

# PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

## Format

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### SECTION 1 : APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATE PARTY

#### 1.1 Introduction

- a. State Party : People's Republic of Bangladesh (001)
- b. Year of ratification or acceptance of the Convention : 1983
- c. Organization (s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report : Department of Archaeology (003)  
22/1, Block-B, Babar Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.  
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- d. Date of the report : ----- 12.02 (004)
- e. Signature on behalf of State Party (005)  
Md. Dewan Delwar Hossain  
Director, Department of Archaeology.

#### 1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

- a. National inventories : For cultural properties :
- (1) Director, Department of Archaeology  
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Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. (006)  
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For natural properties :

- (ii) Ministry of Forest and Environment.  
(006)

So far the Department of Archaeology has protected 345 cultural properties under its Antiquities Act 1968 (Amended in 1976). Inventory of these protected sites has been prepared. The list is enclosed at Annexure-A

Declaration of cultural properties as protected sites is a routine work. The Department does it time to time on the basis of the inspection report of any new and unknown property. So the number of protected sites is gradually increasing. (007).

The Ministry of Forest & Environment have declared 14 sites as protected areas for wildlife and environment under bio-diversity conservation and development policy. (The list is enclosed at Annexure-B)

The inventories of the cultural heritage have been prepared on the national level (008).

The first inventory was compiled in 1975 while the second one has been prepared in 2002 which is now in the process of publication (009).

b. Tentative List

: Yes (010)

28.05.97 (011)

-No- (012)

Same organisations (013).  
As mentioned under question (003).

Director of the Department of Archaeology decides to prepare or revise the Tentative List in consultation with the senior officers of the department (014)

Yes (015)

Yes (016)

c. Nominations

: List of the properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage.

1. Mahasthan and its environs – ID No. C46. 28.05.97.
2. Lalmai-Mainamati group of monuments, Comilla ID No. C 467 28.05.97 (017).

The nomination dossiers of both the sites were submitted to UNESCO on 77 1997. But those were sent back to the Department for revision. The revised dossiers were submitted in 1999. But the recently visited UNESCO Mission headed by Mr. Richard Englehardt, Regional Adviser, informed that the nomination dossiers had to be revised again. So we have already started the process of revision work.

The nominations are prepared on the basis of the significance of the monuments in the World Heritage context. This significance has been judged by the archaeologists of the Department of Archaeology. Authorities of the district, upazila and union levels and people in the village level have been informally discussed (018).

The nomination process has been initiated with a view to inscribe the noted sites on the World Heritage List due to which the site (s) and the related history will be well known to the world community. It may also help in receiving the funds for protection, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage (019).

The nomination dossiers of both the sites have not yet been accepted by the World Heritage Committee as reported by the UNESCO Mission recently visited Bangladesh. As the maps, photographs and information are not sufficient we have started to reformulate our dossiers for both Mahasthan and Mainamati. (020)

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

a. General policy development

The Govt. of Bangladesh have adopted the following policies in accordance with the constitution of the country :

[i] To identify, protect, preserve and present the cultural traditions and heritage of the people.

[ii] To adopt measures for the protection against the disfigurement, damage or removal of monuments, objects or places of special artistic and/or historic importance or interest. (021)

Since 1987 Govt. of Bangladesh have been implementing the development project for protection, preservation and presentation of the two World Heritage Sites, Paharpur and Bagerhat, as a part of the national comprehensive planning programmes. (022)

Most of the cultural heritage sites belong

b. Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation.

to private owners. Due to a number of factors those sites are being destroyed in many ways. So the lands of the sites of those private owners should be purchased by the Govt. so that the vandalism by the owners mainly or others is checked (023).

The Department of Archaeology has been making effort to improve its services aiming at the protection and conservation. For instance, in 1972 i.e., immediate after liberation the number of protected sites was 152 only and it is increasing ever year. Now it is 338. Hopefully this trend will continue in future.

