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ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

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Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the
World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la
Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural
Landscape (N481)/Vat Phou et les anciens établissements associés du paysage
culturel de Champassak (République démocratique populaire lao) (N 481)
15-21 February 2012/15-21 février 2012

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

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**Report on the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring
Mission to Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak
Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic republic)**

15-21 February 2012



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

- 1. Background to the Mission**
- 2. National Policy for the Preservation and Management of the World Heritage Property**
- 3. Identification and Assessment of Issues/Threats**
- 4. Assessment of the State of Conservation of the Property**
- 5. Conclusions and Recommendations**
- 6. Annexes**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The reactive monitoring mission concluded that the World Heritage property is in general good condition but there is a need to address some of the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee and other identified factors. The mission proposes the following recommendations:

1. Route 14A (a north-south road to the west of the Mekong River) – Mitigation Measures and Other Considerations

(1) There is no doubt that the improved Route 14A will bring more traffic to - and through - the property. Therefore, in the short term, it is important that road traffic is monitored on a periodic basis – in terms of the number and types of vehicles as well as the speed of vehicles. In the longer term, it is equally important that priority be given to creating a viable alternate route, namely, Route 14B, which lies to the west of the Property.

In regard to speed controls, consideration should be given to *speed bumps* within the village areas affected by Route 14A. And, perhaps, signs at Property entry points could be mounted with a simple and clear message: “*Reduce Speed; Protect Our Underground Heritage*”. The message should be in all relevant local languages.

(2) It is important to obtain an official notice of the cancellation of the bypass around Ban Tang Kob (unless, of course, this has been received already). Elimination of this bypass, as previously mentioned, should help maintain the vitality of a series of villages near Vat Phou and, at the same time, help control the speed of vehicles, especially if speed bumps are installed.

(3) In regard to the visual impact of Route 14A, it would seem best to refrain from planting a linear screen of trees on either side of the road as this would serve to emphasize the dramatic cut of the road through the cultural landscape – and would be especially visible from the platforms of Vat Phou.

(4) The railings of the three bridges between *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* should be treated with a colour that reflects one of the dominant colours of the natural landscape (rather than white).

(5) Roadside construction/infrastructure between *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* must be restricted to critical emergency services, if any. (Note: The current control notification dated 7/12/2011[see Annexe 7] needs to be strictly enforced and consideration should be given to increasing the cited fine.)

Requests for roads, lanes and driveways in this section of the road (*KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261*) should be denied. It should be clarified if such construction is included in the control notification dated 7/12/2011 (see Annexe 7).

For other parts of Route 14A within the World Heritage property, no new roadside construction (except for improvements to existing houses), including additions, should be allowed until there is comprehensive land use planning and zoning for the entire property. In addition, gasoline stations should not be allowed along 14A within the property.

There needs to be a street furniture plan for Route 14A within the Property, especially roadside lighting, if any. And, if there is a plan to install lighting, then it must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration and review prior to approval of construction.

2. Status of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments (CHIA) for Route 14A

- (1) The State Party should submit the annotated copy of the suggested mitigation measures to the World Heritage Centre.
- (2) Consideration should be given to holding a short training session on Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment with representatives from the Site Management Office and the relevant levels of government. In a rapidly developing country, this is a critical skill set that needs to be embedded at all levels of government.

3. Proposed Water Tower(s) – Potential Impact

- (1) The Asian Development Bank needs to be contacted at the earliest regarding the design of the water supply system, in consideration of the conditions of the World Heritage property and the requirements for sustaining its Outstanding Universal Value.
- (2) A visual impact assessment for both proposed locations should be conducted. Clearly, given the likely scenario, the assessment of the southern location must have priority. Although the placement of both water supply systems will likely be outside the World Heritage property, the probable visual impact of a gravity-fed system, i.e. a tower, needs to be addressed as it could impact its attributes.
- (3) Related to the water towers in terms of visual impact, the mission experts were advised and could see that all telecommunication towers have been dismantled within the World Heritage property, a commendable action by the State Party. One tower does remain to the north of the property, but it serves at least three companies, thus reducing the need for a proliferation of such towers.

4. Administrative/Visitor Facilities Compound, including the New Site Management Office – Impact

- (1) In the short term, the Site Management Office should be painted a colour that blends in with the natural landscape. The same approach should be used for the entrance gate. Both structures are visible, to varying degrees, from the platforms of the temple. In addition, the public toilet on the western edge of the parking lot should be similarly painted. It is particularly visible from the temple platforms.
- (2) In the short term, and before more comprehensive planning, there should be a freeze on all proposed uses for Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone) for recreation and/or sports.
- (3) In the longer term, consideration must be given to relocating the Site Management Office, the museum, the parking lot and the public toilet. The present location of these facilities

intrudes on the spiritual nature of the temple – and suggests that the temple and Phou Kao are the World Heritage property's main focus rather than a part of a multi-faceted Property, i.e. Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone) and the extensive and vibrant cultural landscape - Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone). It should be noted that there should be no piecemeal decisions. Every effort should be made to have a comprehensive plan, which must be approved *before implementation* by the World Heritage Centre.

(4) In the longer term as well, there must be a comprehensive landscape plan for Vat Phou - Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone). The current plan, apparently now cancelled, reflects a lack of understanding of the values of the site and the use of inappropriate models. Areas of concern include street lighting fixtures, paving materials, tree planting patterns, etc. As (3), there should be no piecemeal decision-making. Every effort should be made to have a comprehensive plan, which must be approved before implementation by the World Heritage Centre. (See Annexe 8 for the most recent landscape plan, which appears to have been cancelled.)

5. Additional Infrastructure Projects – Impact

None

6. Building Activities over the Past Ten Years – Impact

(1) There is an urgent need for comprehensive land use planning and zoning for the entire World Heritage property.

(2) There is an equally urgent need for general design guidelines for those buildings in Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone) and modified guidelines for those buildings within Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone).

7. Efficacy and Adequacy of the Management System

[1] Revisit the Management Plan when the World Heritage Committee adopts the Statement of *Outstanding Universal Value of the property so provisions are made to ensure the conservation and protection of the identified attributes.*

8. Additional Observation: Conservation at the Monument Management Zone

[1] A mechanism needs to be developed for identification and prioritization of activities and their monitoring within the Monument Management Zone paying special attention to work by foreign teams.

9. Additional Observation: Level of Understanding of the Property

[1] Interpretation materials, such as the currently available site pamphlet (“The Ancient City - The Sanctuary - The Spring”), should include the attributes of the entire World Heritage **property, not only those found in the Monument Management Zone.**

[2] A local community engagement programme should be launched to help residents understand better the importance of the inscribed property as a whole – and the need to protect the attributes that express its Outstanding Universal Value.

