

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Patrimonito takes a stand in a changing global environment

Project Description

Title	WHV – Young Guardian in Action Project Long and Middle Term Volunteering
Site	Borobudur Temple Compounds
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991
Project location	Borobudur sub region, Regency of Magelang, Province of Central Java, Indonesia.
Project dates	01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
Site description	The Borobudur Temple Compounds is one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world, and was built in the 8th and 9th centuries AD during the reign of the Syailendra Dynasty. The monument is located in the Kedu Valley, in the southern part of Central Java, at the centre of the island of Java, Indonesia. The main temple is a stupa built in three tiers around a hill which was a natural centre: a pyramidal base with five concentric square terraces, the trunk of a cone with three circular platforms and, at the top, a monumental stupa. The walls and balustrades are decorated with fine low reliefs, covering a total surface area of 2,520 m ² . Around the circular platforms are 72 openwork stupas, each containing a statue of the Buddha. The vertical division of Borobudur Temple into base, body, and superstructure perfectly accords with the conception of the Universe in Buddhist cosmology.
Project objectives	The Young Guardians in Action initiative was launched in 2009 to contribute to the sustainability of the short-term World Heritage Volunteers projects running at the Borobudur Temple Compounds site, aiming at sustaining the awareness and involvement of the local youth in area through year-long activities. The presence of a stable group of Young Guardians also aims at strengthening the cooperation among local stakeholders and at linking up with other local youth organizations in Borobudur to expand cooperative actions and maximize impact of heritage-related youth activities.
Project activities	After an introductory training which includes sessions with the Young Guardians Club members, peer orientation from local volunteers and workshops run by Borobudur conservation office, the long term volunteers will be in charge of organizing weekly World Heritage Education activities at the different schools around the Temple Compound and at Borobudur site itself. Hands-on activities at the temple will also be implemented every month in cooperation with the Young Guardians, with the volunteers being fully contributing to the monitoring of the activities at the site with the Borobudur Conservation office and IIWC coordinators. Volunteers will then prepare detailed reports about the actions realized, to be largely diffused to promote World Heritage awareness and youth involvement, and will also support the community in the income-generating activities related to the locally produced jams, potteries and snacks.
Organisation	Indonesia International Work Camp (IIWC)
Partners	Directorate General of Historical Remains of Indonesia, Borobudur Conservation Office, PT. Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, Office of Education and Culture Dept. Magelang Region, The Young Guardian Club and IIWC Community Borobudur, UNESCO Gallery.
Contact	Mr. Ben Pramudya imtv.iwcindonesia@gmail.com

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Borobudur Workcamp
Site	Borobudur Temple Compounds
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991
Project location	Borobudur Village, Regency of Magelang, Province of Central Java, Indonesia
Project dates	27 august 2015 to 09 September 2015
Site description	<p>The Borobudur Temple Compounds is one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world, and was built in the 8th and 9th centuries AD during the reign of the Syailendra Dynasty. The monument is located in the Kedu Valley, in the southern part of Central Java, at the centre of the island of Java, Indonesia. The main temple is a stupa built in three tiers around a hill which was a natural centre: a pyramidal base with five concentric square terraces, the trunk of a cone with three circular platforms and, at the top, a monumental stupa. The walls and balustrades are decorated with fine low reliefs, covering a total surface area of 2,520 m². Around the circular platforms are 72 openwork stupas, each containing a statue of the Buddha. The vertical division of Borobudur Temple into base, body, and superstructure perfectly accords with the conception of the Universe in Buddhist cosmology.</p>
Project objectives	<p>The project aims at providing targeted training for the 7th batch of the Young Guardians Club (YGC) Borobudur, building the capacities of local senior high school students that will act as multipliers for World Heritage Education in the communities surrounding the site. Creating promotional and educational tools and materials for public awareness campaigns is also a specific objective of the camp, which will contribute to strengthening the cooperation among all stakeholders and the site management, and promoting youth volunteer as an agent of change.</p>
Project activities	<p>The national and international volunteers will run workshops to train the local youth on different heritage-related issues: preparing presentations about World Heritage sites in Indonesia and their own countries, introducing the values of World Heritage and of International Voluntary Service, and providing field orientation at the Borobudur Temple Compounds, including a thorough introduction of the ongoing annual preservation projects and campaigns from Borobudur conservation office, and targeted visits to local communities around the inscribed area. The volunteers will help select and guide the formation and team building of the new Young Guardians Club membership, creating and adapting non-formal education tools, methods and contents that will be later used by the club's youth to promote local World Heritage initiatives.</p>
Organisation	Indonesia International Work Camp (IIWC)
Partners	Directorate General of Historical Remains and Museum of Indonesia, Borobudur Conservation Office, PT. Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, Youth Desk of the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Gallery, Local Government of Magelang Region, The Young Guardian Club Borobudur 2014/2015, Local Guide Association of Borobudur
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Project Description

