

**REPORT OF A JOINT REACTIVE MONITORING MISSION TO
THE RICE TERRACES OF THE PHILIPPINE CORDILLERAS,
IFUGAO PROVINCE, THE PHILIPPINES
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the World Heritage property took place from 18 to 24 April 2006 as requested by the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **29 COM 7A.26**). The objective of the mission was to assess the steps taken by the State Party to implement the recommendations of earlier missions in September 2001 and June 2005 and the feasibility of the Conservation and Management Plan of the Rice Terraces in the Philippine Cordilleras (June 2004). The mission also defined corrective measures and benchmarks to address the threats to the property with a view to possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Indeed, at the time of its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in December 2001, no benchmarks on corrective measures to be taken were decided by the World Heritage Committee.

The mission noted the serious concern expressed and the strong commitment shown for the conservation of the rice terraces by the local communities. It is important to acknowledge the efforts made by local governments towards the implementation of the plans and proposals contained in the 2004 Conservation and Management Plan. Such Plan addressed all the principal issues for the protection of the World Heritage property, however it has not been implemented as expected due to the lack of an effective management structure. The main question to address at this stage is ensuring a management coordination mechanism and human and financial resources for its immediate implementation.

The mission also identified as a priority the need for new tools and strategies for the assessment of potential long-term negative impacts of development proposals affecting the World Heritage property. In particular, the following issues were considered: a) Institutional requirements for an effective management mechanism; b) Immediate actions for the maintenance of the rice culture, for sustaining the social and environmental context of the rice terraces and encouraging their economic viability; c) cultural tourism development and Infrastructure development management.

The mission findings are dealt with more in detail below.

A sustainable management mechanism is not yet in place. As recognized in the previous missions on September 2001 and June 2005, it is urgent to progress with the implementation of the existing Conservation and Management plan and day-to-day management at municipal and village (barangay) levels. The local stakeholders expressed their frustration with the limited action following the previous consultations and the insufficient explanations received as to the opportunities and constraints associated with the World Heritage commitment.

The two previous management authorities (Ifugao Terraces Commission and Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force-BRTTF) were established at national level. It was felt that a community-based, more diversified and localized management mechanism may provide the necessary sustainability and responsiveness for the needs of the living cultural landscape. The State Party has therefore proposed to replace the Ifugao Rice Terraces Cultural Heritage Office (IRTCHO) with a provincial structure whose management would be closer to the local communities. The assignment of a focal point in each municipality and, in some cases, the creation of a cultural heritage office is a realistic next step proposed by the municipal governments.

Short term funding from local government sources has been provided from the revenue allotments of the province and the municipal government. Funds have been made available by the national and local governments to repair some of the community irrigation systems and terraces.

However, more co-ordinated long term funding and a more sustained local resource generation mechanisms, including tourism revenues, and marketing of local produce need to be explored and initiated.

There is a general need for relevant baseline data responding to traditional value systems in order to set up effective monitoring. The community-based land use and zoning processes, which have been initiated in the clusters of Kiangnan and Hungduan, should be encouraged in order to guide local community actions and provide regulations over tourism and infrastructure development which are consistent with local heritage values. There is an opportunity to complement and support the ancestral domain claims of the local farmers under the current law. Local land use maps should reflect the watershed and irrigation system of the terraces in the five clusters.

The viability of the rice terraces is linked to the benefits the traditional use and the maintenance of the eco-cultural system bring to the Ifugao people. Development of community-based strategies for the support and introduction of complementary and culturally appropriate livelihood opportunities is a priority issue. The recommendations in the previous reports include actions for the maintenance of the rice terraces and rice production in its traditional mode and highlight the need for innovative solutions to encourage rice farming and marketing. Some current initiatives for marketing and developing the traditional “*tinawon*” rice are being explored but further research and development is needed.

The indigenous knowledge systems regarding the building and maintenance of the terraces and irrigation systems and watershed management may disappear if not passed on. Many attempts are therefore being made by the local government to keep the practices alive. Research and documentation of local heritage histories have been initiated by the provincial government. A school of living traditions has been supported in the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry. However, emphasis appears sometimes to be placed on the conservation of traditional practices for the exclusive purpose of living “performances”, not for their actual application to the management of the land. To address this problem, raising awareness programmes have been initiated together with a “adopt a terrace” programme.

The urgency of adaptive cultural tourism management was highlighted in the 2001 mission. An eco-tourism program is included in the Conservation and Management Plan. However, a coordinated cultural tourism strategy targeting appropriate tourism and channelling tourism income directly for the local community and to support the maintenance of the rice terraces is not yet in place and tourism initiatives are not coordinated within the World Heritage property. Although the mission agreed on the importance of tourism access to the area, as highlighted in the 2001 mission, priority should be in assessing the carrying capacity of the different clusters according to their distinctive character and ensuring ways to control culturally acceptable tourism. The awareness about the problems and potentials of tourism regarding additional livelihood opportunities for the local community seem to be high, and there is a quest for guidance and best practice.

The urgency of managing unregulated development and assessing the impacts of infrastructure projects on the cultural landscape has been expressed in the previous missions. In June 2005, a UNESCO mission evaluated the status of a mini-hydro power plant which was proposed for construction in Ifugao Province, where the World heritage property of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is located. The 2005 mission found that the proposed hydro plant had not proceeded. The mission, therefore, concentrated on the review of another project entitled ‘Construction of Flood Controls in the Three Barangays (villages) of Hungduan for the Preservation of the Rice Terraces’ which at the time was 90% completed. This project consisted

in a series of reinforced-concrete retaining walls built along the bottom of the valleys, allegedly to protect the cultivated areas from the impact of recurrent floods. The 2005 mission made a number of recommendations to mitigate the potential adverse environmental impacts on the property derived from the project; reduce the risks associated with the inappropriate construction of the walls; and to develop adapted standards for design of infrastructure within special heritage areas.

This flood control project in the Hungduan cluster, indeed, has been planned and executed in the absence of a proper environmental impact assessment (EIA), or even of an “initial environmental examination”(IEE) required for environmentally critical areas in the Philippine legislation. The local government of Hungduan has only begun to implement the recommendations of the previous mission to reinforce the structure for safety purposes. It is raising funds to complete the recommended actions while the community will provide counterpart labor for the activity. The proposed Mini-hydro plants, on the other hand, has been relocated from Hungduan cluster to Mappit and Ambabag, areas outside the WH perimeter, but which may be a potential expansion site or a buffer area for the World Heritage site. The World heritage Centre has been asked to review this new proposal, for which an EIA does not appear to have been done. The proposed project(s) will possibly be implemented by Tokyo Electric Power Service Company (TEPSCO) based in Japan.

A requirement for the conduction of an appropriate EIA, including provisions for cultural heritage impact assessment, would indeed be essential to maintain the integrity of the World Heritage property. For this to happen, however, it is apparently necessary to officially designate the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras as an “environmental critical area”, which is apparently not the case today. The mission was able to convince the responsible Philippine authorities (National Commission and DENR) to proceed with an Executive Order by the President to ensure that legal provision is in place for appropriate EIA relating to major development and infrastructure projects which may be happen in the World Heritage property. In this context, it would be also very important to ensure that expertise on heritage conservation and traditional knowledge are included in the EIA Review Committee in order to gauge impact on all aspects of the cultural landscape.

In summary, despite the efforts made and some progress on specific issues, the recommendations of the September 2001 and June 2005 UNESCO missions have yet to be acted on and there has been no reported significant improvement in the human/financial resources available to manage the property and implement the Conservation Management Plan (in response to **Decision 29 COM 7A 26**) in order to sustain the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras as living, dynamic cultural landscape.

The mission therefore recommended the following benchmarks for correctives measures to be taken by the Philippines authorities within a timeframe of 2-3 years between 2006 and end of 2008:

- a) establish a functioning management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels, and ensure that adequate human/financial resources are made available to implement the Conservation and Management Plan for the property;
- b) Put in place zoning and land-use plans responding to community-based activities and traditional value systems;

- c) Provide regulations over tourism and infrastructure developments to encourage community based tourism which benefits the Rice Terraces and the local communities ;
- d) develop a resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels and put in place a five year plan, according to the management objectives determined in the Conservation and Management Plan, with top priority given to the regular maintenance and stabilisation of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems so as to reverse their deterioration. The strategy will include the establishment of a long-term programme to prevent the extinction of traditional rice cultivars (seeds) safeguarding traditional rice varieties associated with the agricultural practices of the rice terraces;
- e) Establish appropriate development control procedures for development projects in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera, including by designating the World Heritage cluster sites of the Rice Terraces and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed system) as “environmental critical areas”, where an environment impact assessment (EIA) is required for any proposed development projects. Cultural heritage conservation expertise should be also included in the EIA review committee;
- f) Strengthen the reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal watersheds of the rice terraces.

