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Information Document: Updated progress report on the implementation of the 55 Recommendations for Enhanced Management of Kathmandu Valley and Time-Bound Action Plan for Corrective Measures, submitted by His Majesty's Government of Nepal on 22 November 2000

His Majesty Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
Department of Archaeology

Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site

Updated Progress Report

Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979 in the form of a single World Heritage Site consisting of the seven separate Monument Zones such as three royal palace complexes of Hanuman Dhoka, Bhaktapur and Patan Durbar squares, two Hindu temples complexes i.e. Pashupati and Changu Narayan and two Buddhist stupas i.e. Swayambhu and Boudha.

These seven Monument Zones are situated in the city core areas. It includes hundreds of public and private monuments, sculptures, traditional stone water spouts dated back to the early century A.D. Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site, is the living cultural heritage site. It is very large in size and complex in nature in comparison to the other World Heritage sites.

Nepal is a developing country. The rapid economic changes, tremendous population growth and uncontrolled urban development have brought a great change in the society. It has also affected to the general environment of the seven monument zones of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site.

In November 1993 a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Mission was under taken in the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site. The mission specified 16 points of concern. Since then (1993) HMG/N has taken extensive measures for the protection of the KVWHS and made progresses on 16 points. In this regard several updated monitoring reports have been submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

As per the decision of the 21st World Heritage Committee meeting of 1997, again a tripartite mission of UNESCO/ICOMOS and HMG/N, March-April 1998 have reviewed the management of this site and agreed 55 recommendations with time Bound Action Plan incorporating the 16 points specified in 1993.

The major activities among the 55 recommendations are to strictly implement the protective bye-laws controlling the demolition of historic buildings and the design of the new structure, to resolve the overlaps in the prevailing Act, establishment of a HCU, preparation of the Master Plans, inventory of monuments and its classification, establishment of a Monument Conservation Fund, approval of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Rules 3rd Amendment, fix stone boundary markers and plaques etc.

On the above mentioned recommendations HMG/N has already completed most of the Time Bound Action Plans. The ongoing recommendations are also enhanced such as: established the Heritage Conservation Unit, approval of the 3rd Ancient Monument Preservation Rules established a separate Ancient Monument Preservation Fund, prepared a Master Plans for WHZs except Hanuman Dhoka. A Master Plan for the Bhaktapur Monument Zone is under preparation. The fixing of stone boundary markers and plaques at all monument zones have already been completed. Government has granted special facilities to those house owners who built or repair their houses as per the approved design, classification of the monument is underway. Government is implementing strictly the bylaws to control the demolition of historic buildings. Consent for dismantle is provided only as a last resort to

those buildings which are in a very dilapidated conditions or which aren't technically possible to do in situ repair or restoration. People are now easily accepting to use traditional material in their houses which is clearly mentioned in the latest technical report of ICOMOS expert. As a result, now Protected Monument Zones are better organized, look cleaner and beautiful than pre 1993.

The single overriding issue raised by ICOMOS in the UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMG/N joint mission report for protecting the integrity of the KVVWS is the control of demolition of historical structure and illegal development. ICOMOS expresses that the religious public monuments are secure. However, the traditional private houses and commercial building are subject to extreme development pressure.

As per the decision of the 23rd World Heritage Committee meeting which was held in Marrakesh, a High Level Mission including the honorable chairperson has visited the Kathmandu valley World Heritage site from 24th September to 30th, 2000. This High Level Mission has discussed with the higher authorities of HMG as well as local authorities and other concern institutions and other line agencies about the importance of Cultural Heritage of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage sites and its present situation. During their visit, Right Honorable Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and other concern Honorable Ministers of Nepal have discussed with the High Level Mission seriously about the state of conservation of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site. During the discussions the authorities of HMG and concern Municipalities have assured to the high level Mission of their strong commitment to preserve and protect the KVVWS as per UNESCO World Heritage Convention. His Majesty the King Birendra Bir Bikram Shahdeva has graciously granted the audience to the High Level Mission.

The High Level Mission's visit including Honorable Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee proves that how serious is the World Heritage committee for the preservation of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site. After the inspection of the seven Monument Zones of Kathmandu Valley WHS the High Level Mission must have realized how complicated, complex and large is the site, together with the Government, Municipalities, other NGO and local and private people's effort to preserve the Kathmandu Valley and its coming up awareness among the people, various institutions.

