

Bethany Beyond the Jordan Site of Jesus Baptism: A Threatened Site

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ABSTRACT The discovery of the Baptism Site is considered as a major step in field of archaeology and cultural heritage in Jordan Valley on the eastern bank of Jordan River. The ecology of the site played a vital role in the events occurred during the early history of the site during Roman and Byzantine period. The article has discussed the major threats to the ecology, heritage and eco-tourism at the component of the site, and the possible mitigations measures in order to sustain the site for future generations. The proposed procedures to protect the identified sites includes enhancement the restoration and preservation of the components in order to reduce the negative impacts and strengthen coordination between the Conservation section of the baptism site by creating an architectural conservation staff formed exclusively by professionals according to the Venice Charter regulations. A well established conservation process is needed to minimize these effects, and to protect the archeological and heritage sites in Bethany beyond the Jordan.