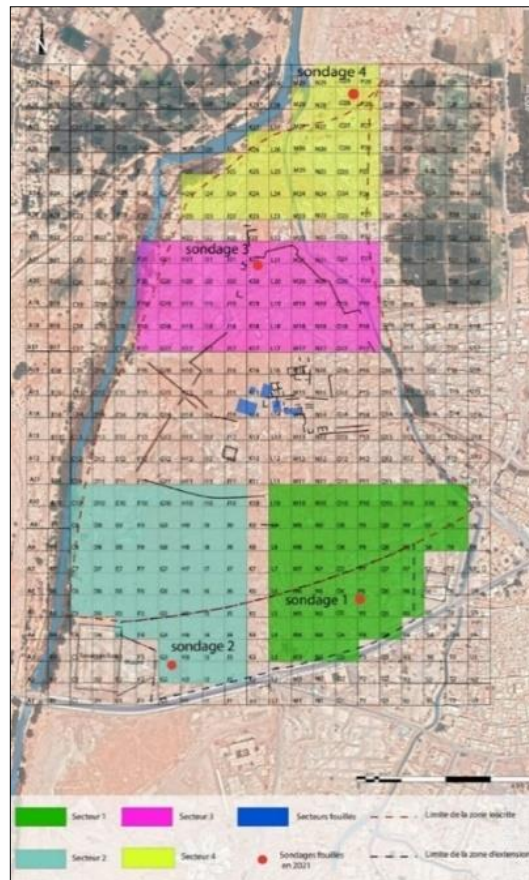


Figure 1 : Sijilmassa site (Sectors 1 to 4)



Figure 2 : Sijilmassa site (Secteur 5)



Figure 3 : Al-Mudawwar site (Secteur 6)

5. Selection Criteria

In this regard, the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco is looking for institutions that meet the following criteria:

Legal status	University, research center or laboratory
Logistical resources	Sufficient equipment and infrastructure to carry out a 5-year renewable project.
Human resources	A multidisciplinary team trained for the design, organization and monitoring of the project.
Experience	High Quality and credibility of the partners and staff involved in the project; professional experience in Morocco or in the MENA region would be an added advantage.
Financial resources	Sufficient financial capacity to participate in the management and monitoring of the project according to the terms of reference.
Network	Ability to mobilize communities of interest and networks relevant to the project.

6- Scientific Commitments of The Joint Team (INSAP-Partner)

6. 1. Each archaeological excavation campaign is sanctioned by:

- an administrative report to be provided one month after the end of the work;
- a scientific report to be provided six months after the end of the work;
- article, for each excavation campaign, to be published in the Bulletin d'Archéologie Marocaine, to be submitted 6 months after the end of the work.

The reports and articles in question must be submitted to INSAP.

6. 2. Each four-year period of archaeological excavations (at the rate of a one-month/year excavation campaign) is sanctioned by:

- a scientific meeting to discuss the results obtained (workshop, round table or symposium;
- the writing of a monograph of the site (i.e., by sector) on the basis of the scientific results, to be submitted in the 5th and last year of the project;
- the organization of an exhibition (assembly of a functional exhibition) aiming at the presentation of the scientific results to the general public.

7- Logistics and Means to be Mobilized

The following table shows the logistical requirements for each month of archaeological excavation per year and per sector

Accommodation (renting a house, about 20 000 MAD/month)
Catering expenses (10 people)
Vehicle rental (1 vehicle)
Purchase of fuel and oil (2000 km)
Labor force (20 workers)
Miscellaneous equipment (crates, mosquito netting, umbrellas/shades, artifact treatment products, loads of sand and/or other material to protect/store findings)

Topographic survey equipment (1 total station)
Photographic and scanning equipment (2 units)
Office equipment (shelving ...)
Computer equipment, software and supplies
Office, stationery and print supplies
Small tools

The expected cost of the implementation of the logistics related to the excavation and the necessary manpower is estimated at approximately 134,000.00 MAD per excavation campaign of one month/year/Sector. The Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco will allocate 50% of this amount to INSAP. It is up to the designated partner to provide the remaining 50%.