1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1 Description of the property and Inscription history

Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape is located on the west bank of the Mekong River in the Champasak District of southern Lao PDR, 500km south-east of the capital, Vientiane. The total inscribed area covers 39,000 ha. The Vat Phou temple complex is a major example of both early and classic Khmer architecture from the 7th–12th centuries AD. The complex is the focal point of a sophisticated cultural landscape centred on the Champasak Plain, taking in the Phou Kao (mountain) to the west, and the banks of the Mekong River to the east. Between them are temples, shrines, water tanks, water channels, quarries, historic field systems, ancient roads and settlement sites, including Shrestrapura, one of the earliest known urban settlements in Southeast Asia and its 9th century successor.

The Champasak cultural landscape, including the Vat Phou Temple complex, is a remarkably well-preserved planned landscape more than 1,000 years old. It was shaped to express the Hindu vision of the relationship between nature and humanity, using an axis from mountaintop to riverbank to lay out a geometric pattern of temples, shrines and waterworks extending over some 10 km. Two planned cities on the banks of the Mekong River are also part of the site, as well as Phou Kao Mountain. The whole represents a development ranging from the 5th to 15th centuries, mainly associated with the Khmer Empire.

Recognizing this outstanding example of cultural landscape, the Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape were inscribed on World Heritage List in 2001 under the criteria (iii), (iv), and (vi).

The established Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection zone (Zone 1) comprises three smaller zones as follows:

- Zone 2. Sacred Environment Conservation Zone
- Zone 3. Archaeological Conservation Zone
- Zone 4. Monument Management Zone.

Zone 4 has increased levels of protection and direct management for known concentrations of archaeological sites and monuments or for the conservation of other significant values. As Zone 1 incorporates a large scale landscape already, in which all the main features can be viewed in context, the State Party did not propose a buffer zone at the time of inscription in 2001.

2. Inscription criteria and World Heritage values

The World Heritage Committee inscribed Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape on the World Heritage List under criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi), as follows:

- Criterion (iii): The Temple Complex of Vat Phou bears exceptional testimony to the cultures of south-east Asia, and in particular to the Khmer Empire which dominated the region in the 10th-14th centuries.
- Criterion (iv): The Vat Phou complex is an outstanding example of the integration of a symbolic landscape of great spiritual significance to its natural surroundings.
- Criterion (vi): Contrived to express the Hindu version of the relationship between nature and humanity, Vat Phou exhibits a remarkable complex of monuments and other structures over an extensive area between river and mountain, some of outstanding architecture, many containing great works of art, and all expressing intense religious conviction and commitment.

3. Integrity/authenticity issues raised in the ICOMOS evaluation report at the time of inscription

In ICOMOS evaluation report dated 2001, ICOMOS noted that the evaluation of the property's authenticity involved five elements, as following:

- The landscape setting of the whole
- The association of the various elements and the evidence for deliberate planning
- Buried archaeological sites
- Archaeological sites surviving as visible earthworks
- Standing structure.

ICOMOS noted that overall authenticity and integrity of the property is remarkably high. Nevertheless ICOMOS also took note of the great need for conservation of the major structures within the Vat Phou Temple Complex, which were in danger of imminent collapse. In addition the mounting of development pressure was noted.

4. Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (refer to previous State of Conservation reports etc.)

The decision taken by the Bureau and the World Heritage Committee pertaining to the Property are the followings:

- 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (27COM 78.510);
- 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (28COM.15B. 65);
- 35th session of the World Heritage Committee (35COM 7B.72)

5. Justification of the mission (terms of reference, itinerary, programme and composition of mission team provided in Annex)

Brief background of the mission

In 2002, the possibility of constructing a new road through Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape was brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee. This concern was noted by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (Paris, 2003), by requesting the State Party to “submit a detailed survey plan for the new north-south road to mitigate any negative impact this road could have on Zones 1, 2, 3, or 4, detailing the protective measures being undertaken or planned” (Decision 27 COM 7B.51).

In April 2010, after a long period of inactivity concerning the road construction, UNESCO received reports that the construction of Route 14A had commenced and would pass through Zone 1 and Zone 3 of the property. The State Party was duly notified by the World Heritage Centre that potential damage from the construction works was not in compliance with existing legislation and management provisions and could lead to threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, thus providing grounds for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

To assess the emergency situation at the property, a UNESCO fact-finding mission was undertaken from 14 to 17 December 2010 at the request of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Lao PDR. According to the mission report, road construction plans provided by the State Party showed that out of a total length of approximately 60 km, a 18-km section of Route 14A would be situated in Zone 1 of the property (Champasak Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone), from km 25 at Phaphin to km 43 at Ban Dontalat village.

The road is designed with two lanes, together with associated turning lanes, bridges, and drainage structures. From km 25 to 29, the works entail a widening of an existing road. From

km 29 to 34, it consists of constructing a new road alignment including three bridges passing through existing paddy fields and nearby areas designated as Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone), notably the ancient city. From km 34 to 35, a bypass is designed around Ban Tang Kob Village. From km 35 to 41, the existing road will be upgraded and from km 42 to 43, a bypass will be constructed around Ban Dontalat Village.

In addition, the project also includes proposals to upgrade the road running through Champasak town proper which passes through the Ancient City (designated Zone 3) by constructing sidewalks and associated drainage alignment.

Work on the road started in early 2010. After rapid construction in 2010, the road works had substantially progressed, with various sections in the World Heritage property advanced to various degrees of construction by January 2011. With the exception of an Initial Environmental Examination conducted in 2002 and seven archaeological trenches excavated in October and November 2010, during which the road construction work was halted temporarily, no further in-depth heritage impact assessment had been conducted by the State Party.

At the request of the State Party, a quick impact assessment was undertaken by an expert mission fielded by UNESCO Bangkok in January-February 2011. The results of the assessment concluded that the construction and planned operation of the road based on its current design would have an irreversible impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The road will impact on the cultural landscape and the buried archaeology and standing earthworks. The road alignment cuts through the cultural landscape and creates adverse visual and cultural impacts.

Significant archaeological remains located in close proximity to parts of the road alignment had already been affected. The mitigation measures that have been proposed by the State Party, such as planting trees along the road alignment, were found to be inadequate or inappropriate. The expert mission made two sets of recommendations: first, mitigation actions for immediate implementation, and second, submission of modified design and alignment proposals for the new road and detailed mitigation plans. The immediate mitigation actions identified were as follows:

- Suspension of all construction works from km 29 to 34 to allow time for preparation of a new Alignment Options Study in order to provide a design and locations not having impact on the Outstanding Universal Value. The options must take into account that a minimum of 100 metres will be required between the wall of the Ancient City and the new alignment;
- Cancellation of the Ban Tang Kob Village bypass and use of the existing road through the village based on local access only.

In addition to Route 14A, the 2012 mission identified other issues affecting the conservation of the property including the construction of a new site management office next to the site museum, an increase in building activity over the past ten years which has started to change the character of the property and is expected to be accelerated with the new road, and the non-functioning of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee which is identified as a key coordinating body in the management plan.

The 2012 reactive monitoring mission noted that the State Party had made progress with restoration of the Vat Phou temple complex, with bilateral technical support from France, India and Italy. The capacity of the site management authorities has been strengthened with the upgrade into a department level. A new action plan for 2011-2016 is currently being prepared with support from UNESCO Bangkok, which, if implemented properly, will help to address these longer-term conservation and management issues.