Title	WHV – Dong Building Technology
Site	Dong Villages
Status	Site on the Tentative List in 2013
Project location	Hengling Village and Gaobu Village, Tongdao County, Hunan Province, China
Project dates	04 August 2015 to 18 August 2015
Site description	The nominated Dong Villages were located in southwest China. Residing close to the water is the most important settlement pattern of Dong Villages, and the houses are distributed on mountain slopes along rivers. The drum tower and Sasui (famous heroine of Dong Nationality) altar are the most important basic elements of a Dong village. The multi-storey drum tower, the symbol of a Dong village, is usually built in the flat or high grounds of the village center. A square is built in front of the drum tower, and provides a venue for the entire village to come together for meetings, festival celebrations, and other public activities. The typical residences of Dong people are called “Diaojiaolou”, stilt houses built with Chinese fir wood and consisting of three or four floors. They feature a wood column-tie structure, and a tiled roof, and are surrounded by corridors and railings. In some regions, the corridors and the eaves are respectively connected between houses.
Project objectives	The construction handcraft technology of Dong minority is an indispensable part of the cultural landscape of the Dong Villages, and the Dong public building system and dwelling houses are also the carrier of the local spiritual and cultural life. The architectural and construction handcraft skills of the Dong minority are today in danger, and the project aims at making the Dong building technologies better documented and understood both by the local population and a wider public, in order to conserve and renew among the new generation the knowledge and skills needed for their preservation.
Project activities	The volunteers will be firstly introduced to the culture of the Dong villages of Hengling and Gaobu, gaining in particular a better understanding of their traditional building types and structures. After gaining some specific knowledge about the Dong building technologies, the volunteers will handcraft a set of Ruyi Dougong, a traditional component supporting the roof of Dong buildings, under the guidance of the local Moshi, the architects of the Dong people. In order to help preserving the traditional techniques, volunteers will then record and translate the draft plans designed by the Moshi, drawing the correspondent electronic graphics (CAD), and will also recording and translate the speeches and stories of the Moshi so to preserve a Chinese and an English version.
Organisation	Beijing Tsinghua Tongheng Urban Planning & Design Institute, Institute for Historic and Cultural Cities of National Importance (IHCCNI)
Partners	Tsinghua University, local authorities, Moshi architects and community from the Dong Villages.
Contact	Mr. Xiaobin Zhang bean_zhang@126.com

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Great Wall
Site	The Great Wall
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987
Project location	Hebei province, Beijing, China
Project dates	13 July 2015 to 24 July 2015
Site description	<p>The Great Wall was continuously built from the 3rd century BC to the 17th century AD on the northern border of the country as the great military defence project of successive Chinese Empires, with a total length of more than 20,000 kilometers. The Great Wall begins in the east at Shanhaiguan in Hebei province and ends at Jiayuguan in Gansu province to the west. Its main body consists of walls, horse tracks, watch towers, and shelters on the wall, and includes fortresses and passes along the Wall.</p> <p>The Great Wall reflects collision and exchanges between agricultural civilizations and nomadic civilizations in ancient China. It provides significant physical evidence of the far-sighted political strategic thinking and mighty military and national defence forces of central empires in ancient China, and is an outstanding example of the superb military architecture, technology and art of ancient China. It embodies unparalleled significance as the national symbol for safeguarding the security of the country and its people.</p>
Project objectives	<p>The Great Wall is the symbol of China and its culture diversity, but with the rising number of visitors the conservation and protection of the site require growing attention, with some parts of the wall having been damaged. The project also aims to raise awareness about the site among the visitors and the local residents. Using non-formal education tools to stimulate the participation of the young generations, the project will aim at promoting the importance of WH conservation, preservation and protection, also promoting the integration of empowered youth and communities as active stakeholders in the site management.</p>
Project activities	<p>The volunteers will survey and map the Jinshanling section of the Great Wall to provide a faithful representation of its original function for military purposes. The volunteers will also run some renovation work in the local community around the Great Wall, to promote a harmonious relation between the World Heritage site and the community itself. They will also conduct educational work at the school campus, in order to share with the students their knowledge of World Heritage conservation, and encourage the local teenagers to join in the volunteer work for World Heritage preservation and sustainable development. Furthermore, the volunteers will try to act as messengers to increase the understanding of the value of this WH site.</p>
Organisation	The Chinese Society of Education
Partners	Great Wall Jinshanling Management office, Changchengxiaoqian Organization, Bakeshiying Central School, Bagezhuang Village, Miyun District.
Contact	Ms. Irene Liu yr_liu@csetc.com.cn