To control damaging and illegal development it urgently needs technical as well as financial resources. By realizing its sensitivity and importance the HMG of Nepal has already created a 18 man Heritage conservation Unit-This unit will immeasurably strengthen the capacity of the Government to manage and monitor the WHS, although time must be allowed to produce the desired results given the size and complexity of the site. Realizing its seriousness, sensitivity and importance of the Kathmandu valley WHS for its better management the government of Nepal has recently transferred the Heritage Conservation Unit from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation to the Department of Archaeology. Immediately after the transfer of HCU in the DOA, the existing organization chart of DOA has also been improved. As per the new organization chart, the existing Protected Monument Zone conservation sub-section is uplifted to the section such as World Heritage conservation section, the chief of this section is now the Gazeetted 2nd class officer. Under this section comes the HCU. This section is now fully responsible to train the staffs, monitor and evaluate the World Heritage site.

The three Municipalities of the Kathmandu Valley have already established a separate HCU with trained technical manpower. Now from the local level too more seriousness and responsibilities are taking on the conservation of the cultural heritage within the Protected Monument Zones.

To control the illegal development within the Protected Monument Zones in Patan, a special joint monitoring team consisting of the representative of DOA, Lalitpur sub-metropolitan UDLE, District Administrative Office and Town Development committee monitoring the Patan Monument zone once in a week. This team while inspecting the site can give the direct order on the spot to stop the illegal construction to the house owner if he is out of the approved design of prevailing Act. This team is created under the chairmanship of the Mayor himself.

For the management and protection of the Changu Narayan area a special monitoring team is formed under the chairmanship of the Chief of the Bhaktapur Palace Conservation and Monument Maintenance Office consisting of the chairman of the Changu Narayan Village Development Committee. With the support of UNESCO a project based on the a detail documentation of the monuments, guide training at site and restoration of a private house are launched at Changu Narayan.

Most of the major conservation and environmental protection activities are carrying out by the Swayambhu Conservation and Development Committee under the technical guidance of the DOA. A major project i.e. in situ restoration of the Sabyagaha Bihar has been completed. This project was done under by the Department of Archaeology the joint financial collaboration of UDLE, the house owner, and Swayambhu Development and Conservation Committee. In this way further in situ restoration activities will be launched in the coming years too.

The Pasupati Development Trust is actively carrying out the responsibilities of protecting the Pasupati World Heritage Site in full cooperation with DOA.

Bhaktapur municipality itself is very aware of the building control. The addition to the government facilities, the Bhaktapur municipality also has allocated a lump sum of money to make available of construction materials. A Master Plan for the Bhaktapur Monument Zone under preparation.

Annual budget of the government. for the conservation and preservation of the Cultural Heritage is increasing considerably. In addition, NGO's, INGO's, Donor countries , municipalities and private parties are also increasingly involved in these activities.

For creating public awareness on the heritage conservation, related government. line agencies , municipalities, local people and NGO's are actively conducting different programs in different levels in close cooperation with UNESCO, donor countries and INGOS .

In the school level curriculum , a culture education is endorsed from 1-10 classes.

Public awareness on the conservation of cultural heritage does not come in a day. It takes time and patience. Through different line ministries, municipalities, NGOs, INGOS, UNESCO, private parties various public awareness. programs on conservation of Cultural Heritage are continuously implementing and these days awareness among the people on the importance of the Cultural Heritage is coming up slowly and steadily.

ICOMOS expert in his report Oct-Nov. 1999 states that the design of new buildings within the WHS has improved. But the permits for demolition is still continuing .

The outstanding concern of the government now will be focussed on the remaining concern of ICOMOS expert i.e. control of damaging the traditional houses.

To control it too, necessary steps have already taken by the government. Under the provision of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, special criteria have already been fixed for the classification of the monuments, within the WHS. The classification of monuments, within WHS is already implemented at Patan and Bhaktapur monument zone. This step will support to control on the demolition of traditional buildings as well as improve the conservation standard.

The Fourth Review Committee Meeting of the International Campaign for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Kathmandu Valley, which was held in Kathmandu in July, 1999 appreciated the outstanding achievements on the conservation, preservation and management of the Cultural Heritage done by the Government in close collaboration with UNESCO, since the last Campaign Meeting and also recommended to draw up a Strategic Action Plan for the 21st century and to expand the committee into a National and International Campaign Advisory Committee, In this regard the forth-coming meeting is proposed to be held in the beginning of the year 2001.