The mission is of the view that these actions, with their proposed timeframe for implementation, constitute the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger. Of course, these actions need to be endorsed by the State Party and the World Heritage Committee for their effective implementation.

1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1.1 Inscription history

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras were inscribed onto World Heritage List in 1995 under cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (v).

In 1999, the President of the Philippines established the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) to replace the Ifugao Terraces Commission (ITC) which had been mandated to preserve the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras from 1994.

In September 2001, an IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was organised to the property by the WH Centre in close co-operation with the State Party. The mission identified major conservation and threats facing the property and made concrete recommendations for the State Party to follow-up.¹

Based on the findings of this monitoring mission, the World Heritage Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki) in December 2001, decided to inscribe the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 11 February 2002, BRTTF was abolished by an Executive Order issued by President Gloria Nacapagal-Arroyo, together with 60 other national agencies.

In July 2005, the World Heritage Committee, at its 29th session, requested the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN to undertake a Joint Reactive Monitoring to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras. The Committee also requested the Philippine authorities to conduct a comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment on any infrastructure project being planned at the Philippine World Heritage properties so as to ensure that its impact on the heritage values of the property is minimized. (see **Decision 29 COM 7A 26** in Annex 2).

1.2 Inscription criteria and World Heritage values

The property was inscribed on the WH List on the basis of **cultural criteria iii, iv and v**. Details can be found on the ICOMOS and IUCN Evaluation Report of September 1995.

1.3 Integrity issues raised in the ICOMOS/IUCN evaluation report at time of inscription (1995)

In its report dated September 1995, ICOMOS and IUCN noted that the main problem that faces the areas of intact and viable high-level rice terraces that are the subject of this nomination is a social one—the flight of the younger generation in the communities concerned to the cities. Given the problems in the Philippines cities, notably Manila, as a result of this flight from the country side generally, there is a pressing need for positive action on the part of the State authorities there, as well as in the villages.

¹ Report on the ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (22-25 September 2001 by Prof. Adrian Phillips (IUCN) and Dr Zhao Zhijun (ICOMOS) (WHC-01/CONF.207/INF.5).

There is also a problem associated with the disintegration of the traditional societal structures in much of the region, as a result of Christianization and late 20th century consumer pressures.

These two factors are faced squarely in the Master Plan submitted together with the nomination documentation, which accepted that social changes is inevitable and reconciling traditional and modern attitudes would require careful balancing of the social-cultural and economic concerns based on the cultural templates of mental constructs of what the Ifugao people believe in and consider as important.

The tourism potential of the rice terraces is already beginning to be exploited, and the Master Plan of 1995 had a substantial section to analysing it. There is no doubt that it can be a source of considerable economic advantage to the rice terrace communities. However, it is an asset that needs very careful exploitation, since insensitivity would bring with it the risk of destroying the social structure of the landscape that attracts tourists.

It is hoped that every effort will be made by the responsible authorities to discourage the use of corrugated iron roofing in favour of the traditional thatch.

In addition to the problem identified by ICOMOS, IUCN would stress the danger of mismanagement of the watershed forest, Indeed, there is some evidence that this has already affected water flows. The protection and rehabilitation of the forests above the terraces is absolutely essential if the whole system of land-use, and the cultural traditions associated with, are to survive. IUCN was therefore of the view that the policies for watershed management, as stated in the Master Plan, must be pursued with vigour.

1.4 Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (refer to previous State of Conservation reports etc.)

The summary on the State of Conservation of the Rice Terraces could be found at the working documents of the World Heritage Committee/Bureau at its following sessions:

- 23rd session of the WH Bureau, July 1999, Paris
- 24th session of the WH Committee, December 2000, Australia
- 25th session of the World Heritage Committee, December 2001, Helsinki
- 26th session of the WH Committee, July 2002, Budapest
- 27th session of the WH Committee, July 2003, Paris
- 28th session of the WH Committee, July 2004, China
- 29th session of the WH Committee, July 2005, South Africa.

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- The abandonment of the terraces due to neglected irrigation system and people leaving the area;
- Unregulated development threatening the heritage area;
- Tourism needs are not addressed;
- Lack of an effective management system.

1.5 Justification of the mission

The terms of reference for the mission, itinerary and programme and composition of mission team are provided in Annexes 1-4).

2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1 Protected Area Legislation

The Philippine Rice Terraces contrary to early reports is not under the initial component of the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) according to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Philippine's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). DENR-PAWB is the body mandated to implement the NIPAS Act of 1992 (Republic Act No. 7586). There are thirteen steps covering the declaration of a protected area under the NIPAS Act and the Philippine Rice Terraces has not begun to comply with these thirteen steps. However, the area is part of the watershed for the Magat Dam, a major water and hydropower source for the country.

2.2 Institutional framework

Institutionally, all lands in the Philippines with slope of 18° and above are considered forest lands under the state. The lands therefore unless titled or classified as alienable and disposable are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These forest lands are governed by the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines or Presidential Decree No. 705 issued in 1975 and all its subsequent amendments. Before the advent of the IPRA, the DENR issued Certificates of Land Claims (CALC) and Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) as part of its mandate to manage all forest lands. This responsibility over ancestral domain claims passed on to the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) in 1997.

In 1997, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act No. 8371) was passed into law. This law enabled ownership of lands and all domains claimed by indigenous peoples of the Philippines is recognised. It authorizes the delineation of indigenous peoples' areas and a limited form of self determination allowing for the state to recognize customary laws for settlement of conflict (www.lrcksk.org). This law created the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to act as a mechanism to coordinate implementation as well as act as final authority that has jurisdiction to issue Certificates of Ancestral Domain/Land titles (www.firstpeoples.org).

2.3 Response to the recognition of values under international treaties and programmes (WH Convention, Biosphere Reserve.)

Particular to the Philippine Rice Terraces World Heritage property, *no specific legislation currently covers the conservation and management of the area* except for PD 705 and other administrative orders of the various national departments (Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources etc.).

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES/THREATS

3.1 Management effectiveness

The Conservation Management Plan was developed in consultation and participation of the local peoples in the five cluster terraces of the Philippine Rice Terraces World Heritage Site. It addresses the main management issues identified in the nomination dossier and during the current and previous missions. However, for its effective implementation the following issues should be considered:

Co-ordination and implementation

As stated during the previous missions, the implementation of the Conservation Management Plan is of highest priority. In this work co-ordination of the different initiatives and projects and a holistic assessment of their benefits and constraints is essential. During the mission, relevant ongoing and planned projects for terraces conservation, tourism development and the enhancement of cultural traditions were presented, but there seemed to be a lack of information and co-ordination between the municipalities/barangays as well as between the different levels of management authorities which would assure sustainable results on the World Heritage site as a whole.

Enforcement of Environmental Impact Assessment in development projects

The conservation management plan does not mention the use of the EIA system in assessing the impact of development on the WHS. Because the environmental issues of the Rice Terraces are interlinked with the cultural traditions and the living community the impact assessment process should include traditional knowledge and practices. The assessment team should include local traditional knowledge and cultural heritage expertise.

Need for a financial and human resource strategy

Project proposals were developed in line with the Conservation Management Plan (June 2004) While project proposals were developed there is no clear financial plan associated with it and neither is there a resource mobilisation plan to generate funding support for it.

Need for baseline data for effective management and monitoring

Absence of written and publicly available baseline information on the “payo” or terraces location; the location and capacities of the irrigation systems including the lifeline irrigation canals feeding the respective terraces; and the corresponding watersheds makes management and monitoring of the terraces objectively unverifiable. The boundaries of the terraces as well as buffer zones need to be identified. Local and community initiated land use plans and maps showing the baseline and projected land utilisation are needed to help guide local community actions. A biodiversity assessment of the remaining forest areas available may also be needed in the longer term and for use in monitoring. For the prevention and mitigation of negative impacts of the proposed projects a risk analysis / risk mapping would contribute to the integrated use of the base-line data and facilitate decision-making.

Lack of institutional memory and difficulties in the transfer of knowledge should also be addressed in the management. Training in skills for terrace conservation as well as in cultural practices is a need expressed by stakeholders.

The awareness of what the World Heritage commitment means in day-to-day management is unclear among the stakeholders. The effective management of the WHS requires knowledge of the process, options and responsibilities of managing the World Heritage values in order to benefit from the WH inscription. Especially questions regarding funding and guidelines in the WH context were highlighted.