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Hampi
Site	Group of Monuments at Hampi
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986
Project location	Hampi Town, Hospet District, Karnataka, India
Project dates	06 July 2015 to 19 July 2015
Site description	Hampi was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar. Its fabulously rich princes built Dravidian temples and palaces which won the admiration of travellers between the 14th and 16th centuries. Hampi's spectacular setting is dominated by river Tungabhadra, craggy hill ranges and open plains, with widespread physical remains. The sophistication of the varied urban, royal and sacred systems is evident from the more than 1600 surviving remains that include forts, riverside features, royal and sacred complexes, temples, shrines, pillared halls, Mandapas, memorial structures, gateways, defence check posts, stables, water structures.
Project objectives	The project aims at involving the local community and national and international volunteers in activities that promote awareness to preserve the heritage monuments at the world heritage site. Targeting long-term commitment and participation, the principal objective of the action is to develop local "Young Guardian clubs" based on the World Heritage Volunteers project started in 2009 in Borobudur. The improvement of the environmental conditions and bio-diversity at the site, as well as the implementation of a Heritage conservation awareness raising campaign toward visitors and the local population, are additional objectives of the project.
Project activities	The activities will follow-up the previously initiated activities by local youth, supporting them on establishing the annual planning of activities for the future "Young Guardians" and running capacity building workshops. Hands-on activities implemented by the volunteers will consist in the plantation of indigenous trees for shade, as well as clean-up activities with the young guardians, at what is one of the most extended areas inscribed on the World Heritage list. Street plays based on the Forum Theatre approach and an Awareness Walk will contribute to sensitise the local community, and the results of the camp will be presented to the tourist guide association in order to support them improving interpretation methods strategies. To prepare potential future activities and collect and share local needs, a preliminary survey of the state of pollution and waste management strategies at the site will also take place during the youth action camp, with a public presentation of its results.
Organisation	FSL – India (Field Services and Intercultural Learning)
Partners	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI -Hampi circle), Friends of Hampi, Indian National Trust for Art, Culture and Heritage (INTACH).
Contact	Mr. Rakesh Soans rakeshsoans@fsl-india.org

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Mahabalipuram
Site	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984
Project location	Mahabalipuram town, Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu State, India
Project dates	17 August 2015 to 30 August 2015
Site description	The group of sanctuaries, founded by the Pallava kings, was carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries. It is known especially for its rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air reliefs such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva. Most of the monuments, like the rock-cut rathas, sculptured scenes on open rocks like Arjuna's penance, the caves of Govardhanadhari and Ahishasuramardini, and the Jala-Sayana Perumal temple (the sleeping Mahavishnu or Chakrin at the rear part of the Shore temple complex) are attributed to the period of Narasimhavarman I Mamalla.
Project objectives	The project aims at involving the local community and national and international volunteers in activities that promote awareness to preserve the heritage monuments at the world heritage site. Targeting long-term commitment and participation, the principal objective of the action is to develop local "Young Guardian clubs", on the example of what done at the site of Borobudur in Indonesia since 2009. The improvement of the environmental conditions and bio-diversity at the site, as well as the implementation of a Heritage conservation awareness raising campaign toward visitors and the local population, are additional objectives of the project.
Project activities	The activities will follow-up the previously initiated activities by local youth, supporting them on establishing the yearly planning of activities for the future "Young Guardians" and running capacity building workshops. Hands-on activities implemented by the volunteers will consist in the plantation of indigenous casuarina trees abutting the groyne wall to prevent salt laden sea breeze from affecting the monument, as well as clean-up activities with the young guardians, at what is one of the most extended areas inscribed on the World Heritage list. Street plays based on the Forum Theatre approach and an Awareness Walk will contribute to sensitise the local community, and the results of the youth action camp will be presented to the tourist guide association in order to support them improving and innovating conservation strategies. To prepare potential future activities and collect and share local needs, a preliminary survey of the state of pollution and waste management strategies at the site will also take place during the camp, with a public presentation of its results.
Organisation	Field Services and Intercultural Learning (FSL)
Partners	The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI – Kanchipuram circle), The Coastal Poor Development Action Network (COPDANET).
Contact	Mr. Rakesh Soans rakeshsoans@fsl-india.org

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Project Description

Title	WHV – The Feast of Na-Tcha in the Historic Centre of Macao
Site	Historic Centre of Macao
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005
Project location	Macao Special Administration Region(SAR), China
Project dates	27 June 2015 to 06 July 2015
Site description	Macao, a lucrative port of strategic importance in the development of international trade, was under Portuguese administration from the mid-16th century until 1999, when it came under Chinese sovereignty. With its historic street, residential, religious and public Portuguese and Chinese buildings, the historic centre of Macao provides a unique testimony to the meeting of aesthetic, cultural, architectural and technological influences from East and West. The site also contains a fortress and a lighthouse, the oldest in China. It bears witness to one of the earliest and longest-lasting encounters between China and the West, based on the vibrancy of international trade.
Project objectives	The project aims at promoting the image of Macao as a city that embraces different cultures in harmony, with a unique richness and diversity of heritages to be unveiled that goes well beyond the popular picture of a 'gambling city'. By supporting one of the most important cultural festivals deeply rooted in the city's cultural histories and stories, the project's awareness-raising program aims at promoting a better understanding and preservation of Macao's Outstanding Universal Value as a city that "favoured an important interchange of human values in the various fields of culture, sciences, technology, art and architecture over several centuries", an impact that can be "traced in the fusion of different cultures that characterise the historic core zone" where the Feast takes place.
Project activities	The volunteers will support the logistic preparation of the parade for the Feast of Na-Tcha, originating at one of the properties inscribed as part of Macao World Heritage. In addition to the practical work needed to organise the event, and in cooperation with the Macao Heritage Ambassadors Association include, lectures on World Heritage and Macao Heritage will provide the volunteers the necessary knowledge background to prepare World Heritage guided tour itineraries to be proposed to the tourists and locals taking part in the Feast of Na-Tcha, and further awareness-raising events will be run using non-formal education tools developed by the volunteers themselves during the workshops at the Youth Action Camp.
Organisation	Macao New Chinese Youth Association (MNCYA)
Partners	Association of Macao Chi San Na-Tcha Temple, Macao Heritage ambassadors Association, Macao Foundation, DESJ Macao.
Contact	Ms. Lei Un I (Vicky) mymacau@macau.ctm.net

