THE MEGA-JORDAN SYSTEM:

- Provides a tool for monitoring, protection, and management of archaeological sites
- Creates a countrywide site inventory
- Records boundaries and buffer zones of sites and their elements
- Is Web-based for wide access
- Is designed for easy use without specialized training
- Has a bilingual, Arabic-English interface
- Allows electronic input from the field
- Exports and imports data in various formats
- Delivers detailed, up-to-date site-condition reports
- Aids in developing national research strategies and priorities
- Establishes national documentation standards
- Assists in planning for development and tourism
- Facilitates data sharing with other institutions, including other Jordanian government agencies
- Offers a resource for international researchers
- Uses open source software with no licensing fees
- Can be easily customized
- Is designed for adaptation and use by other countries
- Is fully compatible with other GIS tools such as ESRI’s ArcView, Quantum GIS, and Google Earth™.

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MEGA-Jordan has been developed through partnerships between the Getty Conservation Institute, World Monuments Fund, and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s archaeological heritage is among the world’s richest. In order to efficiently manage these priceless resources while protecting and preserving them for future generations, Jordan needs a comprehensive up-to-date record of the location and characteristics of each archaeological site.

MEGA-Jordan – the Middle Eastern Geodatabase for Antiquities – is a custom-built geographic information system (GIS) specifically designed to inventory, manage, and protect Jordan’s archaeological sites at the national level. MEGA-Jordan uses open source software, which means that its software code is not exclusively owned. This allows it to be updated, modified, and customized to meet future needs at little or no cost. The core MEGA software has been developed so that it can, independent of the Jordanian system, be freely and readily customized for use by other countries. It is fully compatible with all standard GIS tools, facilitating data sharing among government agencies and researchers.

MEGA-Jordan is more than an inventory system. It is also designed to help monitor and manage sites to protect them against a range of threats, including urban encroachment. Its implementation will position Jordan as a regional leader in the use of sophisticated technology to inventory and manage archaeological heritage.

The web-based MEGA-Jordan user interface showing a site boundary, its elements, and buffer zone. The bottom panel displays a monitoring report on the selected site. Users with the required privileges are able to add new sites and site elements, edit site attributes, print reports, and export shape files. The search panel can be expanded to allow comprehensive advanced searching according to numerous criteria, including element types, periods, significance, threats, ownership, etc. (Data shown are fictitious and for illustration only.)

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