3.2 Findings and observations of the mission

Below are the observed developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee. The nature and extent of threats to the property are discussed as well, taking into consideration the cultural and natural values for which the property was inscribed and specific issues outlined by the World Heritage Committee

Rice, water and the living community dependent on them are the most important tangible elements of this living cultural heritage. The landscape has been shaped by peoples' beliefs, practices and use of rice and water. The following discussions are either related to the supply and flow of water or the continued, sustainable rice production practices in the World Heritage Sites and the local communities in this world heritage site.

3.2.1 Watershed Management

Almost all of the municipalities reported reforestation efforts underway using kalantas and pine tree species. Some nurseries have been established at the municipal level. The local Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office continue to encourage the use of exotic species such as Gmelina sp. Some seedlings have been replanted in forest areas. Very little effort is made to promote the use of indigenous and endemic tree species. Current forestry regulations may not be sensitive to local cultural practices. However, better watershed management for both the "private forests" and the communal forest areas are needed. Closer coordination and working relationship with the DENR for watershed management may be useful.

3.2.2 Repair of irrigation canals and terraces

Funds have been made available by the national and local governments to repair some of the community irrigation systems and terraces. Substantial amounts of local funds have been allocated for these actions. However, cement has been the primary material used for the repair of the irrigation canals. The use of new materials such as cement for rebuilding the terraces and irrigation canals introduces a new element into the system that may have adverse impact on the functioning of the terrace system. For example, the rate of flow of water in a traditionally built irrigation canal is slower and more calculated than the rate of flow in a cemented irrigation canal. The slower flow may allow for the upper terraces to receive adequate water before draining into the lower terraces.

An assessment and site inspection by the Ifugao Rice Terraces Cultural Heritage Office (IRTCHO) of abandoned and/or damaged terraces produced a partial list from Banaue, Hunduan and Mayoyao. The stonewalling project for Teppoh, Batad cluster was completed with funding from the provincial government and local labor counterpart from the local community of Batad. A total of 41 terraces were repaired in this project. More damaged terraces need to be repaired using traditional methods and materials.

Local government units at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels provided resources for the conservation of the terraces. However, current resources from local government units are inadequate to implement the management plan and respond to the needs of local communities managing the terraces, the watershed and associated land uses. The local government units have

begun to set in place local resource mobilisation strategies such as the “adopt a terrace” program. Mechanisms for this program are under development.

Local communities are also providing their own counterpart through provision of their labor for the implementation of some aspects of the plan. The cooperative or “bayanihan” system of working on the repair of the terraces and irrigation systems continue to be used by local communities. However, the system is not perceived as a positive mechanism to enhance traditional value systems. Many local leaders prefer to pay for the labor in the maintenance of the terraces and irrigation systems. Lesser value is attributed to the “bayanihan” form of community work.

The cultural practices associated with the traditional farming cycle are not regularly practiced. According to the local stakeholders practice of the rituals are expensive as they have to butcher animals as part of the activity. Discussions with local leaders also point to the diminishing numbers of “baki” who are trained and willing to perform the rituals. There was confusion among the stakeholders as to the use of rituals as “performances” and the genuine conduct of the rituals for the purpose they have been used by the Ifugaos since time immemorial. Many “performances” of the rituals have been supported by the local government as part of their attempt to keep these practices alive.

3.2.3 “Tinawon” rice varieties

Marketing efforts are underway to sell the “tinawon” rice to an international market. This will hopefully allow for an increased income for farmers using the traditional rice varieties. Indirectly, conservation of some of the traditional rice varieties will be ensured because of their continued use. This in turn will hopefully help maintain some of the terraces for rice cultivation and eventually encouraged the younger generation to cultivate abandoned terraces.

3.2.4 Conservation programs for cultural heritage practices

Research and documentation of local heritage histories have been supported by the provincial government. These were backed up by capability building workshops and seminars on heritage retrieval and local history writing. Written histories of seven municipalities are now available for the public to access as a result. A school of living heritage has been supported in the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry.

However, some traditions are changing. For example: the systems of inheritance of the Ifugao governing the passing on of a payo may be adapting to the out-migration. This is done in some cases by giving the “payo” to the son or daughter who has not been able to finish a professional education. These developments in the inheritance mechanisms may be necessary as local peoples adapt their practices to the changing times.

3.3 The following situation may pose a threat or damage to or loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity for which the property was inscribed.

3.3.1 Unclear governance and coordinating mechanism

The current IRTCHO was established to handle funds allocated for the Philippine Rice Terraces by the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA). While the current IRTCHO is now functioning with budget allocations from the provincial government, there is a need to institutionalise a multi-stakeholder coordinating body at the provincial level. This multi-stakeholder co-ordinating body can help co-ordinate, link and support the various efforts at the five Rice Terraces clusters in Banaue (Batad and Bangaan), Kiangan (Nagacadan), Hungduan, Mayaoyao (Mayaoyao Central). Consideration should be given to the recommended management

and statutes in the Conservation and Management Plan submitted recently by the state party for the Philippine Rice Terraces.

3.3.2 Limited community governance

The past governance structures as mentioned were removed from the living communities. This has not been helped by the changing local government players. The slow processing of ancestral domain claims limits the role of local communities “owning” the terraces. The attempts to manage the terraces from the central government have alienated the governance mechanisms from the “owners” of the terraces and the associated cultural practices to terrace rice farming. With the enactment of the IPRA law, there is a window of opportunity for local terraces “owners” to claim their historical right to their domain. The local government mechanism should complement and support the ancestral domain claims of the local farmers. The community based land use plans developed now should feed into the future ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plan required under the IPRA law. Coordination with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is encouraged.

3.3.3 Unregulated infrastructure development.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Law is not used in development planning and infrastructure development of both local and national government agencies in Ifugao.

This is aggravated by the incomplete community based land use and map for the clusters. Community based land use planning and mapping of the clusters of Kiangnan and Hungduan were undertaken. However, the results of the Hungduan planning appear to be missing. Land use zones including the buffer area for each cluster of the World Heritage Site should be completed to help determine the potential impact of development projects. Local land use maps should also reflect the irrigation system of the terraces in the five clusters.

Infrastructure projects will be continually proposed as the local people aspire for development. This is a living cultural landscape and the aspirations for development of the local people will not vanish. However, these may have potential adverse impact on the integrity of the Philippine Rice Terraces World Heritage Site particularly if they affect some of the lifeline irrigation systems and terraces.

3.3.4 Changing building practices in the Philippine Rice Terraces.

The indigenous knowledge systems with regards to building and rebuilding the irrigation systems and the terraces may disappear if these are not passed on to the younger generation. Programmes are planned at the provincial and municipal levels to raise resources for the repair and maintenance of the terraces through various schemes such as the “adopt a terrace” programme. However, the extensive use of cement as the material of choice for the repair of irrigation canals may pose a more long term threat to the integrity of the world heritage site.

3.3.5 Inadequate protection of the watershed forests.

There is continued deforestation by kaingin-making (swidden farming) and tree cutting in the individual and communal watersheds. Cutting of trees in the individual watershed has traditionally been done. To maintain the watershed though, caring for the individual watershed is also needed. Similarly, conservation of the communal watershed is important. There is less management control by the local people in the communal watersheds. In both the individual and communal watersheds, there are more pressures for use of wood and less people to take care of the watersheds. The introduction and continued use of exotic species of trees for reforestation may also be affecting the watershed functions of the remaining forest areas. In the Mayaoyao area, we learned that there was a proposed project of the Philippine government currently under

negotiation with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that will promote the use of fast growing but exotic trees like the *Gmelina* sp. for planting in the watershed area of this particular cluster of the World Heritage Site. The proposed project is entitled “Mini-Hydropower Development for Securing Conservation Fund of Ifugao Rice Terraces.” Currently, the project is being follow-up by Tokyo Electric Power Services Company for funding support. The limited use of endemic/indigenous tree species does not contribute to enhancing the watershed function of the forests and limits wood supply for firewood and the wood carving industry.

3.3.6 Inadequate and inappropriate livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The planting of traditional rice varieties of *tinawon* rice allows for only one cropping a year. There is a growing population in the Ifugao province with families having an average of five children. There is insufficient livelihood to be generated from traditional rice terrace farming practices. These have led to young people moving out to find other opportunities for livelihood. Increased revenue from the sale of tinawon rice may encourage farmers to continue to plant tinawon. The initiatives to tap the international market are good steps towards increase value for tinawon rice. But local markets also need to be explored to diversify and reduce dependency on only the international market. Diversification to the local market reduces vulnerability of the local communities and can help encourage adoption of terraces by local philanthropic individuals and groups.