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Sustainable tourism in Triem Tay eco-village
Site	Hoi An Ancient Town
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999
Project location	Triem Tay village, Dien Ban district, Quang Nam province
Project dates	16 June 2015 to 27 June 2015
Site description	Hoi An Ancient Town is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a South-East Asian trading port dating from the 15th to the 19th century. Its buildings and its street plan reflect the influences, both indigenous and foreign, that have combined to produce this unique heritage site. Hoi An Ancient town is located in Viet Nam's central Quang Nam Province, on the north bank near the mouth of the Thu Bon River. Its decline in the later 19th century ensured that it has retained its traditional urban tissue to a remarkable degree. The town reflects a fusion of indigenous and foreign cultures that combined to produce this unique survival.
Project objectives	The project aims at supporting alternative solutions solution for protecting the World Heritage site while still maintaining the economic benefits that tourism brings to the province, in particular by helping the development of the "Develop tourism in Triem Tay eco-village" initiative, launched by UNESCO and ILO together with the Dien Ban culture center in order to promote sustainable tourism in the communities in the buffer zone of Hoi An World Heritage site.
Project activities	On one side the project will implement practical work clean up the village, cutting trees of invasive species and planting indigenous trees creating a green nature-road to the village. On the other side the national and international volunteers will support the training of the local villagers for developing their know-how in order to provide home-stay services, living with the local families during 2 weeks and keeping a daily diary with remarks and suggestions for improvement. Later during the year national volunteers will further promote the project by running awareness-raising activities at Vietnamese universities, organizing a young travelers' forum and press releases. During the youth action camp a targeted workshop will also be organized in order to discuss and promote youth involvement in the development of a master plan for the conservation, restoration and promotion of Triem Tay area.
Organisation	SJ Vietnam
Partners	UNESCO Office in Ha Noi, ILO Country Office, People's committee of Quang Nam province, Yxine Media, National Universities.
Contact	Cao Huyen Dieu Huong - in@sjvietnam.org

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Jeju
Site	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes
Status	Natural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007
Project location	Gimnyeong-ri, Gujwa-eup, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, Republic of Korea
Project dates	11 July 2015 to 20 July 2015
Site description	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes is a coherent serial property comprising three components. The unequalled quality of the Geomunoreum lava tube system and the exhibition of diverse and accessible volcanic features in the other two components demonstrate a distinctive and important contribution to the understanding of global volcanism. It includes Geomunoreum, regarded as the finest lava tube system of caves anywhere, with its multicoloured carbonate roofs and floors, and dark-coloured lava walls; the fortress-like Seongsan Ilchulbong tuff cone, rising out of the ocean, a dramatic landscape; and Mount Halla, the highest in Korea, with its waterfalls, multi-shaped rock formations, and lake-filled crater. The site, of outstanding aesthetic beauty, also bears testimony to the history of the planet, its features and processes.
Project objectives	The project aims to promote active participation and diffuse the value of World Heritage in Korea, targeting in particular the role of youth. A great attention is put by the organisation in order to achieve through the project wider awareness about the need of World Heritage preservation, and its key values and crucial role for sustainability, towards the local and young people.
Project activities	The main hands-on activity planned with the local host is the renovation of the traditional stone wall (Batdam), well recognized, unique cultural landscape of Jeju Island created to adapt to the geological nature of the volcanic island that makes it a World Heritage site. The project takes place in one of the core zones for the protection of Jeju Batdam, “meeting the guidelines for World Natural Heritage [...] as a public land where eco-friendly farming methods are practiced under the Land Management Schemes” that regulate the World Heritage area. In addition, the volunteers will collect seaweed coming from the ocean on the nearby beach, also discussing with the locals – who do not frequent the area because of the nuisance of the high amounts of seaweed present – about its importance in preventing soil erosion and safeguarding the local ecosystem. Daily presentations at the local elementary school, with Korean and international volunteers introducing World Heritage sites from different countries, will be organised to raise awareness among the local population, with a one-day public event to take place in front of Jeju City Hall, using non-formal education tools such as World Heritage quiz, collecting symbolic fingerprints signatures for heritage protection, interviewing Korean and foreign tourists.
Organisation	International Workcamp Organization (IWO)
Partners	Global Inner Peace NGO
Contact	Ms. Hana Lee korea@workcamp.org

