

# SOUTH-EAST ASIA

## CAMBODIA

### Angkor



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#### II.1 Introduction

**Year of Inscription** 1992

#### Organization Responsible for the Report

- APSARA (Autorité pour la protection du site et l'aménagement de la région d'Angkor)  
Conservation d'Angkor  
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Cambodia  
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#### II.2 Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C i, ii, iii, iv

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:  
"Angkor is one of the most important archaeological sites of Southeast Asia. It extends over approximately 400 square kilometres and consists of scores of temples, hydraulic structures (basins, dykes, reservoirs, canals) as well as communication routes. For several centuries Angkor was the centre of the Khmer Kingdom. With impressive monuments, several different ancient urban plans and large water reservoirs, the site is an unique concentration of features testifying to an exceptional civilization. Temples such as Angkor Wat, the Bayon, Preah Khan and Ta Prohm, exemplars of Khmer architecture, are closely linked to their geographical context as well as being imbued with symbolic significance. Angkor is therefore a major site exemplifying cultural, religious and symbolic values, as well as containing high architectural, archaeological and artistic significance."

*"The monuments of Angkor are in varying states of conservation. Since inscription on the WH List, more than 20 major conservation / restoration projects have been undertaken at the site."*

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- Borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.

#### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage value is considered to have been maintained. No changes are foreseen.

#### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Management of the property is governed within the framework of four national laws or decrees: (i) "Loi sur la protection du Patrimoine Culturel National", NS/RKM/0196/21 of 21 December 1995, signed by HM the King on 25 January 1996; (ii) Décret portant sur la création du Conseil Supérieur de la Culture National, NS/RKT/0195/11, of 19 February 1995; (iii) Décret portant sur la création d'un Etablissement Public National pour la Protection du Site et l'Aménagement de la Région d'Angkor, NS/RKT/029/12 of 19 February 1995; (iv) Décret concernant le zonage de la région de Siem Reap – Angkor, No. 1 NS of 28 May 1994.
- A special authority, APSARA, has been created to manage the site. It is governed under several additional Royal Decrees and reports directly to the Minister of State in the Council of Ministers.
- A site development plan exists for the property, consisting of three major lines of action: (i) a master plan for conservation & risk preparedness; (ii) a master plan for monument and site management; (iii) a master plan for tourism development.
- Effective implementation of the site development plan will depend upon further elaboration of work

plans, as well as an elaboration of implementation procedures & mechanisms.

### Present State of Conservation

- The monuments of Angkor are in varying states of conservation. Since inscription on the WH List in 1992, more than 20 major conservation/restoration projects have been undertaken at the site.
- At the time of inscription the property was also inscribed on the WH in Danger List. At subsequent Committee meetings, the property has been retained on the WH in Danger List.

