



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
Department of Archaeology and National Museum

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT, 2017 . MYANMAR

**Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee:
Decision 40 COM 7B.40,
WORLD HERITAGE PYU ANCIENT CITIES (C1444)**

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT BY STATE PARTY

(in compliance with Paragraphs 169, 172, and Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines)

I. Name of World Heritage Property: Pyu Ancient Cities

State Party: Myanmar

Identification number: C 1444

II. Executive Summary of the report

The World Heritage Committee in its Decision 40 COM 7B.40 adopted at the Committee's 40th Session in July 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey, requested the State Party to development sector-specific strategies to complement the PMP of Pyu Ancient Cities World Heritage. State Party, utilizing international technical assistance provided under Italian Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO, has responded to these requests as follows: **A Risk Preparedness Strategy** for the Pyu Ancient Cities has been prepared under the guidance of ICOMOS expert, UNESCO Chair Professor Rohit Jigyasa, Staff members of the Pyu Ancient Cities property management team were involved in the preparation of this plan and have undergone training, conducted by Prof. Jigyasa, in the on-site implementation of the plan. The plan incorporates Integrated Risk Assessment, Risk Preparedness Strategies, Emergency Preparedness Strategies, and an Action Plan to anticipate, mitigate, and respond to both natural and human-made disasters. (Details below, with full report annexed.) **A Zoning and Visitor Management Guidelines for Sri Ksetra**, the most heavily visited of the three Pyu Ancient Cities has been prepared by Mr. Robert Travers, Sustainable Tourism Expert. Implementations of these guidelines are on-going and are anticipated to be fully in place within the framework of the second 5-year Action Plan (2018-2022) PMP of Pyu Ancient Cities World Heritage. (Details below with full report annexed.). The PMP of Pyu Ancient Cities in **living standard of local villages** has as one of its primary objectives the "integration of heritage preservation into environmental conservation and sustainable development." The achievement this is to be realized through a number of related income-generating activities in the agrarian sector, based on the rehabilitation, insofar as possible, of the ancient, extensive and long-functioning system of hydrology at the sites and the promotion of Pyu-era traditional crops through value-added organic farming. In order to realize the potential of a re-invigorated traditional agricultural system, it has been necessary to undertake to both a needs assessment of the local villagers and their living conditions; as well as to conduct feasibility studies as to the viability and practicality of rehabilitating the ancient Pyu hydrological system and reinstating traditional crops with an added market value by promoting organic farming practices. (Details below with full report annexed.) **Update Report on State of Conservation of the Property**. A conservation and management of the Pyu Ancient Cities is carried in accordance with a government-endorsed Pyu Ancient Cities World Heritage Property Management Plan, implemented in phased 5-year Action Plan. The first 5 of these 5 year Action Plans has been implemented during 2013-2017; the second will come into effect during the period 2018-2022. **Conservation Issues** The principle conservation (and related) issues dealt with during the first 5-year Action Plan (2013-2017) have been established of an integrated management mechanism for the three site of this serial nomination, including a system of systematic site monitoring and development of a conservation plan for all standing monuments and exposed archaeological features. These issues will continue to be monitored and acted upon during the upcoming second phase (2018-2022) of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Pyu Ancient Cities World Heritage Property Management Plan. **Potential and Emerging Issues** in priority actions of the Action Plan 2018-2022, the following research and studies have been undertaken, such as, survey of living standards and needs assessment of local villages, feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the ancient Pyu hydrological system and re-invigoration of traditional crops, using organic farming techniques, identification of additional income-generating activities, linked to traditional agriculture and/or cultural tourism, for local villagers, establishment of planning guidelines and buildings codes to provide for appropriate, limited, and orderly expansion of village settlements within the property and its buffer zones, preparation of a proposal for a comprehensive historic landscape zoning and rehabilitation plan for the three Pyu Ancient Cities, further details of these issues are reported below and full reports are annexed to this report.