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Kathmandu Then and Now
Site	Kathmandu Valley
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979
Project location	Kathmandu Valley, Nepal
Project dates	1 September 2015 to 10 September 2015
Site description	Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property is inscribed as seven Monument Zones. As Buddhism and Hinduism developed and changed over the centuries throughout Asia, both religions prospered in Nepal and produced a powerful artistic and architectural fusion beginning at least from the 5th century AD, but truly coming into its own in the three hundred year period between 1500 and 1800 AD. These monuments were defined by the outstanding cultural traditions of the Newars, manifested in their unique urban settlements, buildings and structures with intricate ornamentation displaying outstanding craftsmanship in brick, stone, timber and bronze that are some of the most highly developed in the world.
Project objectives	The project aims at transmitting different knowledge aspects about cultural heritage to the younger generations, in order to preserve its value and further promote its importance among youth, and enable young people to become active citizens aware of their identity and heritage and participating in its conservation. School students from Kathmandu Valley are the main target group for the activities, with a special focus on the participation in, and understanding of, best practices in Kathmandu's Heritage preservation, and the wide promotion of World Heritage through a "Kathmandu Then and Now" exhibition.
Project activities	The national and international volunteers will work together with school students in order to clean Kabindrapur and Kasthamandap monuments in Kathmandu Durbar Square. The "Kathmandu Then and Now" awareness activities, collecting pictures and gathering information about the heritage in Kathmandu Valley, will promote World Heritage awareness among the local youth, and the volunteers will be involved in the School Heritage Awareness Program and a Heritage Walk guiding school students from the valley to discover the nearby World Heritage Monument Zone. The pictures and information collected about heritage in Kathmandu Valley will be awarded and exhibited publicly in one of the inscribed monument areas, along with the art, slogans and poems from the "Kathmandu Then and Now" competition.
Organisation	SamYuBaa Network, Heritage UNESCO Centre Nepal
Partners	Building and Heritage Division, Kathmandu Metropolitan City
Contact	MS. Sanima Thapa thapa.sanima@gmail.com

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Renovation, painting and decoration in Cultural Heritage
Site	Kathmandu Valley
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979
Project location	Kathmandu Valley, Nepal
Project dates	30 October 2015 to 9 November 2015
Site description	Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property is inscribed as seven Monument Zones. As Buddhism and Hinduism developed and changed over the centuries throughout Asia, both religions prospered in Nepal and produced a powerful artistic and architectural fusion beginning at least from the 5th century AD, but truly coming into its own in the three-hundred-year-period between 1500 and 1800 AD. These monuments were defined as the outstanding cultural traditions of the Newars, manifested in their unique urban settlements, buildings and structures with intricate ornamentation displaying outstanding craftsmanship in brick, stone, timber and bronze that are some of the most highly developed in the world.
Project objectives	Throughout its history Swayambhu monument has endured acts of vandalism, and has also been damaged as a result of earthquakes in the past. It is a high traffic place exposed to tourists visits without sufficient protection. The project aims at renovating the most damaged parts of the inscribed monument, and at making the zone more visitor-friendly while ensuring further protection to its built heritage. It also targets increased awareness among young people, volunteers, local communities, visitors and concerned authorities about the need to protect and promote World Heritage.
Project activities	Based on the need to respect the site's authenticity, the hands-on activities will mostly consist of painting and small renovation work in accordance with the original features of the monument, targeting the most damaged area of Swayambhu in an effort to preserve its originality. A one-day cleaning campaign of the area surrounding the monument will then involve local youth, community, management committee and government authority, and an additional awareness campaign will allow the installation of new information and message boards to complement the hands-on activities and further promote the importance of preserving World Heritage.
Organisation	Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN)
Partners	Swoyambhunath Conservation Committee, Nepal Government Department of Archaeology
Contact	Dr Laxmi Prasad Ghimire info@volunteeringnepal.org

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Mahabodhi Temple Bodh gaya- The seat of enlightenment
Site	Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2002
Project location	Mahabodhi Temple complex, Bodhgaya, District Gaya, Bihar, India
Project dates	08 November 2015 to 22 November 2015
Site description	<p>The Mahabodhi Temple Complex is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment. The first temple was built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th or 6th centuries. It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely in brick, still standing in India, from the late Gupta period. It is also a unique property of archaeological significance in respect of the events associated with the time Lord Buddha spent there, as well as documenting the evolving worship, particularly since the 3rd century, when Emperor Asoka built the first temple, the balustrades and the memorial column and the subsequent evolution of the ancient city with the building of sanctuaries and monasteries by foreign kings over the centuries.</p>
Project objectives	<p>The project aims at creating an effective platform to showcase the rich cultural heritage of India and motivate young people to "identify those areas of tradition and heritage in rural and tribal India whose value in historical, cultural, spiritual or economic terms is intrinsic to the identity of the residents of those areas and whose preservation and conservation can play a substantial role in enhancing the quality of life". It targets to raise youth awareness of the power of meditation and its importance for the history and value of the site, and to provide opportunities for the local community and the visiting youth to interact with each other in order to protect, conserve and develop the World Heritage sites preserving and promoting their value as living heritage.</p>
Project activities	<p>The volunteers will initially discover through Vriksha Shiksha (Tree education) the physical and cultural character of the trees within the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, understand their importance and significance for the World Heritage site Outstanding Universal Value, and develop skills in collating and correlating information on heritage-related issues. A second set of hands-on training activities at the archaeological site at Telhara (about 50 km from Bodhgaya) will introduce the participating youth to the art of excavation, preservation and documentation of ancient sites, and the visits to the museums at Patna, Bodhgaya, Nalanda will give the volunteers specific knowledge about the preservation and display of ancient relics and on the basic concepts of museology. The volunteers will then actively run workshops, quiz, photography contests, essay competitions involving the local youth and children, raising awareness in the local community about the values and importance of Mahabodhi Temple Complex and introducing other World Heritage sites from their regions.</p>
Organisation	Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development (ITRHD)
Partners	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI – Patna Circle), Mahabodhi Temple Management Committee, Gaya district administration, Department of Art, Culture and Youth Affairs of the Government of Bihar.
Contact	Ms. Saudamini Gupta saudaminigupta94@gmail.com