Archaeological survey has been carried out in two greater divisions : Rajshahi and Khulna. Besides, Dhaka division has been covered partly. Consequently a large number of sites have been identified and some important ones have already been protected.

Archaeological excavations are also being carried out in many sites every year as routine work. Remains of almost all the excavated sites have been preserved and the excavation reports of them have been published.

Apart from the mentioned work under the revenue budget, a few development projects have been undertaken for the protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage. The most important one is the preservation and presentation of the two World Heritage sites: Pharpur monastery and Bagerhat group of monuments. Under this project the monuments of these sites have been preserved partly or completely and two museums : one at Bagerhat and one at Paharpur have been established. A Divisional museum has been constructed in Khulna city (024)

Department of Archaeology is executing its protection preservation and presentation programme of cultural heritage with its 450 regular staff and 47 project staff (025)

In case of preservation work under the revenue budget archaeologists make policy for conservation every year. Engineers prepare estimate of the work and execute it under the

conservation every year. Engineers prepare estimate of the work and execute it under the supervision of archaeologists.

In case of projects, engineers make conservation policy and execute the work (026)

In the case of project involvement of archaeologists in the protection and conservation programmes should be ensured. The work should be carried out under the direction of archaeologist as it is done in the revenue sector. Engineers should be provided with practical training on conservation (027)

c. Scientific and technical studies and research

1. Determination of extent of sulphate effect of the monument
2. Determination of water level at Paharpur (028).

Sulphate effect on monument still prevails. More efforts to be made or more research or technical studies should be carried out to remove the sulphate from the monuments (029).

d. Measures for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation.

: Yes (030).

Two museums have been constructed in two World Heritage sites: one at Paharpur and the other at Bagerhat. Both the sites have been enclosed by brick-walls and/or barbed wire enclosure. Ticket system has been introduced at Paharpur to visit the site as well as museum whereas at Bagerhat to visit the museum only. Pathways and toilet facilities have been provided to the visitors in a limited scale. Roads from nearby town or townships have been reconstructed and developed (031).

Yes (032)

c. Training

: More visitors, both domestic and international, visit the sites and as a result they are gradually becoming familiar with our World Heritage sites (033).

Yes (034).

Dialogues and meetings are held frequently amongst the local communities and authority (035).

No(036).

No action is undertaken to involve the private sector in the conservation and protection of cultural heritage sites (037).

No(038).

No action is undertaken to involve NGOs(039).

Yes (040).

The legislation were framed long ago according to need of that time. Situation is gradually being changed. So to fulfill the demand of the changed situation certain clauses of the old legislations i.e, Antiquities Act 1968 (amended 1976), Archaeological Works Code 1938, Immovable Antiquities Preservation Rules 1976 should be amended (041).

No other international convention for the protection of natural or cultural heritage has been signed or ratified by the State party (042).

Not applicable (043).

Department of Archaeology has conducted the archeological survey at Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and identified a large number of unknown archaeological sites. Gradually they are being protected. Survey of Chittagong and Sylhet divisions is under way (044).

Department of Archaeology spends about Tk. Ten million per year for protection, preservation and preservation of cultural

heritage under revenue budget. Under the development project the department spends about Tk. 40 million per year for the same purpose (045).

Yes (046).

It is specifically for cultural sites (047).

Department of Archaeology has published many excavation reports, survey reports, guide books, posters and view cards. Of them two posters are on the World Heritage sites of Paharpur and Bagerhat and out of 24 view cards are of WHs (048).

More archaeological sites like Mahasthan, Mainamati would be inscribed on the World Heritage list. More budget should be provided for identification and preservation of cultural heritage. Department of Archaeology is trying to raise its funds (049).

Within the State Partly there is no institution to provide training to the staff of the Department of Archaeology. Usually the junior officers and staff learn from their senior colleagues during the work in the field. There is only one university near Dhaka where archaeology is taught as individual discipline. But the course on protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage included in this subject is not sufficient (050).

Yes (051).

Training on conservation of stone work, wood work, brick work, painting, chemical conservation of architectural elements and moveable objects of various nature e.g. metal, wood terracotta (052).

