

WHV– Vajrayogini Conservation Project

Vajrayogini and early settlement of sankhu, Nepal

Site inscribed on the Tentative List since 2008

05/11/ 2016 – 17/11/2016



The Lichchhavi period (2nd to 9th Century AD) settlement of Sankhu lies on the northeastern corner of the Kathmandu Valley on the ancient trade route to Tibet. The traditional Newari settlement still retains its medieval character with narrow streets, public squares with in dispersed tiered temples and rest houses. The Vajrayogini temple complex constructed in the mid 17th Century is located on the flanks of the hills 1.5 km north of Sankhu. The main tiered temple dedicated to the tantric goddess Vajrayogini, is surrounded by several monuments and freestanding statues.

Project objectives: The earthquake that struck on 25 April 2015 had immense effect on Sankhu city, and Vajrayogini was no exception: the temple is marked unsafe and renovation needs to be urgently undertaken, while the temple and its surroundings are also threaten in this context by increasing amounts of garbage. The project aims at raising the awareness of the local community about the importance of Vajrayogini and its protection, with also the specific objectives of cleaning the area, run educational workshops on waste management, and support to experts in basic renovation activities and further promote through sign boards at the site the importance of the temple and the rules to be followed by visitors and locals alike.

Project activities: The volunteers will develop different education materials for awareness-raising in the community. They will create and place notice and information boards at the entrance of Vajrayogini temple for visitors and community members, and develop and run education workshops in the public surrounding areas. Volunteers will also be involved in clean up activities at the site area, collecting garbage and putting in place waste management procedures. The participants, who will be guided by the local authorities and experts in charge of the site, will also undertake simple painting and renovation activities at the temple.

Partners: UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, local conservation and management office, and Department of Archaeology and local youth organizations.

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