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Project Description

Title	WHV –Maintain the Safety of Tourists at Mount Sanqingshan National Park
Site	Mount Sanqingshan National Park
Status	Natural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2008
Project location	Mount Sanqingshan National Park, Jiangxi Province, China
Project dates	20 July 2015 to 07 August 2015
Site description	Mount Sanqingshan National Park, a 22,950 ha property located in the west of the Huyaiyu mountain range in the northeast of Jiangxi Province (in the east of central China) has been inscribed for its exceptional scenic quality, marked by the concentration of fantastically shaped pillars and peaks: 48 granite peaks and 89 granite pillars, many of which resemble human or animal silhouettes. The natural beauty of the 1,817 metre high Mount Huaiyu is further enhanced by the juxtaposition of granite features with the vegetation and particular meteorological conditions which make for an ever-changing and arresting landscape with bright halos on clouds and white rainbows. The area is subject to a combination of subtropical monsoonal and maritime influences and forms an island of temperate forest above the surrounding subtropical landscape. It also features forests and numerous waterfalls, some of them 60 metres in height, lakes and springs.
Project objectives	The project aims at improving the safety conditions for the tourists at the national park, while also promoting a good balance between the growing number of visitors and the respect of the natural environment of the site, which is especially challenged during the peak season by the massive affluence of tourists.
Project activities	The volunteers will cooperate with the site management in order to provide a safer environment during their visit, securing and repairing paths and sign boards and also cleaning different areas of the park while promoting public awareness about its biodiversity and sustainability. The volunteers will also translate the park signboards into different languages, and will conduct educational work at the local middle school in order to share with the students their knowledge of World Heritage conservation, and encourage the local youth to join in the volunteer work for World Heritage preservation and sustainable development.
Organisation	The Chinese Society of Education
Partners	Mount Sanqingshan National Park management office, UNESCO Beijing Office, LLYX Culture Exchange Center, Linchuan No. 1 Middle School
Contact	Ms. Irene Liu yr_liu@csetc.com.cn

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Project Description

Title	WHV – Seongnam
Site	Namhansanseong
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014
Project location	Sanseong-ri, Jungbu-myeon, Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea
Project dates	27 July 2015 to 05 August 2015
Site description	Namhansanseong was designed as an emergency capital for the Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), in a mountainous site 25 km south-east of Seoul. Built and defended by Buddhist monk-soldiers, it could accommodate 4,000 people and fulfilled important administrative and military functions. Its earliest remains date from the 7th century, but it was rebuilt several times, notably in the early 17th century in anticipation of an attack from the Sino-Manchu Qing dynasty. The city embodies a synthesis of the defensive military engineering concepts of the period, based on Chinese and Japanese influences, and changes in the art of fortification following the introduction from the West of weapons using gunpowder. A city that has always been inhabited, and which was the provincial capital over a long period, it contains evidence of a variety of military, civil and religious buildings and has become a symbol of Korean sovereignty.
Project objectives	The project aims to promote active participation and diffuse the value of World Heritage in Korea, targeting in particular the role of youth through the project which is wider awareness about the need of World Heritage preservation. Its key values and crucial role for sustainability, towards the local and young people. The organization will also provide an opportunity for intercultural learning to the local youth through World Heritage education and exchanges.
Project activities	Manual work will be performed to collect garbage around the World Heritage inscribed areas in Seongnam, and in particular in the zones heavily affected by the presence of restaurants and bars which see massive afflux of tourists, with a strong impact on the environment of the site. A World Heritage Youth action camp will also be organised, composed of two principal activities: on one side a dedicated World Heritage Youth forum will involve youngsters from the three youth centers installed in the Seongnam area, with presentations and discussions on World Heritage key concepts and values, and the introduction of other World Heritage sites by the Korean and international volunteers. On the other side, a public awareness campaign will take place over two days at a very famous restaurants area within the World Heritage site zone, using non-formal education tools such as World Heritage quiz, collecting symbolic fingerprints signatures for heritage protection, interviewing Korean and foreign tourists.
Organisation	International Workcamp Organization (IWO)
Partners	Eunhaeng-dong Youth Culture Center, Seongnam city youth foundation
Contact	Ms. Hana Lee korea@workcamp.org

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Patrimonito takes a stand in a changing global environment