8. Costs related to research and dissemination of results

8. 1. Implementation of basic research *in situ*

The table below presents the requirements for post-excavation analysis and dissemination of results of a one month/year/sector excavation campaign.

Subcontracted analysis (dating fees) (10 samples)
Subcontracted analysis (physico-chemical analysis fees) (05 samples)
Wages of the researchers (10 persons)

The expected cost of implementing scientific research *in situ* is estimated at approximately 109,000.00 MAD (per one-month/year excavation campaign). The Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco will allocate 50% of this amount to INSAP. It is up to the partner to provide the remaining 50%.

8. 2. Annual participation in conferences

The dissemination of scientific results to peers requires participation in conferences dealing with the project's problems. In this case, the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco will cover the costs related to a single trip of up to 5 days/conference/year for the benefit of the co-director or another member of the INSAP team, up to a limit of 15 000 MAD;

8. 3. Organization of a five-year round table

The costs inherent to the organization of a round table at the end of 4 campaigns of archaeological excavations is about 160 000 MAD tax/free to be divided between the two partners. The Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco will allocate to INSAP its share, i.e., 80,000 MAD excluding tax;

8. 4. Organization of a five-yearly heritage exhibition

Mobilization of means for the organization of an exhibition relating the results of the 4 years of archaeological excavations and the publication of a related catalog will cost approximately 300 000 MAD excluding tax. The Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco will delegate to INSAP 50% of this amount;

8. 5. Publication of a monograph

The costs inherent in the publication of a monograph immortalizing the results of the 4 years of archaeological excavations and this, within the framework of the VESAM collection of INSAP is estimated at 120 000 MAD. The corresponding 50% will be granted to INSAP by the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco. The remaining 50% will be provided by INSAP's partner;

9. Restoration and consolidation of archaeological remains

The average cost foreseen to cover the costs of restoration and consolidation of the remains at the end of each excavation campaign is estimated at 200,000.00 MAD excluding tax. This amount will be granted in its entirety to the Directorate of Cultural Heritage at the end of each excavation campaign and on the basis of a specialized company.

10. Flat rate budget contribution per 5-year project

5-year flat rate/project cost	Flat rate contribution from the Department of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco (INSAP)	Flat rate contribution from the foreign partner
1,038,500.00 MAD EXCL.	626,750.00 MAD EXCL.	411,000.00 MAD EXCL.

11. Project evaluation

Project proposals will be evaluated by an INSAP-DPC evaluation committee. The criteria for the evaluation of the proposals are the following:

- Equipment and infrastructure available for the organization of a 5-year renewable project;
- Multidisciplinary team composed of available and trained staff for the design, organization and monitoring of the project;
- Quality of the partners and the team involved in the project;
- Sufficient financial capacity for the implementation of the project;
- Availability and capacity to mobilize communities of interest and networks relevant to the project.

12. Timeframe for projects

Projects are designed for a 5-year renewable period.

13. Project proposal and selection process

The process will take place in several phases:

13. 1. The application consists of:

- 13. 1. 1.** A commitment document from the applicant institution accepting the terms of reference;
- 13. 1. 2.** A reasoned scientific proposal;
- 13. 1. 3.** A provisional schedule for the realization of the scientific project.

The submission of the application file is done online (platform "Call for interest/Sijilmassa") www.insap.ac.ma)

Contact : 212 537 777 716

13. 2. Memorandum of Understanding :

Once selected, institutions are invited to work with INSAP to establish a memorandum sealing the scientific cooperation to be set up.

The memorandum to be signed is tripartite. It involves INSAP and the Directorate of Cultural Heritage on one side and the foreign partner on the other.

14. Calendar

- Announcement of the Call for Interest: July 12, 2021
- Deadline for the submission of the application file: September 30, 2021
- Announcement of the results of the pre-selection: October 15, 2021