

MYANMAR

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1994

Organization submitting the report

- Department of Archaeology, 32-D, 6-and-a-half Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon, Union of Myanmar

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- An inventory of historic monuments at each historic site was initiated in 1995.
- * The 'Design Sanctioning Committee' of the Yangon City District Council (YCDC) has completed a local inventory of 200 structures in Yangon.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 8 sites submitted in October 1997 on the basis of "historically, archaeologically and artistically important monuments".
- * NH: Potential natural nominations identified include: (i) Myinmo Lekhat Nature Reserve; (ii) Khakhaborazi on the Myanmar-China border; (iii) the Lampi Marine Archipelago; and (iv) Lake Inle as a cultural landscape.

Nominations and the nomination process

- The 'Bagan Historic Region and Monuments' nomination was submitted in 1995.
- Several meetings were held between the relevant Departments and concerned NGOs prior to the submission of the Bagan nomination. The case was subsequently submitted to the cabinet for approval.
- * The Bagan nomination dossier was referred back for further information in 1997. WHC assisted the authorities to reformulate the dossier between 1998-2002.

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

Integration of heritage and planning

- The Ministry of Culture is the "sole authority [able] to draw up long-term and short-term plans for the protection of World Cultural Heritage". These plans are entrusted to the Dept. of Archaeology to integrate them into regional level offices & NGOs.
- The 'Protection & Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Law' was adopted in September 1998.

- * The Dept. of Human Settlements & Housing, under the Ministry of Construction, is responsible for urban planning.

Participation of local communities

- Lectures and workshops are organized by the Dept. of Archaeology and its regional offices to disseminate awareness of the work of the 'NGO Pagoda Trustee Committee' on "systematic conservation".

Tourism Development

- * A UNESCO-Japan project to develop a draft tourism development plan and Master Plan for Bagan was completed in 1996.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- The regular government budget is allocated on an annual basis for each region. The budget for the preservation of cultural heritage is separate from the budget for environmental preservation.
- * The Dept. of Archaeology informed a WHC mission in 1998 that private companies have contributed over US\$1 million towards cultural heritage activities.

Professional

- 'Special Conservation Teams' have been created in Bagan for the restoration of deteriorated monuments.
- There are 1,205 staff in the Dept. of Archaeology, out of which 515 are involved in protection, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage.
- Scientific and technical studies on the monuments of Bagan have been carried out by UNESCO consultants since 1981.
- National staff have received training from: (i) the French government in Pondicherry; (ii) the Nara Institute in Japan; (iii) ICCROM; and (iv) SPAFA.
- Yangon University offers a "basis course on conservation", as well as a "reorientation course on preservation of monuments" twice a year.

New and improved services

- The "top priority" areas for cultural heritage have been identified as: (i) Bagan; (ii) Mrauk-U; (iii) Pyu ancient cities (i.e. Beikthano, Sri-Ksetra, Hanlin, Mai-Mao); and (iv) Inwa.

Issues to be addressed

- During the preparation of the Bagan nomination, the need for enhanced legal protection was made apparent.
- "Out of 444,600 monuments, 1,175 monuments are regarded as monuments-in-danger", and have been the focus of systematic conservation measures.
- Improvement is most desirable in the conservation of: (i) brick monuments; (ii) timber structures and (iii) stone monuments.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- 'Pagoda trustee committees' in every cultural heritage region have raised funds to undertake conservation activities under the technical control of the Dept. of Archaeology.
- The Government of Myanmar notes that it is contacting other State Parties to the WH Convention to establish co-operation, and that Myanmar and Cambodia have signed an agreement to twin the historic cities of Bagan and Angkor Wat.
- * International Assistance from WHF: none.
- * Extra-budgetary funds mobilised by the UNESCO Division of Cultural Heritage include:
- 1994-96 \$333,124 Conservation & preservation: Pagan (Japan)

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- The Dept. of Archaeology has published 'Restoration Record Books' on Bagan in the national language of Myanmar, and broadcasted TV & radio programmes to promote awareness of the WH Convention.
- The Ministry of Culture has instructed the Dept. of Archaeology to "publish research papers as a means to encourage research activities".

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- A 3-year time-frame is proposed to: (i) continue discussions to establish international co-operation, and (ii) carry out further educational programmes on TV.