On 25 April 2011, the World Heritage Centre received information regarding a water supply project, to include 25-meter high water tanks, to be funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is understood that these are outside the boundaries of the inscribed property but could impact it visually and that no cultural heritage impact assessment has been carried out.

Finally the World Heritage Committee adopted a series of decisions pertaining to the above-mentioned issues and requested the State Party to invite a joint WHC-ICOMOS-ICRROM Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Property (35COM 7B. 72)

The terms of reference of the Mission, itinerary and the mission programme are provided in the Annex I.

2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

1. Ownership

The Government of the Lao PDR, through the provincial and district authorities is the principal landowner of the property.

2. Legislation for the Protected area

The property is protected by the Provincial Decree on the Regulations for the Preservation of the Historical site of Vat Phou and the areas related to Vat Phou, No. 38/88 (October 1988). This decree defines a large protection zone including not just the temple ruins but also the ancient city. Within the protection zone are three preservation areas covering the V at Phou temple Complex itself.

Within the Protection Zone, exploration and looting are forbidden, as is building on earthworks and the removal of trees from the forest on the Phou Kao Mountains. Special permission is required for irrigation projects affecting earthworks. Within the Preservation Areas, regulation is stricter with prohibition on all building activity, robbing, damage and introduction of stock.

The Decree of the President on the Preservation of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage no. 03.PR was adopted by the Government of the Lao PDR to provide a national legal framework for heritage preservation.

Responsibility of enforcing the Decree is placed with the Ministry of Information and Culture, its Provincial and District manifestations, and the village administrative authorities (Article 9). The National legal framework for heritage preservation is provided by the Law Concerning National Heritage, No. 08 NA, adopted by the National Assembly in 2005.

3. Institutional Framework

The Champasak Heritage Management Plan was officially adopted by the Government of the Lao PDR on 28 September 1998 to implement the Presidential Decree. The Management Plan defines the boundaries of the Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone and three zones within it. The Management Plan contains regulations for the management of the entire nominated Property and provides actions and policies for the conservation and archaeological work.

In addition, actions plans to identify priority management measures are developed every five years.

4. Management structure and co-ordination mechanisms

The Government of Lao PDR established a National Inter-Ministerial Co-coordinating Committee to oversee the management of the Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone and to coordinate the activities of the various government departments at national, provincial and district levels.

There is a Village Liaison Committee to develop close links with the local communities. Day to day management of the Property is ensured by the Department of Vat Phou Champasak World Heritage.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

1. Route 14A (a north-south road to the west of the Mekong River) – Mitigation Measures and Other Considerations

Context

In the early 2000s (final report submitted February 2003), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was asked by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to conduct a road improvement study for the southern region of the country. Named international organizations included IUCN and UNESCO. Route 14A was one of the roads studied.

For the provincial government the road was seen as critical for three reasons: (1) the inaccessibility of parts of the current road during the rainy season (major flooding every four to five years); (2) the need for a better road to serve the local communities (some 50 villages as well as Champasak Town); and (3) the need for a regional north-south road on the west side of the Mekong River.



14A under construction (above) and as constructed (below)

In what appears to have been a miscommunication regarding the alignment of Route 14A, the Final Report states:

“The overall alignment that has been chosen and approved by both the Ministry of Information and Culture and the UNESCO is sited in such a way as to avoid any significant visual impact.” (Final Report – Executive Summary [volume 1, 6.3.2])

Although the study was submitted in early 2003, it appears that no construction occurred until sometime in early 2010 (or shortly before), when the government, with no external funding, decided to proceed with the USD 20,000,000 project. As work proceeded, concerns were raised about the impact on archaeological resources. To further compound matters, in checking UNESCO files, it was stated that there was no record of UNESCO's approval of the road and its alignment.

Consequently, on 22 November 2010, per a letter from the World Heritage Centre, the State Party was asked to suspend all further road construction on Route 14A, pending a thorough Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. The concerns included the possible impact of the road on important archaeological resources (both during and after construction) and the visual

impact of the completed road (and associated bridges) on the cultural landscape. There was also concern that the road, designated a regional road, could well develop into a national four-lane highway. This concern was not specifically expressed in the aforementioned letter from the World Heritage Centre, but later shared by those knowledgeable about the project. At the time of the Reactive Monitoring Mission, all work had been stopped on KM 29 + 050 to KM 34 + 261; a section of Route 14A that includes three partially constructed bridges. The remaining part of Route 14A has been largely finished



Map showing Route 14A

The mission notes that Route 14A has direct impact on Zone 1 [Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone] and Zone 3 [Archaeological Research Zone] – and indirect impact on Zone 2 [Sacred Zone] and Zone 4 [Monumental Management Zone]. (See Annexe 6 for map showing zone boundaries within the property).

Concern: Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)

This section of the road, essentially a bypass, was initially seen to be of particular concern as the chosen alignment (there were three options)¹ runs within 35 meters of the northwest corner of the earthen perimeter wall of the Ancient City (Protection Zone 3). Upon inspection, and with considerable discussion, the mission experts concluded that an adjustment of the alignment would run the risk of damaging potential archaeological remains. The best course of action was to accept the given alignment and control traffic as much as possible and, eventually, redirect heavy traffic to an improved alternate north-south route – Route 14B, which lies to the west of Route 14A and the World Heritage property.

It is important to note that this bypass offers considerable protection to the Ancient City as a whole, as the previous routing of traffic was *through* the archaeological site. Less positive is the commercial impact on Champasak Town, as the bypass now diverts traffic from both the town and the Ancient City.

Concern: Bypass around Ban Tang Kob

Prior to the arrival of the mission experts, this bypass appeared to have been cancelled. It seems that all traffic will use the existing road, which, at the time of the mission, was being upgraded, although remaining a two-lane highway. This action should help control the speed of through traffic and support the local economy, especially restaurants and shops. Less positive is the fact that more traffic will pass close to the entrance of Vat Phou.

Concern: Bridges

Three bridges are part of the road improvement project within the Property - *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)*. As simple utilitarian structures of varying spans – and carrying two lanes of traffic, the bridges are acceptable in the landscape as structures. But, as will be mentioned below, in *Concern: Visual Impact*, consideration needs to be given to the colour of the railings.

Concern: Visual Impact

Surprisingly enough, the visual impact of the road (throughout all four zones), is less than the mission experts expected. In fact, from the various platforms of Vat Phou, the road is hard to detect in the landscape. Of course, while on the road – or near the road, its presence is obvious, although the greening of the verges will soften its visual impact. And, in regard to the natural greening at the sides of the road, the mission experts question the planting of roadside trees. Although aesthetically pleasing to many, this approach could well draw more attention to the road, especially from the temple platforms. It is also a question of place-specific appropriateness for this particular kind of roadside treatment.

A minor potential visual impact is the colour of bridge railings. White appears to be the standard colour, but a colour in keeping with the natural landscape would be more appropriate.

