**Application of the World Heritage Convention by the States Parties**

**MYANMAR**

**I.1 Introduction**

**Year of ratification** 1994

**Organization submitting the report**
- Department of Archaeology, 32-D, 6-and-a-half Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon, Union of Myanmar

**I.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties**

**The status of national inventories**
- An inventory of historic monuments at each historic site was initiated in 1995.
- * The ‘Design Sanctioning Committee’ of the Yangon City District Council (YCDC) has completed a local inventory of 200 structures in Yangon.

**The preparation of a Tentative List**
- 8 sites submitted in October 1997 on the basis of “historically, archaeologically and artistically important monuments”.
- * NH: Potential natural nominations identified include: (i) Myinmo Lekhat Nature Reserve; (ii) Khakhaborazi on the Myanmar-China border; (iii) the Lampi Marine Archipelago; and (iv) Lake Inle as a cultural landscape.

**Nominations and the nomination process**
- The ‘Bagan Historic Region and Monuments’ nomination was submitted in 1995.
- Several meetings were held between the relevant Departments and concerned NGOs prior to the submission of the Bagan nomination. The case was subsequently submitted to the cabinet for approval.
- * The Bagan nomination dossier was referred back for further information in 1997. WHC assisted the authorities to reformulate the dossier between 1998-2002.

**I.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage**

**Integration of heritage and planning**
- The Ministry of Culture is the “sole authority [able] to draw up long-term and short-term plans for the protection of World Cultural Heritage”. These plans are entrusted to the Dept. of Archaeology to integrate them into regional level offices & NGOs.
- The ‘Protection & Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Law’ was adopted in September 1998.

- * The Dept. of Human Settlements & Housing, under the Ministry of Construction, is responsible for urban planning.

**Participation of local communities**
- Lectures and workshops are organized by the Dept. of Archaeology and its regional offices to disseminate awareness of the work of the ‘NGO Pagoda Trustee Committee’ on “systematic conservation”.

**Tourism Development**
- * A UNESCO-Japan project to develop a draft tourism development plan and Master Plan for Bagan was completed in 1996.

**Financial measures and budget allowance**
- The regular government budget is allocated on an annual basis for each region. The budget for the preservation of cultural heritage is separate from the budget for environmental preservation.
- * The Dept. of Archaeology informed a WHC mission in 1998 that private companies have contributed over US$1 million towards cultural heritage activities.

**Professional**
- ‘Special Conservation Teams’ have been created in Bagan for the restoration of deteriorated monuments.
- There are 1,205 staff in the Dept. of Archaeology, out of which 515 are involved in protection, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage.
- Scientific and technical studies on the monuments of Bagan have been carried out by UNESCO consultants since 1981.
- National staff have received training from: (i) the French government in Pondicherry; (ii) the Nara Institute in Japan; (iii) ICCROM; and (iv) SPAFA.
- Yangon University offers a “basis course on conservation”, as well as a “reorientation course on preservation of monuments” twice a year.

**New and improved services**
- The “top priority” areas for cultural heritage have been identified as: (i) Bagan; (ii) Mrauk-U; (iii) Pyu ancient cities (i.e. Beikthano, Sri-Ksetra, Hanlin, Mai-Mao); and (iv) Inwa.

**Issues to be addressed**
- During the preparation of the Bagan nomination, the need for enhanced legal protection was made apparent.
- “Out of 444,600 monuments, 1,175 monuments are regarded as monuments-in-danger”, and have been the focus of systematic conservation measures.
- Improvement is most desirable in the conservation of: (i) brick monuments; (ii) timber structures and (iii) stone monuments.
I.4 *International co-operation and fund raising*

**National and International Fund Raising**
- ‘Pagoda trustee committees’ in every cultural heritage region have raised funds to undertake conservation activities under the technical control of the Dept. of Archaeology.
- The Government of Myanmar notes that it is contacting other State Parties to the WH Convention to establish co-operation, and that Myanmar and Cambodia have signed an agreement to twin the historic cities of Bagan and Angkor Wat.
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.
- * Extra-budgetary funds mobilised by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage include:
  - 1994-96 $333,124 Conservation & preservation: Pagan (Japan)

I.5 *Education, information and awareness-building*

**Information and awareness measures**
- The Dept. of Archaeology has published ‘Restoration Record Books’ on Bagan in the national language of Myanmar, and broadcasted TV & radio programmes to promote awareness of the WH Convention.
- The Ministry of Culture has instructed the Dept. of Archaeology to “publish research papers as a means to encourage research activities”.

I.6 *Conclusions and recommended actions*

**Conclusions and proposed actions**
- A 3-year time-frame is proposed to: (i) continue discussions to establish international co-operation, and (ii) carry out further educational programmes on TV.