3.3.6 Limited opportunities for cultural heritage education

The initiatives to write the oral histories of the community and the schools of living traditions (SLTs) are a good beginning for continuing to pass on the cultural heritage of the Ifugao people. However, there is a need to continuously share this heritage and build local pride in this heritage among the young people. What better way to do this than to incorporate this in the education and formation of young people in the Ifugao province primarily and the whole nation eventually. Expansion of the reach and coverage of the Schools of Living Traditions will be needed to strengthen appreciation of Ifugao culture. This can include not only education covering the rituals and dances but even terrace farming and building, watershed management and maintenance of irrigation systems.

3.3.8 Unregulated and inappropriate tourism development.

Except for the cluster in Hungduan, there are no regulations as to the entry and exit of visitors to this living cultural landscape. The local community in Battad, possibly one of the most visited cluster is attempting to record the visitors that come to their area. There is no mechanism for the local community to capture the revenues and benefits from tourism for use in maintaining the Philippine Rice Terraces World Heritage property. Neither are there regulations on tourist behaviour or development of tourist facilities in the five clusters.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

4.1 *Review whether the values, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity are being maintained*

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera are outstanding examples of living cultural landscapes devoted to the production of one of the world's most important staple crops, rice. They preserve traditional techniques and forms dating back many centuries, but which are still viable today. At the same time they illustrate a remarkable degree of harmony between humankind and the natural environment of great aesthetic appeal, as well as demonstrating sustainable farming systems in mountainous terrain, based on a careful use of natural resources.

The values for which the cultural landscape is inscribed are linked to traditional management of the farming system of highland rice with its cultural practices and tribal management. At the time of the inscription the concern about the survival of the terraced landscape threatened by 20th century development was already identified in the nomination dossier and in the Advisory Body evaluation. Subsequent state of conservation reports have stressed these issues; the decay of the terraces, loss of traditional practices, changes in the traditional means of livelihood and environmental degradation. The cultural landscape has been conserved through use and the viability of the rice terraces is an interlinked cultural and environmental issue.

4.1.1 *Current condition of the site / assessment of integrity*

The five clusters nominated cover the terraces that could be best protected with a surrounding buffer zone, and were the most representative of the area as a whole. The completeness of each cluster, with its basic elements of private forests (muyong), terraces, village and sacred cove are still in place. However, the already built and planned new roads and buildings, including housing and tourism infrastructure are disturbing this inter-relationship. These developments, if not mitigated and controlled, will soon affect both the functional integrity of the rice terraces as well as the visual integrity of the cultural landscape as a whole.

The previous missions have recognized the increasing amount of abandoned terraces affecting the integrity of the site. The current mission had no possibility to assess the rate of abandonment due to the lack of base-line data about the terraces. However, during community consultations the reasons for abandonment were discussed. These dealt mainly with difficulties in irrigation due to environmental changes, infrastructure developments or lack of maintenance and lack of labour or means to maintain the terraces. The need for land for housing and other development is growing.

As stated in the previous missions the authenticity in material and form of the traditional Ifugao architecture is been lost in favour of corrugated iron and new constructions in concrete. Therefore the importance of the traditional settlement structure of the clusters is especially crucial. The adaptation of the volume and character of new structures should be carefully studied and controlled. The community involvement in defining the appropriate measures taking into consideration traditional ownership issues is essential. There is a need to promote the continued use of traditional materials or the development of materials which will be more appropriate for the conditions and functions of the

system and which will last longer than cement. The traditional building practices of the Ifugaos need to be recognised by modern engineering institutions. Passing on the knowledge in terraces building and irrigation canal building using naturally available materials will be critical to sustaining the terraces and the irrigation canals.

The awareness of the importance of the cultural practices for the identity of the Ifugao is high. Current research and documentation initiatives have been taken on national, regional and local level. Cultural celebrations are performed for the communities and for tourism purposes. The School of Living Traditions is a good beginning in maintaining and passing on living traditions. The transfer of knowledge and training dealing with traditional skills in rice farming and rice terraces maintenance has been lost by the younger generation. However, the mission was faced with the challenges of continuing the cultural practices for rice farming in the living community. Cultural traditions are viable if they are relevant in the daily life of the community. If the cultural practices have no meaning as the traditional tinawon rice farming is no longer viable, their continuity is threatened. In this aspect the support for the farmers to continue with traditional farming maintaining an acceptable quality of life through additional incomes raised from supplemental livelihood options is of the highest priority. Over and above the marketing efforts is the need to initiate small community led supplemental livelihood projects supportive of the heritage values of the site that directly benefits families and clans in the five cluster terraces of the Philippine Rice Terraces World Heritage Site. Expectations have been raised and big project proposals need time and human resources that local communities are unable to supply.

The integrity of the rice terraces as a functional example of sustainable land use in steep slope can be affected by the use of alien species of trees for reforestation as promoted by the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Continued use of these exotic species may affect the watershed functions of both the "private" and the communal forests associated with the terrace clusters. Widespread promotion of these alien species should be replaced by promotion of indigenous and endemic species to conserve the watershed value of the remaining forests. Mother trees in the remaining watersheds need to be protected as they can provide the sustained supply of wildlings of indigenous and endemic species of trees to the local community. Nurseries using these wildlings should be established by local communities in each of the clusters. This is not only a heritage issue but an issue associated with the wider contribution of the forests of Ifugao as part of the watershed of Magat Dam, a major water and power source in the region.

There is marked absence of an active programme to preserve the traditional rice varieties in situ. Seed banks as ex situ conservation strategies are expensive to create and maintain. In situ conservation allows for continued access by the local farmers of the various Tinawon rice varieties. There is limited research to support the near-total absence of chemicals in rice production. There is little support to farmers to develop rice cultivation practices that continue to use tinawon rice varieties and chemical free practices to combat the damage caused by the golden kuhol and earthworm. The use of traditional rice varieties is also associated with the continued practice of the rituals associated with rice farming in the terraces. Maintenance of these rituals partly depends on continued viability of rice farming using traditional rice varieties.

4.2 Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the outstanding universal value of the property

2001 and 2005 Mission Recommendations

⇒ ***Institutional Requirements:*** establishing a permanent and effective body to coordinate and lead efforts to restore and protect the rice terraces (2001). Essential that the Philippine Government establish a permanent and effective body to co-ordinate and lead efforts to restore and protect the site (2005).

A sustainable management mechanism is not yet in place. The two previous management authorities at national levels (Ifugao Terraces Commission (ITC) and Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF)) were at least two levels removed from the realities of the sites. A national body located outside the Ifugao province was less responsive to the local needs and situation in the 5 cluster heritage sites. A national body also takes away the decision making processes from the local people who directly managed the terraces themselves. A national based management authority was not able to generate sustained funding from the national government and other donor agencies to support the implementation of the management recommendations. The changing local political climate did not ensure sustainability of a single management authority.

A more diversified and localised management mechanism may provide the necessary sustainability and responsiveness for management of the terraces. A community based management mechanism may be more appropriate for this living cultural landscape. Support towards the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) may provide the recognition that communities need to sustainably managed the rice terraces.

The Vice governor of Ifugao province has proposed a replacement for IRTCHO at the province level that will co-ordinate the efforts of the four municipal governments where the five rice terraces clusters of Bangaan and Battad (Banaue); Hungduan; Nagacadan (Kiangnan), Mayaoyao Central (Mayaoyao). In turn, these three municipalities have agreed to assign a focal person for cultural heritage. In some cases, the municipal government will also create a cultural heritage office. These efforts are part of the efforts at localising management of this living cultural heritage.

⇒ ***Funding:*** putting in place short term and long term strategies to support funding for the Rice Terraces drawn from national and international sources and from tourism (2001)

Short term funding from local government sources have been provided from the revenue allotments of the province and the municipal governments. Longer term resource generation actions such as “adopt a terrace” programme are being explored by the local government units. However, this is not sufficient. More long term funding need to be mobilized and this is partly dependent on a more sustainable provincial level co-ordinating body.

Project proposals were drafted as part of the Conservation and Management Planning process. These proposals may be submitted to funding agencies for medium term support. However, more sustained local resource generation mechanisms need to be explored and initiated.