¹In two of the options, the road alignment is too near the walls of the Ancient City. In the third option, the road alignment adheres to international guidelines, but construction costs are higher (longer bridge, longer road and compensation costs to two home owners).

Concern: Associated Infrastructure - Additional Parking Lots; Roadside Toilets

Although there appears to be no (or very limited) related infrastructure, it is critical to the survival of the cultural landscape that such facilities are located outside the inscribed property.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) There is no doubt that the improved Route 14A will bring more traffic to - and through - the World Heritage property. Therefore, in the short term, it is important that road traffic is monitored on a periodic basis – in terms of the number and types of vehicles as well as the speed of vehicles. In the longer term, if so indicated by periodic monitoring, priority should be given to creating a viable alternate route, namely, Route 14B, which lies to the west of the property. The provincial government considers this a long-term option.

In regard to speed controls, consideration should be given to *speed bumps* within the village areas affected by Route 14A. And, perhaps, signs at property entry points could be mounted with a simple and clear message: “*Reduce Speed; Protect Our Underground Heritage*”. The message should be in all relevant local languages.

(2) It is important to obtain an official notice of the cancellation of the bypass around Ban Tang Kob (unless, of course, this has been received already). Elimination of this bypass, as previously mentioned, should help maintain the vitality of a series of villages near Vat Phou and, at the same time, help control the speed of vehicles, especially if speed bumps are installed.

(3) In regard to the visual impact of Route 14A, it would seem best to refrain from planting a linear screen of trees on either side of the road as this would serve to emphasize the dramatic cut of the road through the cultural landscape – and would be especially visible from the platforms of Vat Phou.

(4) The railings of the three bridges between *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* should be treated with a colour that reflects one of the dominant colours of the natural landscape (rather than white).

(5) Roadside construction/infrastructure between *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* must be restricted to critical emergency services, if any. The current control notification dated 7/12/2011 [see Annexe 7] needs to be strictly enforced and consideration should be given to increasing the cited fine.)

Requests for roads, lanes and driveways in this section of the road (*KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261*) should be denied. It should be clarified if such construction is included in the control notification dated 7/12/2011 (see Annexe7).

For other parts of Route 14A within the property, no new roadside construction, except for improvements to existing houses, including additions, should be allowed until there is comprehensive land use planning and zoning for the entire property. Gasoline stations should not be allowed along 14A within the property.

There needs to be a street furniture plan for Route 14A within the property, especially roadside lighting, if any. And, if there is a plan to install lighting, then it must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration and review prior to approval of construction.

2. Status of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments (CHIA) for Route 14A

Context

In 2010, it became clear that road construction was underway and that associated damages to the property were “not in compliance with existing legislation and management provisions....”²

As part of the response, under the direction of UNESCO Bangkok, a Rapid Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA): Construction and Operation of Route 14A was carried out in 2011 and the report was submitted in April 2011. The report includes a table of suggested mitigation actions, some of which had been carried out at the time of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring Mission. The mission experts were shown an annotated table of the suggested mitigation actions. A copy of this table was requested at the time of the mission, but has yet to be received.

Concern

However, since the CHIA was carried out well after the start of road construction, the range and number of effective mitigation measures were reduced. For example, realigning part of the *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* is not a sensible option given the risk of damaging potential archaeological remains. Fortunately, and contrary to unofficial reports, Route 14A is a two-lane regional road and the associated three bridges are two-lane bridges.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) The State Party should submit the annotated copy of the suggested mitigation measures to the World Heritage Centre.

(2) Consideration should be given to holding a short training session on Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments with representatives from the Site Management Office and the relevant levels of government. In a rapidly developing country, this is a critical skill set that needs to be embedded at all levels of government.

3. Proposed Water Tower(s) – Potential Impact

Context

The proposed water tower(s) is/are part of a larger Asia Development Bank (ADB) project and it is apparent that the current scheme is not sensitive to the World Heritage property, especially in terms of its potential visual impact on the cultural landscape.

At the time of the mission, the proposed water tower project for serving the northern part of the property (about 70% of the residents, including Champasak Town) was cancelled with most (if not all) of the funding directed elsewhere. This decision, although very disappointing to local residents, should allow adequate time for a CHIA and, equally important, time to explore options other than a tower, i.e. less visual impact. There was also the suggestion that a small percentage of the project funds could be used for exploring other options. This should be followed up with Asian Development Bank as soon as possible.)

Concern

Although the cancellation is a positive step, less positive is the likelihood that most of the funds will be redirected toward constructing a water tower for serving the southern part of the property (about 30% of the residents). At the time of the mission, when queried, there was no decision as to the exact placement of the southern water tower, although it seemed that it would be placed outside the property.

The construction of a water tower to the south of the property will raise the very same questions that the construction of a water tower to the north of the property raised. In both cases, there needs to be, at the very least, a visual impact assessment. While musing over

² Letter from the World Heritage Centre to the Permanent Delegate of Lao PDR, 22 November 2010.

this conundrum, the mission experts observed that placing a water tower (if this is the only deemed viable solution) in the lee of the mountains significantly reduced its visual impact.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) The Asian Development Bank needs to be contacted at the earliest regarding the design of the water supply system, in consideration of the conditions of the World Heritage property and the requirements for sustaining its Outstanding Universal Value.

(2) A visual impact assessment for both proposed locations should be conducted. Clearly, given the likely scenario, the assessment of the southern location must have priority. Although the placement of both water supply systems will likely be outside the property, the probable visual impact of a gravity-fed system, i.e. a tower, needs to be addressed as it could impact the inscribed property.

(3) Related to the water towers in terms of visual impact, the mission experts were advised and could see that all telecommunication towers have been dismantled within the World Heritage property, a commendable action by the State Party. One tower does remain to the north of the property, but it serves at least three companies, thus reducing the need for a proliferation of such towers.

4. Administrative/Visitor Facilities Compound, including the New Site Management Office – Impact

Context

The new Site Management Office is set within what can loosely be described as an administrative/visitor facilities compound. Three buildings (the Site Management Office, museum and visitor centre) are placed at the main approach to Vat Phou - the physical foot of the temple's east west axis. The museum sits on the left-hand side of the main approach (the south side) and the newly constructed Site Management Office sits immediately behind it (to the south). The visitor centre sits on the right-hand side of the main approach (the north side), and, further to the north, but abutting the centre, is a very recently constructed parking lot, which includes a public toilet on its western edge. Clearly defining the main axis, and effectively separating the buildings, is a wide boulevard.

Concern

There is no doubt that the newly constructed Site Management Office has had a negative impact on the site – the compound, itself, and more importantly, the entire Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone). In terms of location, scale, design, materials and colour, the building is out of place. Unfortunately, considerable resources have been used to construct the building and, given this, the mission experts are hesitant to recommend its demolition in the short term. However, and at the very least, the colour of the building should be changed to one that blends with the landscape. The colour of the main entrance gate should be changed as well and, again, to enable it to blend with the landscape.