Project Description

Title	WHV – Prambanan Temple Compunds
Site	Prambanan Temple Compunds
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991
Project location	Prambanan Sub-district, Klaten Regency, Central Java, Indonesia
Project dates	22 August 2015 to 29 August 2015
Site description	<p>Built in the 10th century, it is the largest temple compound dedicated to Shiva in Indonesia. Rising above the centre of the last of these concentric squares are three temples decorated with reliefs illustrating the epic of the Ramayana, dedicated to the three great Hindu divinities (Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma) and three temples dedicated to the animals who serve them. While Loro Jonggrang, dating from the 9th century, is a brilliant example of Hindu religious bas-reliefs, Sewu, with its four pairs of Dwarapala giant statues, is Indonesia's largest Buddhist complex including the temples of Lumbung, Bubrah and Asu (Gana temple). The Hindu temples are decorated with reliefs illustrating the Indonesian version of the Ramayana epic which are masterpieces of stone carvings. These are surrounded by hundreds of shrines that have been arranged in three parts showing high levels of stone building technology and architecture from the 8th century AD in Java. With over 500 temples, Prambanan Temple Compunds represents not only an architectural and cultural treasure, but also a standing proof of past religious peaceful cohabitation.</p>
Project objectives	<p>Dejavato will conduct the project with a major focus on restoration, an important step to rebuild the temple and reveal its history. Additional supporting activities such as teaching and a heritage competition will help reaching the overall objectives of: introducing to the history of temple and its legends; advancing the restoration process; promoting heritage education; raising awareness among the local and international volunteers and communities and promoting cultural exchange.</p>
Project activities	<p>The project will start with an orientation about the history and legends of the temple given by the site managers. The volunteers will then fully participate in the preservation and conservation manual and technical activities at the temple together with the expert archaeologists in charge of the restoration. The volunteers will then conduct the educational activities on the theme of heritage targeting the students at the school nearby the site, with also a heritage event organised with photo contest, art, drama and storytelling inspired by the present life of the temple.</p>
Organisation	Dejavato Foundation
Partners	Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Indonesia, Central Java Archeological Site Management, World Heritage Centre Jakarta, Bugisan Elementary and Junior High School.
Contact	<p>Mr. Sigit Raharjo stv@dejavato.or.id</p>

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Patrimonito takes a stand in a changing global environment

Project Description

Title	WHV – Youth at the Terraces
Site	Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras, Philippines
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995
Project location	Nagacadan Rice Terraces, Brgy. Nagacadan, Kiangnan, Ifugao, Philippines
Project dates	15 May 2015 to 30 August 2016
Site description	The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is an outstanding example of an evolved, living cultural landscape that can be traced as far back as two millennia ago in the pre-colonial Philippines. The terraces are located in the remote areas of the Philippine Cordillera mountain range on the northern island of Luzon, Philippine archipelago. While the historic terraces cover an extensive area, the inscribed property consists of five clusters of the most intact and impressive terraces, located in four municipalities. They are all the product of the Ifugao ethnic group, a minority community that has occupied these mountains for thousands of years.
Project objectives	The project aims to increase resilience of the terrace walls from the impacts of climate change and raise awareness of native flora and fauna and the relevance to the ecosystem and preservation of the Rice Terraces. YSD would highlight the role of youth by increasing the capacity of young people to contribute directly to the conservation of heritage sites. Lastly, the project enhances the link among local community, site managers, youth and the other stake holders.
Project activities	Twenty local and international volunteers will work with the site authorities and the local government to conduct a physical and socioeconomic market survey at the site of the Nagacadan Rice Terraces in order to provide with baseline on biodiversity conservation techniques. The volunteers will participate in rehabilitation work of rice terraces and eco-trail and construct the Materials Recovery Facility for enhanced waste segregation. The volunteers will also conduct various civil service activities ranging from improving tourism publicity to assisting the Tourism Office for the other tourist relations/publicity activities; conducting computer and English language literacy seminars for elder people, mothers, and children; mobilizing local youth to monitor Rice Terraces regularly and to maintain the rehabilitation work of it; conducting the final impact assessment. A series of dialogues/short forums on promotion volunteering at the World Heritage sites will be organized in the universities in Manila for students, government, private sectors and site managers.
Organisation	Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly (YSDA)
Partners	Municipal Government of Kiangnan, Barangay of Nagacadan, UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines.
Contact	Mr. Rior Santos rnsantos@ysda.net

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Patrimonito takes a stand in a changing global environment

Project Description

Title	WHV – Shirakami 1
Site	Shirakami-Sanchi
Status	Natural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993
Project location	Ajigasawa-machi, Aomori prefecture, Japan
Project dates	25 June 2015 to 6 July 2015
Site description	Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Property is a wilderness area covering one third of Shirakami mountain range with the largest remaining virgin beech forest in East Asia. It is the remnant of the cool-temperate beech forests that have covered the hills and mountain slopes of northern Japan since eight to twelve thousand years ago. Thought to have originated from circumpolar vegetation prior to the Last Glacial Stage, beech forests shifted their distribution from the circumpolar region to the south in the Last Glacial Stage, but in many places mountainous areas stretching east to west blocked the shifts and the vegetation became simplified. However, in Japan, the vegetation retreated to southern Japan maintaining the original diversity of the circumpolar region and re-colonized after the most recent glacial stage.
Project objectives	In the last years the villages around Shirakami Mountains have faced depopulation and aging: the organization aims at further promoting the value of World Heritage in Japan, thereby involving more people in the actual conservation activities at the natural site and support at the same time local revitalization.
Project activities	The activities planned in cooperation with the Shirakami Mountains Preservation Society to preserve the natural environment of Shirakami Mountains include cutting the grass of invasive species to help preserve the ecological richness of the forest; preparing the seedlings of the beech trees nursery for transplantation, carrying the plants and tools; planting the seedlings of the beech trees and run two tree-planting ceremonies, one in Shirakami Mountains, and the other in the mountain behind Mutsu-bay. In addition and in order to further involve the local population around the forest area, volunteers will also help local farmers in their daily work. Study sessions about World Heritage will be organized after the manual work with the youth action camp members and locals, using the educational materials such as the World Heritage in Young Hands kit, and international volunteers will give public presentations about World Heritage in their own countries.
Organisation	Never-ending International workCamp Experience (NICE)
Partners	Shirakami Mountains Preservation Society
Contact	Ms. Anri Asai in@nice1.gr.jp

