

# BANGLADESH

### 1.1 Introduction

**Year of ratification** 1983

#### Organisation submitting the report

- Department of Archaeology (DoA)  
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### 1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

#### The status of national inventories

- 345 cultural properties protected under the Antiquities Act, 1976. There are routine reviews of the list. The 1975 national inventory was revised in 2002.
- 14 natural sites are protected under the bio-diversity conservation and development policy of the Ministry of Forest & Environment.

#### The preparation of a Tentative List

- \* 5 sites, revised in 1999.
- Revisions have been initiated within the DoA. Local authorities and local populations are involved.

#### Nominations and the nomination process

- 1985 1 nomination (inscribed)  
(a) Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat
- 1985 1 nomination (inscribed)  
(a) Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur
- 1987\* 5 nominations  
(a) Lalbagh Fort  
(b) Chkota Sona Masjid  
(c) Bagha Mosque  
(d) Kantanagar Temple  
(e) Punthia Group of Temples.
- 1997 1 nomination (inscribed)  
(a) 'Sundarbans'
- 1997 2 nominations not on the Tentative List  
(a) Mahasthangarh and its Environs  
(b) Lalmai-Mainamati Group of Monuments
- Nominations are discussed informally with local authorities and communities.
- Nominations are considered as a way of raising international awareness and mobilising resources. Provision of adequate maps is seen as the main difficulty in the nomination process.

### 1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

#### Integration of heritage and planning

- Since 1987 projects for the protection of the WH Sites at Paharpur and Bagerhat have been treated as part of national comprehensive planning programmes.
- It is proposed that the Government should purchase threatened heritage in private ownership.

#### Participation of local communities

- Communities are encouraged to participate through involvement in meetings & consultations.
- No private sector involvement.

#### Tourism Development

- Admission charging and infrastructure improvements at the 2 cultural WH Sites are in place.

#### Financial measures and budget allowance

- DoA has an annual revenue budget of US\$170,000 and the development project has an annual budget of US\$690,000.

#### Professional

- DoA employs 450 regular staff and 47 project staff.
- There is one archaeology degree course, but most DoA staff are trained in-the-field.
- Training needs are identified in most disciplines of architectural and materials conservation.

#### New and improved services

- More sites are protected every year and the archaeological survey of the country is ongoing.
- Development projects have concentrated on Paharpur and Bagerhat. Museums have been established in Paharpur, Bagerhat and Khulna.

#### Issues to be addressed

- There is a need to strengthen the involvement of archaeologists in development projects, which include a conservation element.
- Engineers need practical training in conservation.
- The Antiquities Act, 1976, Archaeological Works Code, 1938, and Immovable Antiquities Preservation Rules, 1976, are all outdated and in need of revision.

### 1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

#### National and International Fund Raising

- Support from the Governments of Japan and Norway is acknowledged.
- \* International Assistance from the WHF as follows:  
1985 \$2,700 Training, Stonework conservation  
1986 \$20,000 Technical, Drainage at Paharpur

1998 \$14,999 Preparatory, Nominations revision

1999 \$5,000 Promotional, WH Convention

- \* Extra-budgetary funds mobilised by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage include:

US\$13,171 Preservation, conservation at Paharpur (Voluntary contributions from the International Safeguarding Campaign)

US\$305,000 Conservation, preservation at Paharpur (Japan)

1992-97 US\$226,100 Conservation: Bagerhat (Japan)

### ***1.5 Education, information and awareness-building***

#### **Information and awareness measures**

- DoA promotes public awareness through its publications and information activities.
- TV, cinema & postal authorities have collaborated to promote heritage properties.

### ***1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions***

#### **Conclusions and proposed actions**

- Progress has been made in extending protection to cultural and natural properties.
- The Government is pursuing further nominations.
- “In order to execute conservation work properly, co-ordination between engineers and archaeologists needs to be increased”.
- There remain many specific needs at Paharpur and Bagerhat to be addressed in the period 2003-07.
- The DoA seeks the support of the WH Fund for: (i) training; (ii) site storage and securing boundaries; (iii) conservation of historic fabric.