Over and above the unfortunate construction of the Site Management Office, the mission experts are concerned about the impact of the entire compound on Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone) – as well as other possible encroachments within the monument area, i.e. a proposed recreational use of an area abutting a baray. (See Annexe 8.) Given these concerns, it would be timely to reconsider the entire entrance area (the administrative/visitor facilities compound) as well as other parts of Zone 4. For example, consideration should be given to locating the compound's buildings and parking lot off-site, perhaps immediately

outside the property's northern entry point (Route 14A).³ In addition, the question of whether parts of the Monument Management Zone should be used for recreation and/or sports needs to be explored.

In reference to the physical plant, there is another issue that needs to be addressed. Informed sources have suggested that the load bearing capacity of the museum is a problem. This needs to be substantiated and, if there is a problem, there needs to be an assessment of the risk to valuable museum artefacts.

Related to the above discussion of the compound, is whether or not the World Heritage property is effectively interpreted – either through publications or exhibitions. In number 9, Additional Observation: Level of Understanding of the Property, the mission experts point out that the one official brochure ignores Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone). In addition, there appears to be little effective interpretation in the visitor centre and, although the museum has a superb collection of artefacts, compelling story lines are missing.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) In the short term, the Site Management Office should be painted a colour that blends in with the natural landscape. The same approach should be used for the entrance gate. Both structures are visible, to varying degrees, from the platforms of the temple. In addition, the public toilet on the western edge of the parking lot should be similarly painted. It is particularly visible from the temple platforms.

(2) In the short term, and before more comprehensive planning, there should be a freeze on all proposed uses for Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone) for recreation and/or sports.

(3) In the longer term, consideration must be given to relocating the Site Management Office, the museum, the parking lot and the public toilet. The present location of these facilities intrudes on the spiritual nature of the temple – and suggests that the temple and Phou Kao are the World Heritage property's main focus rather than a part of a multi-faceted property, i.e. Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone) and the extensive and vibrant cultural landscape - Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone). It should be noted that there should be no piecemeal decisions. Every effort should be made to have a comprehensive plan, which must be approved before implementation by the World Heritage Centre.

(4) In the longer term as well, there must be a comprehensive landscape plan for Vat Phou - Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone). The current plan, apparently now cancelled, reflects a lack of understanding of the values of the site and the use of inappropriate models. Areas of concern include street lighting fixtures, paving materials, tree planting patterns, etc. As (3), there should be no piecemeal decision-making. Every effort should be made to have a comprehensive plan, which must be approved before implementation by the World Heritage Centre. (See Annexe 8 for the most recent landscape plan, which appears to have been cancelled.)

5. Additional Infrastructure Projects – Impact

At the time of the Reactive Monitoring Mission, work was underway on a major improvement to the Ban Muang Ferry Ramp (near Champasak Town). There appears to be no visual impact from the west and there should be little or no visual impact from the east (from across

³Ideally, the Property's southern entry point (Route 14A) should provide the same facilities, but there is the issue of the best use of limited resources.

the Mekong River). An archaeological survey was undertaken for Ban Muang as well as nearby Ban Phaphin 11-12 February 2012.

6. Building Activities over the Past Ten Years –Impact

Over the past ten years, there has been a 30% growth in the population at the property. Given this, there is an increasing need for land use planning and zoning. Champasak Town, under its mayor and with the help of consultants, has a preliminary land use planning and zoning map, but, it appears, there are no accompanying explanatory notes and/or guidelines. Fortunately, a recent allocation of 50,000 Euros by AFD for urban issues (land planning) can be used to meet this need.

Consideration needs to be given to the choice of street furniture within Champasak Town and throughout the entire property. Energy efficiency and “polite” design should be the main criteria. As well, there appear to be no design guidelines for domestic, commercial and institutional buildings (the building envelopes) as to footprint, set back, scale, height, number of stories, building form (modern/traditional), materials, colour, etc. For buildings within Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone), modified guidelines need to reflect the requirements for shallow footings and traditional materials/treatments.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

- (1) There is an urgent need for comprehensive land use planning and zoning for the entire World Heritage property.
- (2) There is an equally urgent need for general design guidelines for those buildings in Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone) and modified guidelines for those buildings within Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone).

7. Efficacy and Adequacy of the Management System

The purpose of the Management System in the context of this property is to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value. The Management System comprises: legal, institutional and resource elements; processes of planning, implementation and monitoring; results to be achieved in the form of outcomes, outputs and feedback in order to improve all or some aspects of the system. The mission experts found that the legal and institutional elements are adequate at present and, in terms of resources, there were no major concerns (human, financial and intellectual). In terms of planning, a Management Plan has been produced with consultation of the larger group of stakeholders and action plans are being developed on a regular basis. Implementation of the actions identified is being carried out within the resource limits, but there was no evidence of a well-established monitoring framework.

However, the work at the Monument Management Zone by foreign teams does not appear to follow action plans, although the work being carried out seems to be on sites that deserve attention (see below). In terms of outcomes, the key expectation should be sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. At the time of developing the Management Plan, there was no properly elaborated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the Committee.

The Management System has been strengthened through adding new dimensions as proposed in the Management Plan. Some of them, such as an Inter-ministerial coordination committee, district level management committee and village level coordinating committee contribute largely to maintaining the values of the site and also the linkages between all stakeholders.

The Site Management Office has been strengthened with additional staff now numbering 44 persons. Some of them are directly linked to the foreign funded projects, which is a very interesting initiative.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

[1] Revisit the Management Plan when the Committee adopts the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

8. Additional Observation: Conservation at the Monument Management Zone

The mission observed three international teams (from France, India and Italy) working on three different projects at the Monument Management Zone. There was also a proposal by a Korean team to start a fourth project. Although the Site Management Office had assigned local staff for each of the projects, it was not clear how the conservation project activities were identified and how they were linked to the Management Plan. It appears that the decisions regarding conservation projects seem to be led by funders rather than by management. There should be a mechanism for overall coordination – both to define the projects for conservation and to monitor the quality of work.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

[1] A mechanism to be developed for identification and prioritization of activities and their monitoring within the Monument Management Zone paying special attention to work by foreign teams.

9. Additional Observation: Level of Understanding of the Property

The mission experts observed that one of the most important challenges related to conservation is the need for local communities and all levels of management to recognize, conserve and interpret the entire property as a World Heritage Site. Currently, the emphasis is on Vat Phou (including Phou Kao) and the Ancient City to the near exclusion of the associated living communities.

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

[1] Interpretation materials, such as the currently available site pamphlet ("The Ancient City - The Sanctuary - The Spring"), should include the attributes of the entire World Heritage property, not only those found in the Monument Management Zone.