- ⇒ ***Short term work programme:*** identifying and implementing a prioritized programme of work to remedy the past neglect of the Rice Terraces and ensure the optimum prospects for the future – an operational GIS would assist here. (2001) Planning: evaluating the progress of the 6 year plan and developing a management plan for the terraces; convening an international workshop for that purpose. (2001)

A Conservation and Management Plan of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras was submitted recently to the World Heritage Centre with three components 1) Bio-Physical; 2) Socio-cultural; and 3) Support Systems with the following objectives:

BIO-PHYSICAL COMPONENT

1. To delineate terraces management and support zones for protection, rehabilitation and enhancement ;
2. To enhance capacity of the Ifugao watershed to sustain local and national development;
3. To mitigate natural and man-made hazards;

SOCIO-CULTURAL COMPONENT

4. To foster strong cultural identity and national pride;
5. To implement culturally appropriate interventions to maintain rice terraces cultivation;
6. To revitalize indigenous knowledge systems and practices;
7. To set up effective management systems and linkages;
8. To improve capacities of the farmers, stakeholders and various institutions to undertake specific responsibilities within the program;
9. To ensure implementation review and/or enactment of laws and policies supportive to the conservation of the rice terraces at all levels;
10. To secure the rights and enhance the welfare of the host communities over their ancestral domains under the framework of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA);

SUPPORT SYSTEMS COMPONENT

11. To develop community based agri-industry and eco-cultural tourism supportive to the conservation of the rice terraces;
12. To improve the delivery of social services in the Ifugao rice terraces communities;
13. To develop the lowland areas of the province as buffer zones;
14. To establish appropriate, effective and efficient infrastructure support;
15. To develop and establish an extensive and sustainable resource support system for the terraces.

The April 2006 mission was informed that local consultations were conducted to update the plan and prepare project proposals for funding based on the new Conservation and Management Plan. Please refer to the section on management effectiveness in Section 3 of this report for more details and particularly to community based land use planning. Revising or updating the plan is not a priority at this stage. The local stakeholders, the mission members met with expressed their frustration with the limited action following the consultations conducted as part of plan preparation and previous missions.

- ⇒ ***Tourism***: developing a sustainable tourism industry that supports the future conservation of the Rice Terraces; priority should go to improving access to, and within the site. (2001).

Road building is a priority of the national and local decision makers for the province of Ifugao. Local decision makers believe that improved farm to market roads can lead to the development of the Ifugao province and its people. Road improvement has also been recommended in previous UNESCO missions as part of tourism development. Vehicles can now go up to the saddle point to the Batad cluster whereas before a 2-3 hour steep climb was needed. The road between Banaue and Mayoyao is not yet an all weather road. An alternate route to Mayoyao from Nueva Viscaya that does not pass through Banaue is in a similar situation. The road from Banaue to Hungduan has been classified as part of the national road system to allow for more resources from the national budget to be channelled to this road network. Funds coming from the national government have gone primarily to road building.

While the area is considered an eco-tourist destination by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and even as tourist visitors increase, local tourism initiatives and management in the five clusters may not be consistent with maintaining the integrity of each cluster and may not be responsive to the peculiarity of the local community in each cluster. There is a need to ‘target’ the type of tourists to this World Heritage property. Technical assistance to develop appropriate tourism plans for each cluster sensitive to the heritage values of the area is needed.

- ⇒ ***International outreach***: making connections between the World Heritage Site and other sites outside the Philippines and becoming involved in international activities. (2001)

Katri Lisitzin from ICOMOS presented experiences from other similar cultural landscapes under the World Heritage List. This presented an opportunity for the local stakeholders to visualize the global community of people involved in world heritage management. The potential of local leaders to learn from a cross visit to a similar World Heritage Site was discussed. Counterpart funding for this proposal may be sourced locally as per discussions with the current Congressman of Ifugao province.

- ⇒ ***Corrective Measures to prevent wall from toppling down during flooding and fast river current flows be taken (2005)***

The flood control project in the Hungduan cluster has been completed in the absence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) or even an initial environmental examination (IEE) required for environmentally critical areas. The local government of Hungduan has only begun to implement the recommendations of the previous mission to reinforce the structure for safety purposes. It is raising funds to complete the recommended actions while the community will provide counterpart labour for the activity.

To prevent future infrastructure projects from degrading the fragile World Heritage property by subjecting future projects to a comprehensive EIA. Consult WHC, ICOMOS and IUCN regarding major infrastructure projects within the endangered property, particularly major road networks before construction begins. This point was also recommended by June 2005 mission.

The proposed mini-hydro plant has been relocated from Hungduan cluster to Mappit, Asipulo, an area adjacent to the Kiangnan cluster that may be a potential expansion site or a buffer area for the

World Heritage property. The project document on the proposed mini-hydro is entitled: "Technical Cooperation Project and Grant Aid Concerning Promotion of Local Based Mini-Hydropower Development (Contribution to Conservation of Ifugao Rice Terraces, World Heritage Site). The grant aid portion is indicated as local based development for securing fund of the Ifugao Rice Terrace Conservation. The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines has requested the assistance of the World Heritage Centre to review this proposal.

However, there is no mention of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project. An EIA including provisions for cultural heritage impact assessment of all infrastructure development projects in World Heritage cluster sites will be useful to prevent irreversible damage and exploration of alternatives that would be consistent with maintaining the integrity of the property.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Recommendations of actions to be taken by the State Party, including draft recommendations to the World Heritage Committee

Apart from assessing the steps taken by the Philippine authorities to implement the recommendations of earlier missions in September 2001 and June 2005, the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN April 2006 monitoring mission also assisted the Philippine authorities in defining corrective measures and benchmarks to address the threats to the property with a view to possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Indeed, at the time of its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, no benchmarks for corrective measures to be taken to improve the state of conservation of the property were decided by the World Heritage Committee.

The mission noted the serious concern expressed and the strong commitment shown for the conservation of the rice terraces by the local communities. It is important to acknowledge the efforts made by local governments towards the implementation of the plans and proposals contained in the 2004 Conservation and Management Plan. Such Plan addressed all the principal issues for the protection of the World Heritage property; however it has not been implemented as expected due to the lack of an effective management structure. The main question to address at this stage is ensuring a management coordination mechanism and human and financial resources for its immediate implementation.

The mission also identified as a priority the need for new tools and strategies for the assessment of potential long-term negative impacts of development proposals affecting the World Heritage property. In particular, the following issues were considered: a) Institutional requirements for an effective management mechanism; b) Immediate actions for the maintenance of the rice culture, for sustaining the social and environmental context of the rice terraces and encouraging their economic viability; c) cultural tourism development and Infrastructure development management.

In summary, despite the efforts made and some progress on specific issues, the recommendations of the September 2001 and June 2005 UNESCO missions have yet to be acted on and there has been no reported significant improvement in the human/financial resources available to manage the property and implement the Conservation Management Plan.

Based on the findings of the monitoring mission, it is recommended the following actions to be taken by the Philippines authorities within a timeframe of 2-3 years between 2006 and end of 2008 (detailed benchmarks for corrective measures are included in next Section):

- a) establish a functioning management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels, and ensure that adequate human/financial resources are made available to implement the Conservation and Management Plan for the property;
- b) Put in place zoning and land-use plans responding to community-based activities and traditional value systems;
- c) Provide regulations over tourism and infrastructure developments to encourage community based tourism which benefits the Rice Terraces and the local communities;
- d) develop a resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels and put in place a five year plan, according to the management objectives determined in the Conservation and Management Plan, with top priority given to the regular maintenance and stabilisation of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems so as to reverse their deterioration. The strategy will include the establishment of a long-term programme to prevent the extinction of traditional rice cultivars (seeds) safeguarding traditional rice varieties associated with the agricultural practices of the rice terraces;
- e) Establish appropriate development control procedures for development projects in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera, including by designating the World Heritage cluster sites of the Rice Terraces and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed system) as “environmental critical areas”, where an environment impact assessment (EIA) is required for any proposed development projects. Cultural heritage conservation expertise should be also included in the EIA review committee;
- f) Strengthen the reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal watersheds of the rice terraces.

The mission is of the view that these actions, with their proposed timeframe for implementation, constitute the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger. Of course, these actions need to be endorsed by the State Party and the World Heritage Committee for their effective implementation.

5.2 Proposed benchmarks and timeframe for corrective measures to achieve significant improvement of the state of conservation of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras

It is reasonable to expect that within 2-3 years (2006-2009) that there is clear evidence that the following actions being taken by the State Party:

- A. Establishment of a management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels to ensure that adequate human/financial resources are available to protect and manage the property and implement the Conservation and Management Plan for the Rice Terraces in the Philippine Cordilleras***

Proposed benchmarks:

1. One heritage officer *focal point* at the four concerned municipalities (Banaue, Kiangan, Hungduan and Mayoyao) is appointed.
2. Organization of a multi-stakeholder Ifugao Heritage Conservation Council (IHC) and a Secretariat at the provincial level, in accordance with the Management Statute of the updated 2005 Conservation and Management Plan for the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras.

Timeframe/Indicators:

- The Heritage officers/focal points be appointed by December 2006;
- The Ifugao Heritage Conservation Council (IHC) convened and organized by June 2007;
- A permanent Secretariat put into place by December 2007;
- Human and financial resources strategy adopted and implementation begin by June 2007.