### Staffing and Training Needs

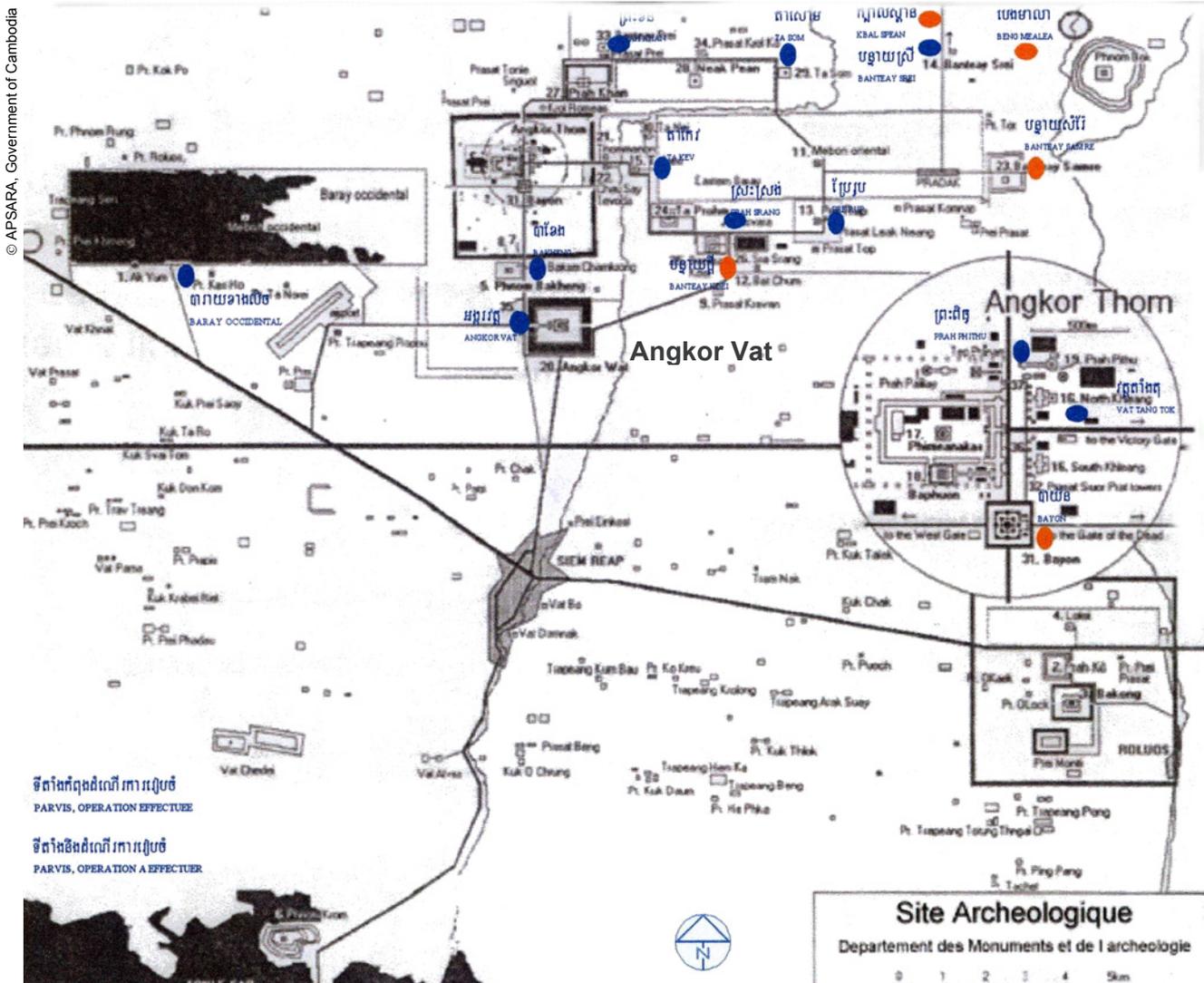
- APSARA, staffed by a director general and 8 other directors, is divided into 5 technical departments covering: (i) Monuments & Archaeology; (ii) Tourism Development; (iii) Economic & Social Development; (iv) Urban Planning & Development; and (v) Culture.
- The Dept. of Monuments & Archaeology has 43 professionals, 14 technicians, 609 site guards, and 435 workers. APSARA is staffed by 39 archaeologists, 16 architects, 8 structural engineers, 6 finance administrators, 1 legal specialist, and 2

administrators.

- In addition, 9 international conservation teams have on-site staff totalling 583.
- However, considering the size and complexity of management facing the property, the number of staff is still considered insufficient.

### Financial Situation

- The annual operating budget of APSARA is approx. US\$ 3.5 million, obtained from entry fees & various on-site concessions.
- In 1991, UNESCO launched an appeal for international assistance to Angkor which has resulted in obtaining financial & technical assistance from the WH Committee, ILO, World Bank, ADB, Agence française de développement, ARTE-BCOM, IGN, JICA, World Monuments Fund, CIDEV/COFRAS/CMAC, Halo Trust & l'Association des Amis d'Angkor.
- Although site revenues are relatively high, financing is still regarded to be inadequate taking into account the large size and complexity of the property.



Principal Monuments of the Archaeological Site of Angkor

## State of Conservation of the World Heritage Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region

- International assistance for Angkor is co-ordinated by an International Co-ordinating Committee, co-chaired by France & Japan, with UNESCO acting as a secretariat.
- \* International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1992, US\$10,000 Training; US\$15,000 Preparatory, Tentative List & Angkor nomination; (ii) 1993, US\$20,000 Emergency; (iii) 1994, US\$50,000 Emergency; (iv) 1998, US\$28,595 Technical Co-operation; (v) 2001, US\$28,59, Technical Co-operation.

### Access to IT

- The APSARA management office has 38 PCs with internet access.
- There is a site GIS, using Arc Map, Arc Catalog & Arc Toolbox software.

### Visitor Management

- Between 2001-2002, international tourists increased 29% from 208,472 to 269,155. Visitor statistics are based on the number of entry tickets sold.
- Domestic visitor number are equal to or greater than the number of international visitors, although no exact statistics are available.
- Visitor numbers fluctuate seasonally, with a peak season between November and March.
- Inscription on the WH List has been a factor attracting more visitors to Angkor. Additional tourist facilities are planned including parking, visitor rest areas, shopping areas & improved traffic direction.
- No public use / tourism development plan at present, but the need for one, together with an action plan for its implementation, is acknowledged.