[2] A local community engagement programme should be launched to help residents understand better the importance of the property as a whole – and the need to protect the attributes that express its Outstanding Universal Value.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

The overall state of conservation of the property is currently good. Day-to-day maintenance of the Monument Management Zone is adequately addressed by the Site Management Office. The attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, which warranted its inscription on the World Heritage List, are presently not at risk, although an apparent lack of understanding of the property as a whole does constitute an imminent risk.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The reactive monitoring mission concluded that the State of conservation of the property is in good condition but there is a need to address some of the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee and other factors discussed above. The mission proposes the following recommendations:

1. Route 14A (a north-south road to the west of the Mekong River) – Mitigation Measures and Other Considerations

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) There is no doubt that the improved Route 14A will bring more traffic to - and through - the property. Therefore, in the short term, it is important that road traffic is monitored on a periodic basis – in terms of the number and types of vehicles as well as the speed of vehicles. In the longer term, it is equally important that priority be given to creating a viable alternate route, namely, Route 14B, which lies to the west of the Property.

In regard to speed controls, consideration should be given to *speed bumps* within the village areas affected by Route 14A. And, perhaps, signs at Property entry points could be mounted with a simple and clear message: “*Reduce Speed; Protect Our Underground Heritage*”. The message should be in all relevant local languages.

(2) It is important to obtain an official notice of the cancellation of the bypass around Ban Tang Kob ((unless, of course, this has been received already). Elimination of this bypass, as previously mentioned, should help maintain the vitality of a series of villages near Vat Phou and, at the same time, help control the speed of vehicles, especially if speed bumps are installed.

(3) In regard to the visual impact of Route 14A, it would seem best to refrain from planting a linear screen of trees on either side of the road as this would serve to emphasize the dramatic cut of the road through the cultural landscape – and would be especially visible from the platforms of Vat Phou.

(4) The railings of the three bridges between *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* should be treated with a colour that reflects one of the dominant colours of the natural landscape (rather than white).

(5) Roadside construction/infrastructure between *Ban Sikheut to Junction of Vat Phou Road near Ban Phonsaoe (KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261)* must be restricted to critical emergency services, if any. (Note: The current control notification dated 7/12/2011[see Annexe 7] needs to be strictly enforced and consideration should be given to increasing the cited fine.)

Requests for roads, lanes and driveways in this section of the road (*KM29 +050 to KM 34 +261*) should be denied. It should be clarified if such construction is included in the control notification dated 7/12/2011 (see Annexe 7).

For other parts of Route 14A within the property, no new roadside construction (except for improvements to existing houses), including additions, should be allowed until there is comprehensive land use planning and zoning for the entire property. (Note: Gasoline stations should not be allowed along 14A within the property.)

There needs to be a street furniture plan for Route 14A within the Property, especially roadside lighting, if any. And, if there is a plan to install lighting, then it must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration and review prior to approval of construction.

2. Status of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments (CHIA) for Route 14A

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) The State Party should submit the annotated copy of the suggested mitigation measures **to the World Heritage Centre.**

(2) Consideration should be given to holding a short training session on Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment with representatives from the Site Management Office and the relevant

levels of government. In a rapidly developing country, this is a critical skill set that needs to be embedded at all levels of government.

3. Proposed Water Tower(s) – Potential Impact

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) The Asian Development Bank needs to be contacted at the earliest regarding the design of the water supply system, in consideration of the conditions of the World Heritage property and the requirements for sustaining its Outstanding Universal Value.

(2) A visual impact assessment for both proposed locations should be conducted. Clearly, given the likely scenario, the assessment of the southern location must have priority. Although the placement of both water supply systems will likely be outside the property, the probable visual impact of a gravity-fed system, i.e. a tower, needs to be addressed as it could impact the property.

(3) Related to the water towers in terms of visual impact, the mission experts were advised and could see that all telecommunication towers have been dismantled within the World Heritage property, a commendable action by the State Party. One tower does remain to the north of the property, but it serves at least three companies, thus reducing the need for a proliferation of such towers.

4. Administrative/Visitor Facilities Compound, including the New Site Management Office – Impact

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) In the short term, the Site Management Office should be painted a colour that blends in with the natural landscape. The same approach should be used for the entrance gate. Both structures are visible, to varying degrees, from the platforms of the temple. In addition, the public toilet on the western edge of the parking lot should be similarly painted. It is particularly visible from the temple platforms.

(2) In the short term, and before more comprehensive planning, there should be a freeze on all proposed uses for Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone) for recreation and/or sports.

(3) In the longer term, consideration must be given to relocating the Site Management Office, the museum, the parking lot and the public toilet. The present location of these facilities intrudes on the spiritual nature of the temple – and suggests that the temple and Phou Kao are the World Heritage property's main focus rather than a part of a multi-faceted Property, i.e. Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone) and the extensive and vibrant cultural landscape - Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone). It should be noted that there should be no piecemeal decisions. Every effort should be made to have a comprehensive plan, which must be approved *before implementation* by the World Heritage Centre.

(4) In the longer term as well, there must be a comprehensive landscape plan for Vat Phou - Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone). The current plan, apparently now cancelled, reflects a lack of understanding of the values of the site and the use of inappropriate models. Areas of concern include street lighting fixtures, paving materials, tree planting patterns, etc. As (3), there should be no piecemeal decision-making. Every effort should be made to have a comprehensive plan, which must be approved before implementation by the World Heritage Centre. (See Annexe 8 for the most recent landscape plan, which appears to have been cancelled.)

5. Additional Infrastructure Projects – Impact

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

None

6. Building Activities over the Past Ten Years – Impact

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

(1) There is an urgent need for comprehensive land use planning and zoning for the entire World Heritage property.

(2) There is an equally urgent need for general design guidelines for those buildings in Zone 1 (Champasak Heritage and Cultural Landscape Protection Zone) and modified guidelines for those buildings within Zone 3 (Archaeological Research Zone).

7. Efficacy and Adequacy of the Management System

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

[1] Revisit the Management Plan when the Committee adopts the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

8. Additional Observation: Conservation at the Monument Management Zone

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

[1] A mechanism to be developed for identification and prioritization of activities and their monitoring within the Monument Management Zone paying special attention to work by foreign teams.

9. Additional Observation: Level of Understanding of the Property

Actions/Recommendations (arising from specific factors/issues related to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property)

[1] Interpretation materials, such as the currently available site pamphlet (“The Ancient City - The Sanctuary - The Spring”), should include the attributes of the entire World Heritage property, not only those found in the Monument Management Zone.

[2] A local community engagement programme should be launched to help residents understand better the importance of the property as a whole – and the need to protect the attributes that express its Outstanding Universal Value.