B. Immediate implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, with focus on community based activities such as zoning and land use plans responding to traditional value systems and providing regulations over tourism and infrastructure development

Proposed benchmarks:

1. Adoption of community-based land use and zoning processes, involving grassroots planning, policy-making, legislation and enforcement by the community's institutions, taking into account local heritage values of the concerned rice terrace cluster communities.
2. Tourism development should also be supportive of the maintenance of the heritage value and should not contribute to the deterioration of the integrity of the property.
3. Full implementation of the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1977 (Republic Act 8371) in the Ifugao rice terrace communities.

Timeframe/Indicators:

- Community-based land use and zoning plans of the barangays hosting the rice terrace clusters included in the World Heritage property adopted through Municipal Ordinances by end of 2007;
- Community-based land use and zoning plans integrated into the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) and the mandated Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of the municipalities hosting the World Heritage sites by June 2009 and June 2008, respectively.
- Incorporate into the community land use plans and zoning sites for future built up areas and barangay processes to develop appropriate designs of new houses, lodging places and other tourism related facilities consistent with heritage values by December 2007;
- A tourism strategy targeting a specific tourist market with support from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) jointly developed for all cluster sites, by December 2007;

- Translate this strategy and implement a tourism plan and programme for each cluster consistent with heritage values that ensures channelling of tourism income for tangible and direct local benefits by December 2008;
- Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT) awarded to the rice terrace communities by December 2008

C *Development of a resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels according to the management objectives determined in the Conservation Management Plan. Top priority should be given to the regular maintenance and stabilization of the rice terraces and LIFELINE irrigation systems and to reverse their deterioration*

Proposed benchmarks:

1. Rehabilitation of all major communal irrigation networks in the rice terrace systems in Ifugao using traditional available building materials;
2. Development of strategies for the support and introduction of complementary and appropriate livelihood opportunities for the living Ifugao community;
3. Identify and encourage international partnerships and exchanges including migrated Ifugao communities, for the safeguarding and maintenance of the Ifugao Rice Terraces.

Timeframe/Indicators:

- Identify and map all lifeline irrigation systems feeding the five rice terraces clusters under the World Heritage property by June 2007;
- All major communal irrigation systems (CIS) maintained and stabilized by December 2008, with particular focus on the lifeline irrigation systems;
- Identify and document each family and clans directly using or owning the rice terraces in the five clusters under world heritage site by end December 2006;
- Local people in each cluster to identify and implement appropriate supplemental livelihood options supportive of the heritage value of the area e.g. community woodlots for the wood carving industry; revival of their weaving industry and marketing of products; local marketing of the different traditional rice varieties with support from local government units and non-government organisations by December 2007;
- Local, national and international support to development and marketing of local crafts and traditional food products such as rice wine; implementing culturally appropriate development strategies in line with community goals and needs by December 2008;
- Interactive website reaching out to Ifugaos living outside the province developed by June 2007;
- Conservation Trust Fund be established and managed by the Ifugao Heritage Conservation Council (IHC) by December 2007

D. *Maintenance and support of the rice culture in its traditional mode for long-term sustainability and site conservation*

Proposed benchmarks:

1. Expand market of the traditional rice varieties and develop new products associated with rice or the terraces;
2. Collection, retrieval and storage of indigenous knowledge properties, both tangible and intangible, including establishment of in situ gene bank for traditional rice varieties and endemic trees, and documentation of all forms of indigenous knowledge systems;
3. Integration of indigenous knowledge (IK) systems in formal and non-formal education.

Timeframe/Indicators:

- Diversify market for traditional rice to include local markets and develop at least 3 new enterprises for local communities by December 2009;
- In situ conservation measures in place by December 2007 in all municipalities to ensure that seeds of traditional varieties remain viable and available for farmers in the future;
- Expand the coverage of school of living traditions to include traditional rice farming practices and associated rituals by June 2007;
- Actual research and teaching of various forms of indigenous knowledge in formal and non-formal education in Ifugao province if possible mandated by the Department of Education by December 2007;
- Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) in each of the four municipalities (Banaue, Kiangan, Hungduan and Mayoyao) established by December 2008;
- Apprentice system explored and put in place – as practical training strategy for labour in conservation of terraces and building techniques either as part of SLT or on a farmer to farmer basis.

E. Strengthening the reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introductions of exotic species in the private or communal watersheds

Proposed Benchmarks:

1. Declaration of the rice terrace watershed and forest areas as special zones where tree plantations efforts should be maintained to the integrity of the world heritage site and enhance the outstanding universal value for which the cultural landscape was inscribed for. The State Party institutions should promote the use of indigenous species in watershed rehabilitation efforts in the Cordilleras and support the local efforts to use endemic and indigenous species for reforestation;

Timeframe/Indicators:

- Nurseries for endemic water-bearing tree species established in each cluster terrace by June 2007;
- Reforestation programme using endemic water-bearing tree species started by December 2007;
- Mother trees of endemic species identified and protected through local ordinances in all five rice terrace clusters by December 2007;
- Possible extra-budgetary funding project adjusted to support the use of indigenous and endemic tree species and not exotic tree species by December 2006.

F. Declaration of the World Heritage cluster sites of the Rice Terraces and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed system) as environmental critical areas, where an environment impact assessment (EIA) is required for any proposed development projects. A heritage conservation specialist shall be included in the EIA review committee. Establish appropriate procedures for development projects in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras

Proposed benchmarks:

1. Institutionalize the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment on any infrastructure project being planned at the property through declaration of the World Heritage sites and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed and forest) as environmental critical areas, where an EIA is required for any proposed development and infrastructure project. It is also suggested that heritage conservation competency will be included in the EIA Review Committee to ensure adequate attention be given to the protection of heritage landscape. Guidelines for the assessment of traditional practices should be developed.
2. Exception of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras World Heritage property from the standard contracting and design rules and procedures of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Irrigation Agency (NIA), the Department of Budget Management (DBM) and other national government agencies.

Timeframe/Indicators:

- The rice terraces, watershed and forest areas of Ifugao declared as environmental critical areas by December 2006 through a national proclamation;
- Introduction of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for any development and infrastructure projects in the World Heritage property by June 2007;
- Recommendations for inclusion of cultural heritage experts in the list of accredited EIA preparers and reviewers of the Philippines' DENR sent by December 2006;
- The property exempted from standard contracting and design rules and procedures of national government agencies by December 2006.

These actions constitute the conditions for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission would hope that the Government of the Philippines will take immediate action to follow-up on the mission recommendations to mitigate threats at the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and ensure that it will be put back to the World Heritage List in the near future.

6 ANNEXES

List of Annexes:

1. Terms of Reference for a Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (C 722, the Philippines)
2. Decisions of the World Heritage Committee regarding the State of Conservation of the property
3. Itinerary and Mission Programme
4. Composition of mission team
5. List of persons met during the mission
- 6.** Maps showing the distribution of Rice Terraces cluster sites in Ifugao Province.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for a Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (C 722, the Philippines)

Undertake a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission from 18 to 25 April 2006 to the World Heritage property of **the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras**. The mission should:

- Assess the state of conservation of this property and particularly the progress and actual feasibility of implementing the conservation master plan at the site level. The potential impacts of other proposed projects, including the JBIC proposed mini-hydro plant project, should also be assessed;
- Assess the steps taken by the national and local authorities in the follow up of the 2001 and 2005 monitoring missions' recommendations, particularly on the construction of flood control walls and the need for strong land use controls over tourism and other infrastructure developments;
- Examine the progress made in the implementation of previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee, e.g. 28 COM 15A.27 and 29 COM 7A.26
- Hold consultations with the Philippine authorities and relevant stakeholders (including those at the Provincial, Municipal and 'Barangay' levels) in determining specific benchmarks and timeframes as relevant in measuring progress towards the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- Examine the adequacy of Environmental Impact Assessment arrangements to establish if they can deal with any major infrastructure proposals that might arise at the property in future;
- Explore the feasibility of maintaining rice production in its traditional mode and identify possible innovative solutions to encourage rice production and marketing (e.g. maybe marketing rice wine to tourists) so as to ensure the sustainability of the cultural landscape;
- Consider the adequacy of local, national and international sources of funding the conservation of the cultural landscape;
- On the basis of the foregoing findings, make recommendations to the Government of the Philippines and the World Heritage Committee for a long term community based better conservation and management of the property, particularly on immediate actions to be taken for the sustainable protection of the environmental context of the property;
- Prepare a joint report incorporating the above findings and recommendations of this Reactive Monitoring Mission following the attached format and submit it to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS/IUCN Headquarters by 26 May 2006 at the latest in hard copy and an electronic version.

