



STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Golden Temple of Dambulla (C 561)

Executive Summary of the report

Golden Temple of Dambulla is temple with mural paintings and polychrome statues with a history as a forest dwelling Buddhist monks from 3rd century BC. The area of mural paintings exceeds 2100 square meters.

According to the traditional system the entire temple is a private property belongs to the Chief Priest while it is a protected monument under the Antiquities Ordinance. The religious activities are conducted by the temple authority and there is an entrance fee charged from the foreign tourists. As the temple activities are monitored by the Buddhist Affairs Department, the system of income generation and spending is done in transparency. The technical and chemical conservation works are conducted with the professional involvement of Department of Archaeology and the temple Authority spend for them where it is necessary.

There was an issue with the monitoring the condition of paintings and the installation of electronic data loggers has completed within one cave as a pilot project. The information on temperature, humidity, dust, lighting and visitor entrance is gathered for better management of the physical attributes and the spiritual environment.

The management of entire property is efficiently conducted through the mutual understanding between the Temple Authorities and the Department of Archaeology.