6. ANNEXES

Annexe 1: Terms of Reference for a Joint UNESCO-WHC/ ICOMOS/ ICCROM Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

In accordance with Decision 35 COM 7B. 72 (Annex I) of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) the reactive monitoring mission shall carry out the following tasks in close consultation with the Laotian authorities and other stakeholders of the World Heritage property:

- I. To undertake a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify the factors that can potentially threaten its Outstanding Universal Value, in particular:
 - i) Verify whether the State Party suspended construction works of the new north-south road, as requested by the World Heritage Committee.
 - ii) Evaluate the measures implemented to mitigate the impact of the road, particularly in Zone 1 and Zone 3;
 - iii) Review the status of heritage impact assessments undertaken by the State Party, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, to consider the impact on the property and assess alternate options for realigning and downgrading the road within the property and its setting;
 - iv) Evaluate other ongoing and proposed infrastructure development projects and ascertain the potential impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, specially the construction of a new site management office next to the site museum and water tanks;
 - v) Assess the increase in building activities over the past ten years and the impacts, if any, on the character of the property.
- II. Evaluate the efficacy and adequacy of the management system for the property, in particular institutional arrangements and the functioning of key management bodies, such as the National Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee.
- III. Hold consultations with the Laotian authorities and relevant stakeholders in examining the issues and concerns expressed by the World Heritage Committee in its previous Decisions and the rate of progress made in the implementation of decisions;
- IV. Assist State Party in addressing issues raised in I & II above and defining measures to prevent situations which could represent a potential threat on the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity of the property
- V. Prepare a joint mission report, in English or French, incorporating the above findings and recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (St Petersburg, 2012). The report should follow the attached format and should be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM Headquarters in hard copy and an electronic version.

Annex 2: Decision - 35COM 7B.72 - Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 27 COM 7B.51, adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Regrets that the State Party has not provided the detailed survey plan on the construction of a new North-South road and mitigation measures to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the Committee and as requested twice by the World Heritage Centre in 2010;
4. Notes with great concern that construction of the new road has started and progressed rapidly and substantially in 2010, including in Zone 1 and 3 of the property;
5. Also notes the recommendations made by the UNESCO quick assessment mission undertaken in January-February 2011, in particular the need to consider options for realigning and downgrading the road within the property and its setting;
6. Requests the State Party to immediately suspend all construction works from km 25 to 34 to allow time for detailed assessment of the impact of the road construction project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties and the investigation of alternative alignment options;
7. Also requests the State Party to undertake a cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed water tanks and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment has been made;
8. Further requests the State Party to invite, as a matter of urgency, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2011 in order to consider alternative options for the proposed road construction, in the context of its impact on Outstanding Universal Value and to undertake a comprehensive assessment on the state of conservation of the property and its management system;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2012, a report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on the implementation of the above mitigation measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

Annexe 3: Itinerary and programme

13. Feb. Mon.	20: 00	GW: Departure for Bangkok (from Europe) (LDD: Departure for Bangkok (from Hong Kong) on 12 Feb. Sun. per original schedule)
14 Feb. Tues.	12: 30 15: 00 16: 00	GW: Arrival in Bangkok Arrival at the hotel Briefing by UNESCO Bangkok
15: Feb. Wed.	13: 00 16: 00 19:00	Departure for Pakse Arrival at Pakse airport Meeting with the Governor
16 Feb. Thurs.		Site visits and meeting with Site Management Office, among other meetings
17. Feb. Fri.		Meeting with Champasak Town Mayor, among other meetings
18 Feb. Sat.		Site visits, meetings and debriefing
19 Feb. Sun.		Return to Bangkok
20 Feb. Mon.		GW: Departure for Rome LDD: Debriefing for UNESCO Bangkok
21 Feb. Tues.		LDD: Departure for Hong Kong per original schedule

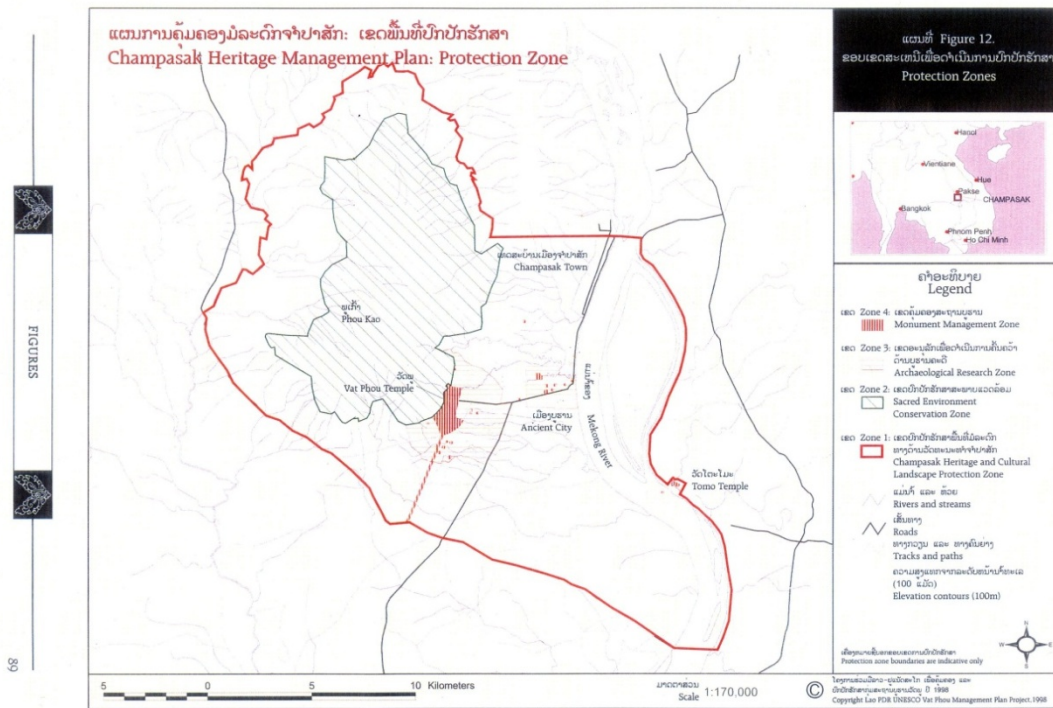
Annexe 4: Mission Team

Lynne DiStefano (ICOMOS)
 Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM)
 Junhi Han (WH Centre) (Unable to join the site visit)

Annexe 5: People Consulted and/or People at Meetings

	Name	Organization	Position
	Dr Bounthong Divixay	Vice Governor of Champasak Province	
1	Mr Khamdeng Phommaphakdy	Governor's Office	Deputy chief
2	Mr Thavone	Security Department	Deputy Commander
3	Mr Phaythoune Siphoumma	Financial Department	Deputy Director
4	Mr Khankham Soulivong	Phonthong District	Vice Mayor
5	Mr Khamlek Bounyavong	Agriculture & Forestry Dept.	Deputy Director
6	Mr Khankham Kenboutta	VP.WH.MO	Director
7	Mr Keo Silisavath	Energy & Mining Dept.	Deputy Director
8	Mr Nouthak Kouliyavong	Duangdee Const. Company	Admin. Chief
9	Mr Vanthong Douangsinbandit	Justice Dept.	Cabinet chief
10	Mr Khamphanh Philasavanh	Lao NatCom for UNESCO	Deputy chief
11	Mr Viengkeo Souksavatdy	Heritage Department, MoICT	Acting DG
12	Mr Bounlap Keokanya	VP.WH.MO	Deputy director
13	Mr Chanthavi Siphounsouk	Pathoumphone district	Vice mayor
14	Mr Soulichack Philadeng	Education Dept.	Deputy director
15	Mr Sivone Vangkonevilay	InformationCulture & Tourism dept.	Deputy director
16	Mr Bounsay Saphangthong	Water resources & envir. Dept.	Deputy director
17	Mr Saythong Sayavong	Planning & Investment Dept.	Director
18	Mr Nouchanh Chanthaphong	Champasak district	Mayor
19	Mr Salongsay Douangboupha	Road 14A Project	Project Manager
20	Mr Thongkhoun Boliboun	VP.WH.MO	Deputy director
21	Mr Basi Phonekeo	Public Work & Transportation Dept.	Deputy chief of land transportation
22	Mr Phonenapha Phommala	Road 14A Project	Engineer chief
23	Mrs Chomsi Phanmani	Lao Front for National Edification	Deputy chair
24	Mr Bounnao	Public work & Transportation dept.	Deputy director