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Patrimonito takes a stand in a changing global environment

Project Description

Title	WHV – Muan
Site	Southwestern Coast Tidal Flats
Status	Site on the Tentative List in 2010
Project location	Muan Ecological Tidal Flat Centre, Muan-gun, Cheolla-Nam Do, Republic of Korea
Project dates	21 July 2015 to 03 August 2015
Site description	The Tidal Flats on the southwest coast of Korea are unique macrotidal flats where typical embayed tidal flats turn into open-coast tidal flats during the monsoons. They have no barrier islands like other tidal flats in the Yellow Sea. During winter, strong waves create sand flats, while in summer, the mud flats expand as tidal currents overpower the waves. The seasonal change is very clear along the coastlines. Although mud flats that develop in embayed tidal flats are found year-round in the area, monsoons transform the mud flats into sand flats, giving rise to open-coast sand flats on this site. During the course of the year, they shift from mud flats to mixed flats to sand flats. This distinctive feature of Korean tidal flats on the southwest coast has attracted global attention.
Project objectives	The tidal flats of Muan-gun are significant for salterns, fish production, purification of pollutants and flood control, and their preservation ensures the continuance of the region's ecological system, economy and local culture. As the area is currently on the Tentative List, the project aims at raising public awareness of environmental issues, contributing to an increased understanding about the need to conserve and protect the flat and about its significance and potential outstanding universal value as World Heritage. Bringing together international volunteers as an example of active participation in heritage preservation, the project also aims at promoting among the local community the concept and meaning of global citizenship.
Project activities	The activities will focus on the improvement of the volunteers' and local community's knowledge and awareness of the importance of the environment and its preservation. The volunteers and local children will visit the local tidal flat museum, to gain basic conservation skills through hands-on work such as rubbish collection and cleaning up the flat, identify and recognize the flat's peculiar flora and fauna, and share their ideas on how to better preserve the area. Under the guidance of an expert in the field of public design, the volunteers will realize a wall painting to promote the importance of the site among the local community, using motifs featuring some of the fauna and flora that live in the Muan tidal flat.
Organisation	Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU)
Partners	Eco Horizon Institute, Muan Provincial Government
Contact	Mr. Hyungyu Gim workcamp@unesco.or.kr

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Patrimonito takes a stand in a changing global environment

Project Description

Title	WHV – Enhance the Environment of Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu
Site	Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994
Project location	Qufu City, Shandong Province, China
Project dates	26 July 2015 to 07 August 2015
Site description	Confucius, a renowned philosopher, politician and educator in ancient China whose system of belief involving philosophy, politics and ethics (subsequently known as Confucianism) has exerted profound influence on Chinese culture, was revered as the Sacred Model Teacher for Ten Thousand Generations by Chinese emperors. Located in his birthplace, Qufu City of Shandong Province, China, the Temple of Confucius was built to commemorate and offer sacrifices to Confucius in 478 BC. Having been destroyed and reconstructed over the centuries, it now covers 14 hectares, with 104 buildings dating from the Jin to Qing dynasties including the Dacheng Hall, Kuiwen Pavilion and Xing Altar, and over 1,250 ancient trees. The Temple houses more than 1,000 stelae made at different times, and precious objects such as Han stone reliefs, carved pictures depicting the life of Confucius, and the stone dragon carvings of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Temple is the prototype and model for all the Confucius temples widely distributed in countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia, particularly in terms of layout and style.
Project objectives	As Confucius is the most famous thinker in the Chinese history, and has widely influenced the culture of different regions of the world, the project aims at raising awareness about the preservation of Confucius birthplace, targeting in particular the local residents, the school teenagers, and the numerous tourists visiting the site.
Project activities	The volunteers will perform manual work to improve the site's environment such as cutting the grass around the inscribed monuments and cleaning and painting some of the damaged parts. The volunteers will gain a hands-on experience of Chinese traditional lacquer, rubbing process and carving, and familiarize with the six arts representing Confucius teaching: Rites, Music, Archery, Charioteering, Calligraphy and Mathematics. They will also conduct educational work at the school campus, in order to share with the students their knowledge of World Heritage conservation, and encourage the local teenagers to join in the volunteer work for World Heritage preservation and sustainable development.
Organisation	The Chinese Society of Education
Partners	Qufu culture relics management office, Qufu Xingtian Middle School, LLYX Culture Exchange Center
Contact	Ms. Irene Liu yr_liu@csetc.com.cn