Conclusion

Nepal is not a rich country and like most developing countries is affected by rapid social and economic change, which put pressure on traditional environments and lifestyles, especially since most of the World Heritage Sites forms part of living cities. Nevertheless, since 1993 HMG has made tremendous progress for the preservation of the authenticity and integrity of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site. HMG is cooperating with the other stakeholders to implement an extensive and diverse program of enhanced management and protection for the KVWHS, in close cooperation with UNESCO. These combined measures will ensure the protection of the integrity KVWHS for future generations of humankind.

It should be recognized that in developing country i.e. Nepal, pressures will inevitably be greater than in a developed country where such rapid change occurred in the past and where unchallenged conservation strategies are more easily secured.

The government is taking all the possible efforts for the preservation and conservation of the World Heritage Site MZ. That efforts are still continuing. We are happy to note that the High Level Mission in its report to the Committee has sincerely and faithfully reflected the views, commitment, and progress made by Nepal in conservation and preservation work. We welcome the positive note of the report and thank the leader and members of the mission for their sincere efforts. Nepal will look forward to receive any suggestions for the expeditious implementation of the 1998 recommendations to attain our common objective, the historical integrity of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures
for implementing the Recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS/HMGN Joint Mission**

The Recommendations formulated and adopted by the Joint Mission were incorporated into a Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures for implementation by the responsible agencies. This Time-Bound Action Plan of Corrective Measures was finalized in June 1998 with the agreement of representatives of UNESCO, ICOMOS and HMGN. Actions and Corrective Measures to be implemented are presented below in the order of expected completion.

Number of Action	Number of Recommendations	Date for implementation / completion	Action / Corrective Measures to be implemented following adopted Recommendations	Responsible agency / agencies	Progress as of August 2000
1	13, 28	31 May 1998	Submit to WHC a Progress Report on the feasibility study for correcting illegal buildings in Bauddhanath and Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square MZs, for discussion at the WH Bureau.	MYSC, DoA, KMC	Received by WHC 18 June 1998
2	3	30 June 1998	Approve the Ancient Monument Preservation Rules, including the establishment of the classification criteria of monuments into international, national and local importance.	MYSC	Approved
3	14	30 June 1998	Gazette the amended boundary of Bauddhanath MZ.	MYSC	Published in Nov.1998
4	39	30 June 1998	Fix stone boundary markers in Patan Darbar Square MZ.	DoA	Completed
5	40	30 June 1998	Fix a bronze plaque in Patan Darbar Square MZ, indicating WH MZ status.	DoA	Completed
6	49	30 June 1998	Prepare a project proposal for the restoration and safeguarding of the wall paintings in Santipur temple, Swayambhunath MZ.	DoA	Completed and submitted to WHC.1998
7	6	30 Nov. 1998	Establish a Monuments Conservation Fund for safeguarding KVWHS.	DoA	Established on 5 th Nov.1999
8	16	30 Nov. 1998	Approve Master Plan for Bauddhanath MZ.	DoA	Should be revised as

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					suggested by ICOMOS & BDC.
9	32	30 Nov. 1998	Gazette of the boundary of Pashupatinath MZ.	MYSC	Published in Nov.1998
10	48	30 Nov. 1998	Control access to the Santipur Temple, Swayambhunath MZ for the protection of the wall paintings within.	DoA	Controlled
11.	49	30 Nov. 1998	Distribute the project proposal for the restoration of the wall paintings in Santipur temple, Swayambhu MZ. to be distributed to potential national or international donors.	MYSC, DOA (WHC will provide support if donors are not found by the above two agencies before 30 Nov. 1998, subject to receipt of the proposals)	Proposal submitted to WHC.
12	29, 44	30 June 1999	Fix stone boundary markers in Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square and Swayambhu MZs, indicating their WH MZ status.	DoA	Completed, 1999
13	41	30 June 1999	Approve and implement the Conservation Action Plan for Patan Darbar Square MZ.	MYSC	under implementation
14	23	30 June 1998 – 30 July 1999	Draw up inventory of the religious and secular monuments of Bhaktapur Darbar Square MZ. This activity will be financed by the World Heritage Fund-Technical Co-operation (US\$ 28,000), approved by the WH Bureau in Nov. 1997.	Bhaktapur Municipality, DoA, WHC	Completed