Annexe 6: Map Showing Zone Boundaries within the World Heritage Property



Site map showing four protection zones

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No.: 03/CD CP
Date 07/12/2011

To: Bureau, organization, root party secretary of the village, head of the villages, soldiers, polices, engineers and entire the people in Champasack district.

- Referring to the law and regulation of the city planning of the Lao PDR No. 03/99 NA, dated 3/4 /1999
- Referring to the law and regulation of the road planning of the Lao PDR No. 04/99 NA, dated 3/4/1999
- Referring to the development project of the city planning of Champasak district particularly the zone of world heritage site of Watphou Champasak dated 18/5/2010.

I. Management

1. Every construction including the housing, buildings, construct new building near old building, public utilities, house enlargements, structure adjustments, restorations, land fulfillments, digging for constructions, electric post installations, post of telephones, antennas, advertisement signs, drainage or bridge to village, fences and etc. must be approved from the authority of the village and others concerned.
2. All the permanent construction including building and housing must be away from the road such as:
 - National Avenue (14 A) must be away from the road centre 25 meters and the road from Houy Pha Bang to the village at the crossing road must be avoided for the new construction.
 - Other road in the urban must be away from the centre lines 15 meters.
 - The new road construction in the urban must be followed the law and regulation of the city planning.
 - All the technician must be certified from the Department of Public Work and Transportation in the district.
 - All the constructions must be checked for the permission from the project owner. The workloads can be started only when the document is accelerated.

II. Measurements for the implementation of the ignorance

- If anyone doesn't follow this announcement they will be warned, educated with noted on the detail. Then, they have to send the right application again within 10 days.
- If they don't follow from the authority warning or the note, they will be fined 10% of the total amount of the construction.

III. Implementation

- Empower this announcement to the root party secretary of the village and head of villages to integrate with the Department of Public Work and Transportation in the district to implement and disseminate to educate and clearly understood in order to be check for the best of performance of the constructions.
- The village should report the list and detail of the technicians and announce them to apply for their right certified document.

Therefore, this announcement is disseminated to other concerned for strictly implementation.

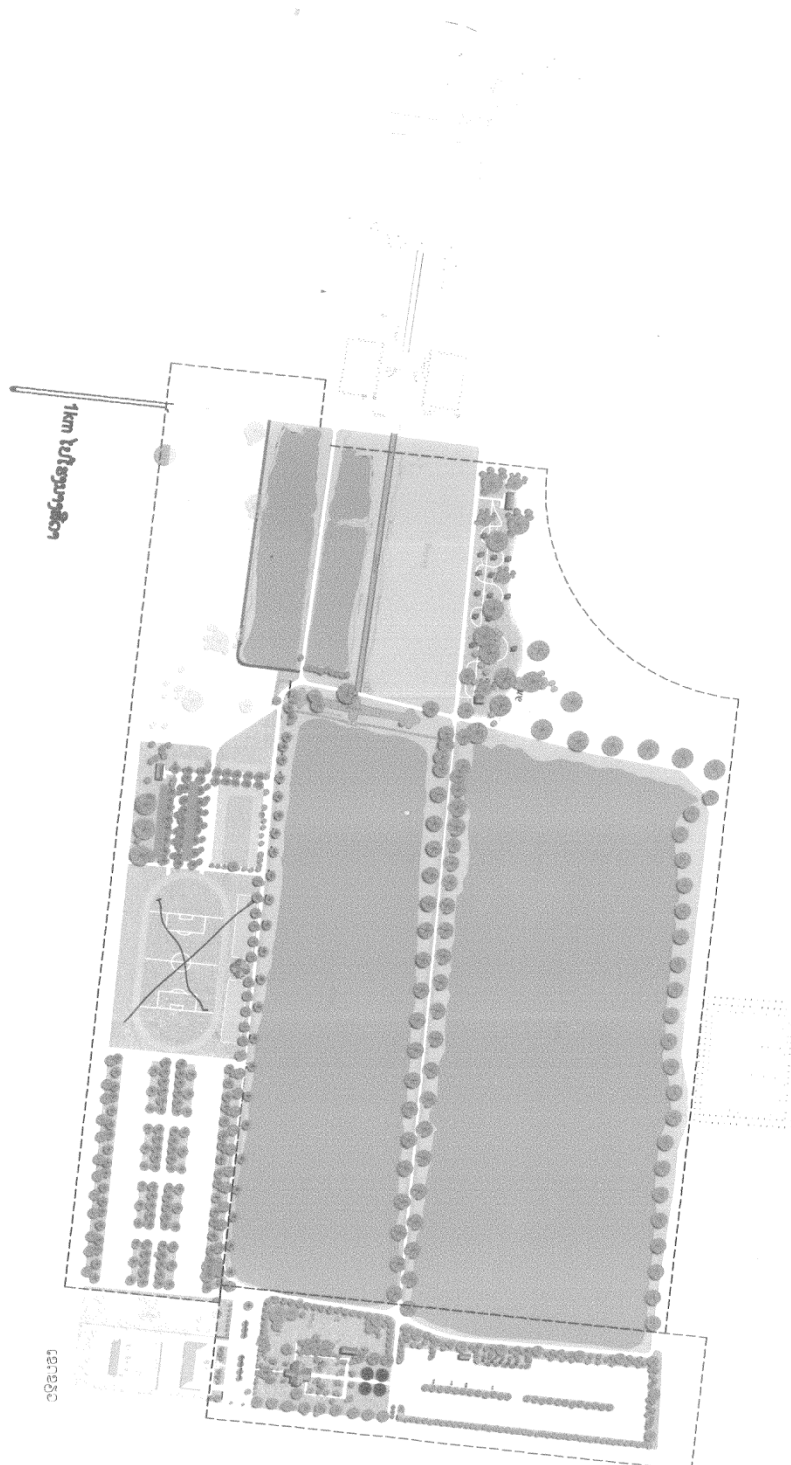
The Mayor of Champasak District

Annexe 8: Proposed Landscape Plan

25-APR-2012 19:43 FROM

TO lynne

P.01/01



TOTAL P.01