No(053).

Not applicable (054).

No (055).

Not applicable(056).

Yes(057).

One Sub-Asstt. Engineer has received heritage training from Japan in 1999(058).

Not applicable (060).

No such step has been taken by the state (061).

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising : The state party has been receiving international cooperation through UNESCO since the inscription of the two sites, Paharpur and Bagerhat, on the World Heritage list. Japan Trust Fund and NORAD provided some funds for the preservation and presentation of World Heritage (063).

(i) Working and attending of international seminars.

(ii) Financial support and

(iii) Distribution of information material (064).

No measure has been taken (065).

No(066).

Not applicable(067).

No national, public and private foundations or associations have been established (068).

Not applicable (069).

Not applicable (070).

Not applicable (071).

No (072).

Not applicable (073).

1.5 Education, information and awareness building :

Yes (074)

: Department of Archaeology publishes books, booklets, brochures, posters, view cards bearing the cultural heritage of the country. Those are presented to the decision makers and general public through which they become aware of the preservation of the heritage. Seminar, symposium, exhibition are also organized where decision-makers and general public and property owners also participate. Apart from these, department permits other organizations like Cinema Companies, Television Authorities (both Govt. and non-Govt), Postal Department and individual researchers who want to make publicity and research of the cultural heritage (075).

1.6 Main Conclusions  
a. Main Conclusions

: The Govt. of Bangladesh have protected 338 cultural heritage sites of the country under the

a. Main Conclusions

The Govt. of Bangladesh have protected 338 cultural heritage sites of the country under the preview of the Antiquities Act 1968 (Amended 1976) and 14 sites as protected areas for wildlife and environment under biodiversity conservation and development policy. Of them Paharpur Buddhist Monastery and Bagerhat group of monuments and the Sundarbans have been inscribed on the World Heritage list.

The Govt. are now reformulating the dossier of two sites: Mahasthan and Lalmai-Minamati. Apart from this a proposal has been sent for inclusion four more sites in the World Heritage list. More cultural sites should be inscribed on the World Heritage list (078).

The Govt. of Bangladesh are implementing the policy of protection, preservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage. Department of Archaeology has been executing many programmes like survey, excavation, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage through its revenue budget and development projects as well. In order to execute the conservation work properly, coordination between the engineers and archaeologists is to be increased. Archaeologists in general and engineers in particular should be given training on protection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritage (079).

The State Party has received international cooperation through UNESCO, Japan Trust Fund and NORAD. The cooperation both in respect of financial and technical assistance should be increased (080).

State Party extends its cooperation with the mass media i.e., Radio, T.V., Newspaper, Cinema Companies for the publicity of the Cultural Heritage which help create awareness in the educational institutions of primary, secondary and tertiary levels (081).

Third phase of the project for conservation and presentation of World Heritage of Paharpur and Bagerhat has been over in June 2002. But there are still many works on archaeological

research, excavation and conservation of the sites of Paharpur and Bagerhat are left. The future action may include environmental up keeping, enhancement of visitor amenities, restoration of the structural damages, publication, security, documentation researches as well as publication highlighting the cultural values of the monuments and their contribution, the history of mankind.

Same organization (as mentioned in 003) (083)

July 2003- June 2007 (084).

Training, construction of a store room for storage of T.C. Plaques removed from the temple of Paharpur, conservation of damaged and exposed structure, constitution of some modern establishments (Rest House Boundary wall etc (085)

Unknown (086).

Unknown (087).

Unknown (088).

1.7 Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Section I.

Yes (089)

Yes (090)

The periodic Reporting Exercise enquire many information which were not well thought before. In course of this reporting exercise these information and quarries have been well understood which will help for future planning and execution of the works (091).

Since this the first of its kind in Bangladesh will present the performance of the State Party in the protection, preservation and presentation of the World Heritage Sites of the country. Through this report the World Heritage Committee will know the achievement and failure of the State party during last six years (092)