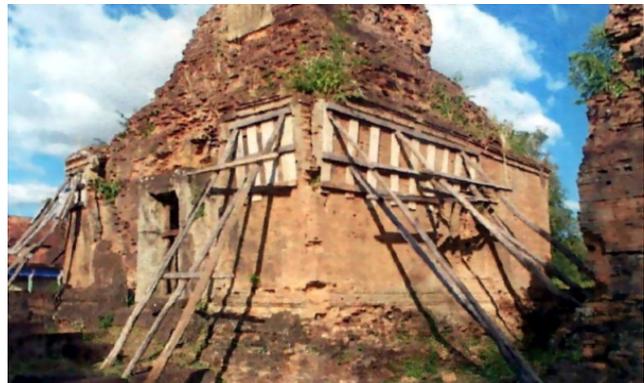
## II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

### Threats and Risks

- Unclear land ownership,
- Encroachments & illegal constructions,
- Lack of conservation of forested areas & water bodies,
- Tourism pressure,
- Rapid population increase within the property and necessity to take this population into account in any development programme,
- Increasing and uncontrolled migration from nearby provinces results in the progressive disappearing of traditional habitat,
- Weathering & other environmental pressures spread over the vast area of the site,
- \* Theft of cultural property.

### Counteractive Plans

- Regular maintenance deals effectively with most recurrent problems.
- The presence of a 'Police du Patrimoine', as well as the on-site availability of an ambulance, helps cope with emergency situation.
- No emergency plan has been developed in case of natural disasters.
- Concerning development pressures, there exist s a series of master plans dealing with these issues, but there is an acknowledged need to improve their implementation.
- The co-ordination of actions between APSARA and the provincial authorities is to be considered in order to improve actions against threats affecting the Property.



*Propping of the Bakong Temple*

## II.6 Monitoring

### Monitoring Arrangements

- The action of international conservation teams working on-site is reviewed and approved by the International Coordination Committee and monitored by APSARA.
- Several of the international conservation teams have put in place systems for monitoring certain technical aspects of the state of conservation at various individual monuments, particularly at Angkor Wat, Bayon & Pre Rup.
- The need for a systematic overall monitoring system is acknowledged. A common set of indicators are being harmonised.

### Monitoring Indicators

- The main indicators are concerned with the state of conservation of stone, namely: (i) stone erosion; (ii) stone pathologies; (iii) stone slopes; and (iv) dislocation of structures.

### II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

#### Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- “There is a need to reinforce the property’s cultural, religious and symbolic values, together with the conservation of the architectural, archaeological and artistic heritage.”
- “The property’s authenticity and integrity should be improved by taking more into account spatial and environmental factors.”
- The technical and administrative competences of APSARA need to be reinforced.
- The implementation of the various existing master plans needs to be pursued.
- Legal protection measures, together with their administration and enforcement, need to be reinforced.
- International Assistance from the WHF may be needed to implement the above-mentioned development master plans and to reinforce on-site legal protection.

#### \* State of Conservation Reports

1998 WHC-98/CONF.203/18 Among the 1998 priorities decided upon by the International Coordinating Committee and supported by the Cambodian Government were hydrological studies of the moats of Angkor financed under Emergency Assistance approved by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee in June 1998. At the Committee Meeting it was reported that this and other operational projects being financed through UNESCO funds-in-trust and managed by the different international teams were progressing normally.

The Delegate of Japan announced that the "First Phase of Safeguarding Angkor" activities would be concluded in the spring of 1999 and financed by the Japanese Government with a US\$ 10 million contribution to UNESCO funds-in-trust. A "Second Phase" would commence in June 1999 with an additional commitment of Japan to contribute a further US\$ 10 million over the course of the next six years, also through UNESCO funds-in-trust. Measures being taken by Cambodia as well as by other States Parties to combat the theft and illicit trafficking of cultural property from Angkor were discussed.

The Committee noted the report of the Secretariat concerning Angkor and commended the continued efforts of the International Co-ordinating Committee in mobilizing international support for Angkor, in various restoration and training projects and in combating illicit traffic. The Committee decided to retain Angkor on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

1999 WHC-99/CONF.209/22 The Committee adopted the following decision: “The Committee decided to retain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee, after having examined the report on the state of conservation of the site, congratulated the Royal Government of Cambodia for the significant progress made in the funding and reorganisation of the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Development of the Region of Angkor (ASPARA). The Committee encouraged the ASPARA to strengthen its action in the field of training so as to ensure control over the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the monuments and the protection of the site against looting and illicit traffic of cultural objects. It invited ASPARA and the ICC to monitor closely the rapid development of the activities and collections of the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Documentation for Angkor, which should, in due course, house all the documentation produced by the safeguarding and development projects of the site.

The Committee requested the State Party to prepare an updated state of conservation report, with support of the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh and the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, of the actions being undertaken in addressing the concerns expressed above. The Committee invited the Chairperson of the Committee to write to the Co-Chairpersons of the ICC requesting them to assist the State Party in the preparation of this report. This report should include information concerning the ongoing and planned major public and private works in the region of Angkor, as well as the status of measures being undertaken at the national and local levels to control looting and illicit traffic of cultural properties from Angkor and other sites on the Tentative List of Cambodia. The Committee requested that this report be provided to the Secretariat by 15 April 2000 for examination by the Committee at its 24<sup>th</sup> session.”