Number of Action	Number of Recommendations	Date for implementation / completion	Action / Corrective Measures to be implemented following adopted Recommendations	Responsible agency / agencies	Progress as of August 2000
15	24	Subject to completion of Action 14	Classify the monuments in Bhaktapur Darbar Square MZ into monuments of international, national and local importance, following the classification criteria to be in place by June 1998.	DoA	A detailed inventory for the classification of Monuments is completed
16	4	<u>31 July 1999</u>	Establish DCU as a permanent part of the DoA. (Although it was reported by HMGN to the 21 st session of the WH Committee that the DCU would become a permanent unit within the DoA from July 1998 with a four-fold annual budget of the preceding year, the MYSC informed the Joint Mission in April 1998 that it could only establish the DCU as a permanent unit from 1999.)	MYSC, DoA	Established Heritage Conservation Unit having 18 staff within DOA.
17	22	30 Nov. 1999	Fix stone boundary markers and a bronze plaque in Bhaktapur Darbar Square MZ, indicating its WH MZ status.	DoA	Completed
18	34	30 Nov. 1999	Fix stone boundary markers and a bronze plaque in Pashupatinath MZ, indicating its WH MZ status.	Pashupati Development Trust	Fixed Bronze Plaque and stone boundary markers.
19	36	30 Nov. 1999	Complete a condition survey and repair programme for the monuments in Pashupati MZ.	Pashupati Development Trust	A tentative condition Survey and a repair programme for the monuments are completed.
20	42	30 Nov. 1999	Classify the religious and secular monuments in Patan Darbar Square MZ into monuments of international, national and local importance,	DoA	A detailed inventory for the classification of monuments is

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			following the classification criteria to be in place by June 1998.		completed.
21	25	30 Nov. 2000	Fix stone boundary markers in Changu Narayan MZ indicating its WH MZ status.	DoA	Completed.
22	15	30 Dec. 2000	Fix stone boundary markers in Bauddhanath MZ, indicating its WH MZ status.	DoA	Completed.
23	17	30 Dec. 2000	Classify the religious and secular monuments of Bauddhanath MZ into monuments of international, national and local importance, following the classification criteria to be in place by June 1998.	DoA	It will be Completed in the given date.
24	26	30 Dec. 2001	Draw up inventory and classify the religious and secular monuments of Changu Narayan MZ, into monuments of international, national and local importance, following the classification criteria to be in place by June 1998.	DoA	It will be Completed in the given date.
25	31	30 Dec. 2001	Prepare a Master Plan for Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square MZ	DoA	In Progress. Kathmandu city Mapping Project has assured to include it, with EU support.
26	35	30 Dec. 2002	Draw up inventory and classify the religious and secular monuments of Pashupatinath MZ, into monuments of international, national and local importance, following the classification criteria to be in place by June 1998.	Pashupati Development Trust, DoA	It will be Completed in the given time.
27	45	30 Dec. 2003	Draw up inventory and classify the religious and secular monuments of Swayambhu MZ, into monuments of international, national and local importance, following the classification criteria to be	DoA	It will be completed in the given time.

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			in place by June 1998.		
28	30	30 Dec. 2004	Draw up inventory and classify the religious and secular monuments of Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square MZ, into monuments of international, national and local importance, following the classification criteria to be in place by June 1998.	DoA	It will be Completed within the given time.
29	1	Ongoing	Strictly implement the protective by-laws controlling the demolition of historical buildings and the design of new structures.	DoA	Controlling the demolition of historic building and design of new construction, except in few cases.
30	2	Ongoing	Resolve overlaps in jurisdiction in the implementation of the legislation and by-laws protecting the integrity of KVVHS.	MYSC	A project Proposal has been prepared.
31	5	Ongoing	Implement effective measures for monitoring KVVHS.	DoA	The staff of the HCU regularly monitoring KVVHS.
32	7	Ongoing	Implement awareness programmes of WH values.	DoA, Local Authorities (KMC, Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City, Bhaktapur Municipality, Changu Narayan Village Development Committee)	Various awareness programme, on WHS are effectively launching by Govt, NGO,INGOS and private parties.
33	8	Ongoing	Develop criteria for providing <i>sal</i> wood at a	MYSC	Approved by the