Annex 2: Extract of the Decisions adopted by 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, South Africa, 10 – 17 July 2005)

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)(C722)

Decision: 29 COM 7A 26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29 COM/7 A and the Draft Decision 29 COM 7A.26.Rev**
2. Recalling its Decision **28COM 15A.27**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, China, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party of Philippines on the progress made in addressing concerns raised by the joint 2001 IUCN/ICOMOS mission and for the actions in involving local communities and stakeholders in every stage of the conservation and management processes;
4. Takes note with concern of the May/June 2005 UNESCO monitoring mission's findings and recommendations concerning the construction of flood control walls within the property, which appear structurally inadequate in case of severe flooding, and have a negative impact on the aesthetic value of the landscape;
5. Recommends that the State Party take steps to implement the recommendations proposed by the 2005 UNESCO monitoring mission in order to mitigate the negative impact of the flood control walls on the heritage landscape values of the property, and to prevent their collapse, taking into account the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of June 2005;
6. Requests the State Party to conduct, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment on any infrastructure project being planned at the Philippine World Heritage properties so as to ensure that its impact on the heritage values of the property is minimized;
7. Strongly encourages the State Party to guarantee the long-term provision of the necessary human and financial resources to ensure a functioning site management authority, which can implement the conservation master plan as quickly as possible, and foster long-term sustainability of the Rice Terraces;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN to undertake a joint reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the steps taken by the State Party in the follow up of the 2001 and 2005 missions' recommendations and to define benchmarks for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with ICOMOS, IUCN and the State Party, to define benchmarks for consideration by the Committee at its 30th

session (Vilnius, 2006);

10. *Encourages the State Party to further pursue the idea of a twinning programme recommended by the 2001 mission, in consultation with UNESCO and the Italian authorities;*

11. *Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras (Philippines) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

Extract of the Decisions adopted by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, China, 28 June--7 July 2004)

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C722)

Decision 28 COM 15A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Notes with satisfaction the progressive implementation of the activities foreseen under the Emergency Assistance project approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 25th session in 2001.*

2. *Compliments the State Party on its renewed efforts to address the challenges faced by the property, especially with regard to irrigation, road developments and agricultural management;*

3. *Notes with appreciation the concern of the State Party to involve local communities and stakeholders in every stage of the conservation and management processes, and its dedication in raising awareness among younger generations on the outstanding universal value of the property;*

4. *Strongly encourages the State Party to explore possibilities for developing sustainable ecotourism opportunities within and around the property, and to seek all possible national and international funding for that purpose;*

5. *Requests the State Party to submit the final revised Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre, no later than 1 February 2005, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in 2005. The management plan should among others contain measurable targets and benchmarks, as well as a strategy for mobilizing funds and international support for future conservation of the property;*

6. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

Annex 3

Itinerary and Mission Programme
(Revised as of 18 April 2006)

17 April, Monday

08.45 Arrival of Ms. Katri Lisitzin. Check-in at Hyatt Regency Manila

18 April, Tuesday

08.45AM Arrival of Mr. Feng Jing

10.00 Departure for Banaue, Ifugao Province by van

22.00 Check-in at Banaue Hotel, Ifugao

19 April, Wednesday

09.00 Ifugao Stakeholders Meeting with representatives from the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN, Banaue Hotel, Ifugao

16:00 Visit to the WH cluster terraces of Bangaan

20 April, Thursday

06.00 Departure for Kiangan

Site visit in the WH cluster terraces of Kiangan. Consultation meeting with the community

15.00 Departure for Hungduan

17:00 Site visit in the cluster terraces of Hungduan. Consultation meeting with the community

21 April, Friday

07.00 Departure for Mayoyao

Site visit in the WH cluster terraces of Mayoyao. Consultation meeting with the community

18:00 Departure for Battad

23:00 Arrival at Battad

22 April, Saturday

08.00 Visit of Battad

12.00 Departure for Manila from Banaue

22.00 Arrival in Manila. Check-in at Hyatt Regency

23 April, Sunday

10:00 Working session of the mission team at Hyatt Regency

15.00 Site visit in San Agustin Church and meeting with Fr. Pedro Galende

16.00 Tour of Intramuros, Manila

19.00 Dinner with Architect Augusto Villallon

24 April, Monday

- 09.00 Roundtable Meeting with Site Managers of Philippine World Heritage Sites
11th Floor Department of Foreign Affairs Bldg., Pasay City
- 14.30 Meeting at the Department of Agriculture
- 17.30 Dinner with Ambassador Mrs P. Soliven

25 April, Tuesday

- 10.45 Departure of Ms. Katri Lisitzin for Sweden

Proposed Extended Itinerary for Mr Feng Jing

25 April, Tuesday

- 09.45 Departure for Laoag, Ilocos Norte. Check-in at Fort Ilocandia
- 13.00 Site visit in Paoay Church and meeting with the community

26 April, Wednesday

- 07.00 Departure for Sta. Maria
- 10.00 Site visit at Sta. Maria Church, Ilocos Sur
- 13:00 Departure for Vigan city
- 14.00 Meeting with local stakeholders
- 14.00 Site visit in Vigan, Ilocos Sur
- 19.00 Dinner hosted by Mr Luis Chavit Singson, Governor of Ilocos Sur

27 April, Thursday

- 10.30 Departure for Manila. Check-in at Hyatt Regency Manila
- 16:00 Meeting with JBIC representative to Manila
- 19.00 Dinner by Ms Carmen Padilla, Chairperson of Culture Commission of UNICOM

28 April, Friday

- 10.45 Departure for Paris via Amsterdam

**Ifugao Stakeholders Meeting on Rice Terraces World Heritage Property
 (19 April 2006, Banaue Hotel, Ifugao)**

Provisional Programme

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration	
9:00 - 9:45 AM	Opening Session	
	National Anthem	<i>Provincial Capitol Choir</i>
	(Blessing Ritual)	<i>(Mumbaki)</i>
	Welcome Remarks	<i>Hon. Mr Glenn Prudenciano Vice Governor</i>
	Introductory Message	<i>Comm. Carmen D. Padilla Chairperson Culture Committee, UNACOM</i>
	Introduction of Participants	
9:45 – 10:15 AM	Review by WHC Recommendations (2001-2005) on the State of conservation of the <i>Section</i> Rice Terraces Philippine Cordilleras	<i>Mr Feng Jing Programme Specialist Asia and the Pacific UNESCO WH Centre</i>
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Report Presentation of the Provincial Government of Ifugao	<i>Engr. Carmelita Buyuccan Provincial Planning Dev't</i>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Report Presentation of the Municipality of Banaue	<i>Hon. Jerry Dalipog, C.E. Mayor, Banaue, Ifugao</i>
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Report Presentation of the Municipality of Hungduan	<i>Hon. Hilario Bumangabang Mayor, Hungduan, Ifugao</i>
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Report Presentation of the Municipality of Kiangan	<i>Hon. Albert Indunan Mayor, Kiangan, Ifugao</i>
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Report Presentation of the Municipality of Mayoyao	<i>Hon. Ronnie Lumayna Mayor, Mayoyao, Ifugao</i>
11.30 – 14:00 PM	Working lunch + Panel discussion	
	Panel Discussion and Open Forum	
	a. Comm. Carmen D. Padilla UNACOM Culture Committee, Chairperson	
	b. Mr. Feng Jing Programme Specialist, UNESCO World Heritage Centre	
	c. Ms. Katri Lisitzin ICOMOS international expert	
	d. Ms. Cristi Nozawa IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)	
	e. Mr. Ricardo Favis UNESCO Bangkok Office Consultant	
	f. Arch. Joy Bolhayon-Mananghaya UNACOM Consultant and Cultural Heritage Planner	
14:00 –15:00 PM	Recommendations and Action Plans	

Annex 4 Composition of mission team

1. Mr Feng Jing, Programme Specialist, Asia and Pacific Section, UNESCO World Heritage Centre (UNESCO WHC);
2. Ms Katri Ms Katri Lizitsin, landscape architect/expert of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS);
3. Ms Cristi Nozawa, Vice Chairperson for South-East Asia, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the World Conservation Union (IUCN);
4. Mr Ricardo Favis, Consultant of the UNESCO Office in Bangkok.