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			subsidised rate for the conservation of public and private buildings of historical importance within the WH MZs.		Cabinet on 6 July 1998
34	9	Ongoing	Control the height of new pavements and place cabling underground.	Local Authorities, DoA	Since May 1998, it is under control.
35	10	Ongoing	Promote the use of traditional materials and prohibit the use of polished marble and glazed ceramic tiles on facades of historical monuments and buildings within the WH MZs.	DoA, Local Authorities	Facilities to the private house owners are already fixed by the Govt. for using traditional materials and controlled the use of new materials.
36	11	<u>Ongoing</u>	Prepare a programme for removing obtrusive shop signs and advertisements from KVWHS	DoA	Controlled in Bhaktapur Palace area, Swayambhu hill.
37	12	Ongoing	Restrict displays of goods for sale to the interior of shops rather than on the facades of historical buildings within KVWHS.	DoA	Strictly Controlled in Bhaktapur Durbar Square Patan Durbar Square and Changuarayan.
38	18	Ongoing	Remove intrusive advertising signs facing the stupa at Bauddhanath MZ.	DoA	Replacement of model is prepared and will be replaced in consultation with the local people.
39	19	<u>Ongoing</u>	Establish a visitor/tourist information centre at Bauddhanath MZ.	Bauddha Development Committee, DoA	Already established.
40	20	Ongoing	Encourage the cultural distinction of Bhaktapur city	MYSC	A special committee is

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					formed by the Govt. and in this regard Govt. is waiting the response of the letter dated 25 Feb.1999 from WHC.
41	21	Ongoing	Elaborate the conservation Master Plan for Bhaktapur MZ in accordance with the DoA's norms	Bhaktapur Municipality, DoA	Bhaktapur municipality is preparing with the financial support of DOA and Guthi Corporation.
42	27	Ongoing	Enforce the design for sloped roofs to the front facades of buildings being altered or reconstructed, in Changu Narayan MZ.	DoA	Controlled since May 1998.
43	33	Ongoing	Establish an effective control unit in Pashupatinath MZ.	MYSC	At Present PDT itself is acting as control unit
44	37	Ongoing	Propose retention and viable re-use of historical buildings in Pashupatinath MZ, with inclusion of proposals for implementation in the elaborated master plan.	Pashupati Development Trust, DoA	Proposal has been included in the approved Master Plan.
45	38	Ongoing	Prepare proposals for enhanced management of the landscape at Gauri Ghat within Pashupatinath MZ.	Pashupati Development Trust included in the WHS.	Proposal has been included in the approved Master Plan and management is in process
46	43	Ongoing	Establish 24-hour security at Swayambhu MZ.	DoA	Federation of Swayambhu

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					Conservation and development has provided 24 hours security guards.
47	46	Ongoing	Strictly control the scale and style of new development in Swayambhu MZ, in accordance with the by-laws.	DoA	Controlled since 1998 May except in few cases.
48	47	Ongoing	Monitor schemes for visitor presentation and facilities at Swayambhu MZ.	DoA, KMC, Federation of Swayambhu Management and Conservation	Done accordingly
49	50	Ongoing	Prepare a programme for the conservation of historical domestic buildings on top of Swayambhu hill, Swayambhunath MZ.	DoA	Programme is commenced since 1998 and is continued for this year too.
50	51	ongoing	HCU will be supported with equipment and training.	HMGN/ WHC	Response is awaiting from WHC.
51	52	ongoing	HNGN will make every effort to mobilize human and financial resources for the restoration and conservation of historical monuments and buildings, including those under private ownership. WHC will continue to assist HMGN in mobilizing financial and human resources from prospective donors and overseas development aid for the safeguarding of KVVWS.	HMGN/ WHC	HMG.N mobilised human & financial resource creating HCU, 10% financial support to private houses, available of timber in subsidised rate, in crease of yearly budget for conservation, waiting response on it from WHC.

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52	53	ongoing	WHC will continue to assist HMGN in applying for funds to be made available from the World Heritage Fund, especially for technical cooperation in safeguarding KVVWS. However, HMGN will also continue to mobilize international funds for technical expertise to be made available, following international conservation norms.	HMGN/ WHC	WHC should continue the support.
53	54	ongoing	WHC will continue to support HMGN and the Local Authorities concerned in closely evaluating the state of conservation of the 7 MZs of KVVWS, and in reporting its progress in implementing the Recommendations of the Joint Mission to the World Heritage Committee.	HMGN/ WHC	WHC should continue the support.
54	55	ongoing	UNESCO will provide financial support for the preparation of a Master Plan for Hanuman Dhoka Darbar Square MZ.	HMGN/ WHC	If it is not included in the Mapping programme of KTM, WHC need to provide financial support.