Annex 5

List of persons met during the Reactive Monitoring Mission (18-24 April 2006)

Ambassador Preciosa Soliven*
Commissioner Carmen Padilla*
Commissioner Edru Abraham*
Congressman Solomon R. Chungalao*

Vice Governor Glenn D. Prudenciano*
Capitol Compound
Lagawe, Ifugao

Jovel Francis P. Ananayo*
Tourism Operations Officer
Office of the Provincial Governor – Tourism Division
Tel/fax no: +63 74 382-2108
Email address: ifugaotourism@yahoo.com
Glenda Ruth “Agie” Aquino-Dumangeng*
Administrative Services Asst. II
Ifugao Rice Terraces Cultural Heritage Office (IRTCHO)
Lagawe, Ifugao 3601

Albert
Mayor of Kiangnan Municipality*
Patrick Puguon
Vice-Mayor, Kiangnan Municipality
Eddie P. Balog
Barangay Captain, Barangay Nagacadan
Mayor of Banaue Municipality*
Hilario T. Bumangabang
Mayor of Hungduan Municipality*
Pablo M. Cuyahon
Vice-Mayor, Hungduan Municipality
Joseph Nakake
Peter Himmawat
Victor Melong
Angelina Gano
Local People of Hapao, Hungduan (site of flood control project)

Karen Joy Nakake Salvador*
Legal Officer
National Commission on Indigenous People
Abul St. Lagawe, Ifugao
Email address: kjnsalvador@yahoo.com
Mayor of Mayaoyao
Participants to the Stakeholders Meeting in Banaue
Local knowledge holders and stakeholders in Banaan, Nagacadan, Hungduan

Mayaoyao Central and Battad.

Arch Augusto Villalon
Pacific Plaza Towers
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig 1630
Philippines

Serafin L. Ngohayon*
President, Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry (ISCAF)

Dr. Rogelio N. Concepcion, Bureau of Soil and Water Management- Department of
Agriculture

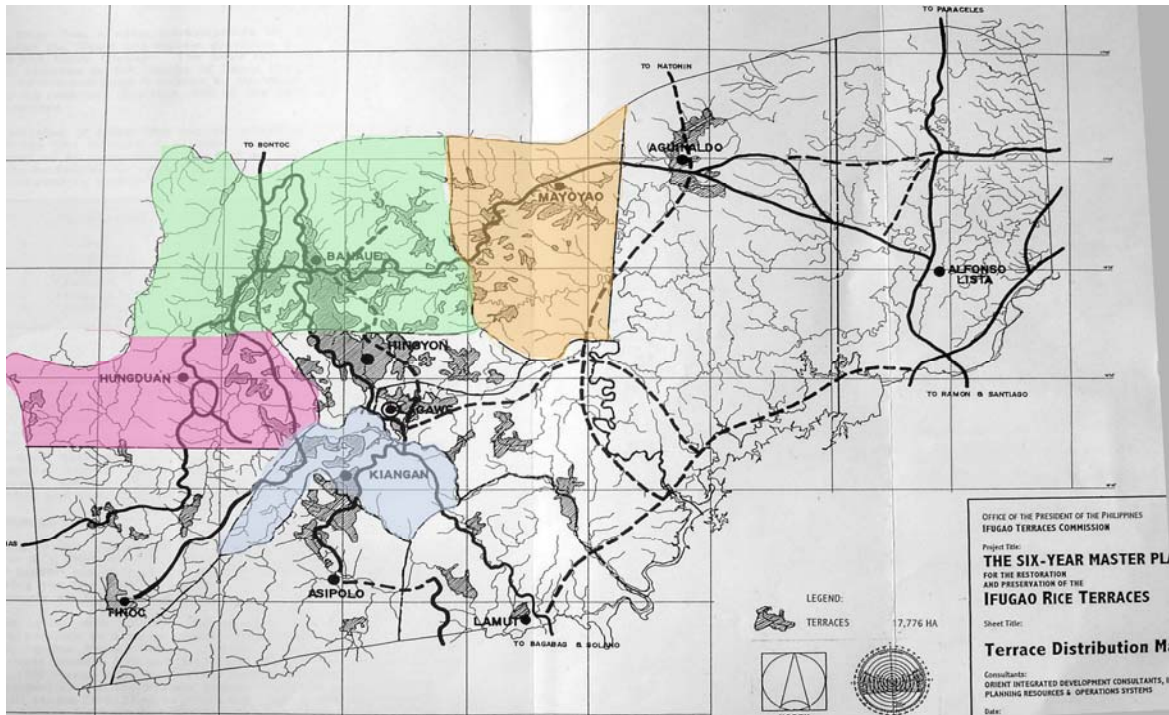
Cristy Regunay
OIC Chief Multi-lateral Investment Program, FASPO-DENR
Foreign Assisted Projects Office (FASPO) –
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Annex
Visayas Ave, Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Angelita Menado
Chief, Wildlife Management Section
Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) –
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

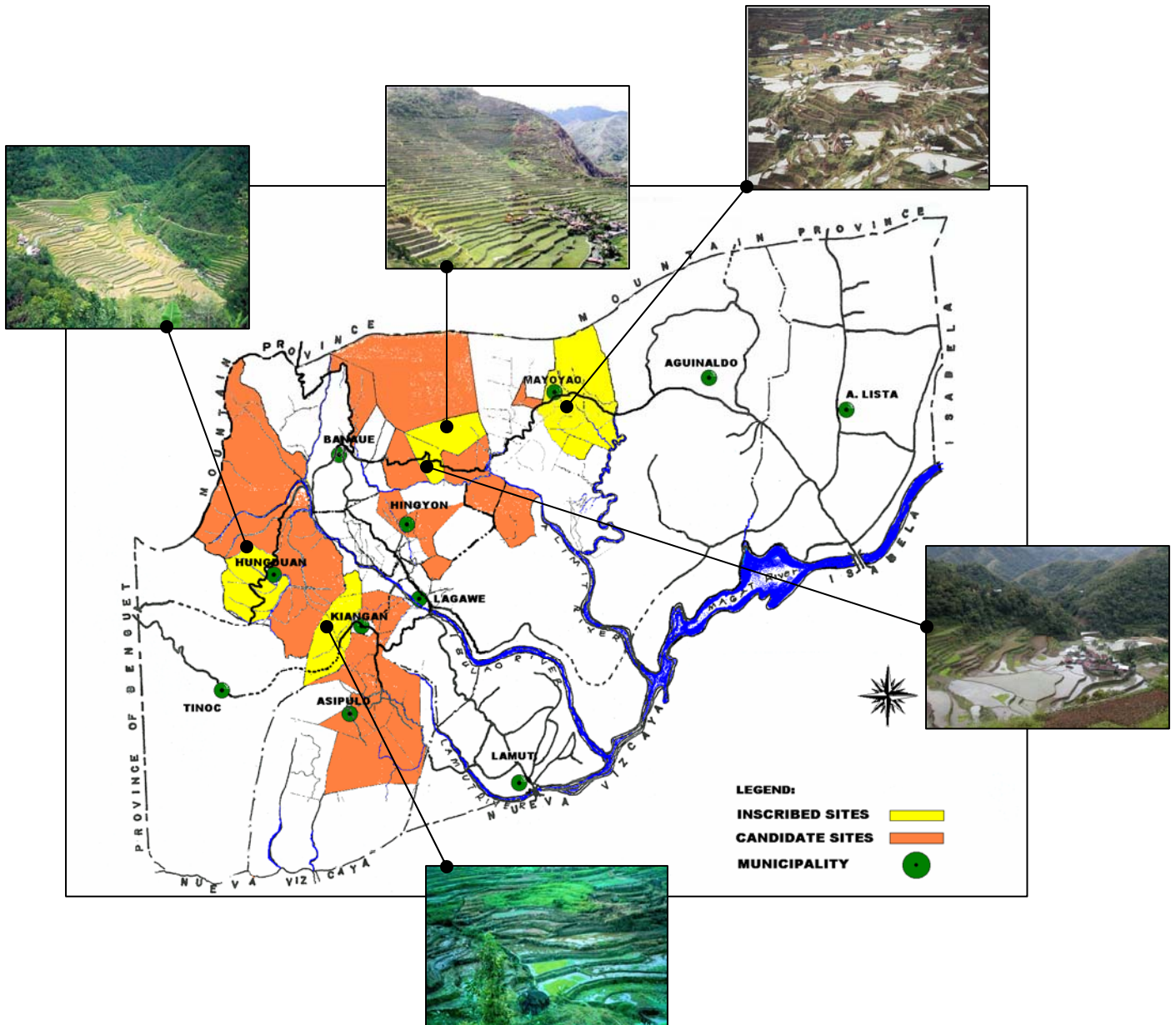
Maria Antoinette N. Reyes*
Development Management Officer II
UNESCO
Department of Foreign Affairs Bldg.
2330 Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City 1300
Philippines

Esther Nalliw-Ucnachan*
Board Member
SITMO

Annex 6 Maps showing the distribution of Rice Terraces cluster sites in Ifugao Province



Map 1: WHC annotation map showing the distribution of Rice Terraces in four municipalities, Kiangnan, Hungduan, Banaue and Mayoyao. Two cluster sites, Banaan and Battad are located in Banaue.



Map 2: Annotated map showing five inscribed World Heritage cluster sites in Ifugao Province