

# World Heritage

Periodic Report on the Application of the World Heritage Convention

## Part II

The Current State of the Conservation of the World Heritage Property

Signatory country: The People's Republic of China

Name of World Heritage Property: Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet

## **Protection of the Potala Palace after inscription into the List of World Heritage**

The Potala Palace was constructed in the seventh century and to date has a history of more than 1,300 years. It is a key unit of cultural relics under protection in China, and is also a unit of cultural relics in the world when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization inscribed it into the List of World Heritage. The following is a summary and explanation about the protection and management of the Potala Palace after it was inscribed into the list of world heritages:

I. The Potala Palace was inscribed into the List of World Heritage as a cultural heritage on December 17, 1994, its historical, cultural and artistic values are well protected and managed by the People's Republic of China and are also protected by international laws and conventions.

II. The Potala Palace, its cultural relics and architecture are protected and managed in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics, the Regulations of the Tibet Autonomous Region on the Protection of Cultural Relics, the Rules Concerning the Management of the Potala Palace, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Charter.

III. The protective zone and buffer zone of the Potala Palace were clearly established in 1997 when the people's government of the Tibet Autonomous Region issued the Rules Concerning the Management of the Potala Palace. Therefore, the problem concerning the relocation of inhabitants in the buffer zone was solved.

IV. The Potala Palace Management Office has continued the work of classifying, registering, protecting with technical means, displaying and photographing cultural relics housed in the palace. To date, the registration of 20 halls, and the classification and registration of cultural relics housed in the palace such as vulnerable silk products, porcelain and horse saddles have been completed. In order to completely protect the cultural relics housed in the palace, special cabins, shelves and boxes have been made, thus creating a favorable environment for the protection of cultural relics housed in the palace.

V. In recent years, the State Council allocated 4.7 million yuan to the Potala Palace to install a 24-hour circuit TV monitoring system and an anti-theft system, thus having greatly improved the level of security and capability for the protection of the Potala Palace.

VI. Large Quantities of human, material and financial resources have been inputted into the routine protection, preservation and maintenance of cultural relics housed in the palace and architecture. According to incomplete statistics, more than 10 million yuan from ticket revenues and other incomes have been used for the routine protection and maintenance. With this investment, about 25,000 square meters of Aga earthen roof was conserved and maintained; the protective facilities for 38 halls were comprehensively improved; more than 700 pieces of cultural relics were repaired and restored (including restoration of 135 volumes of "Danzhu'er Scripture" destroyed by fire in 1984); more than 8,000 pieces of scripture cloth were renewed; and more than 100,000 pieces of cultural relics were sorted out, thus ensuring a proper management and protection of cultural relics.

VII. In terms of research, the Potala Palace now houses more than 30,000 volumes of ancient

classical books in history, arts, culture, architecture, medicine and mathematics. They are not only the treasures for the study of the source of Tibetan traditional, cultural and religion, but also important research subjects about ancient science and technology, calligraphy and practical arts. To date, we have compiled and published the “Catalog of the Ningma School Classics Housed in the Potala Palace,” the “Catalog of the Gelu School Classics Housed in the Potala Palace,” “Divine Potala Palace in the Snowland” and the “Sources of the Potala Palace Frescoes.”

VIII. Now, the second phase of the maintenance project of the Potala Palace, approved by the State Council, is in full swing, and the government has allocated more than 160 million yuan for this project.

In a word, the Potala Palace, as a world cultural heritage and a place of religious activities, has drawn the attention of the world. With the deepening of the reform, opening and modernization drive and along with the implementation of the going-west strategy, the Potala Palace has become a treasure of the world.

## Periodic Report on the Application of the World Heritage Convention

### Part II: The Current State of the Conservation of the World Heritage Property

#### II.1. Introduction

a.	Country: The People's Republic of China	001
b.	Name of World Heritage Property Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet	002
c.	Location of the World Heritage Property Geographical coordinates: 29°39'34" 59 north latitude, 91°07'2" 35 east longitude. Center point: Northwestern corner: Southeastern corner:	003 Map
d.	Date of inscription on the World Heritage List and subsequent date of additional inscription: December 17, 1994. Jokhang Monastery was added in 2000. Expanded to include Norbulinka in 2001.	004
e.	Organization or entity responsible for preparation of the report: Organization: Potala Palace Management Office in Lhasa, Tibet Person in charge: Qiangbagesang Address: No 35 Beijing Zhonglu, Lhasa, Tibet City and postal code: Lhasa, 850000 Telephone: 0891-6822896 Fax: 0891-6838091 E-mail: <a href="http://www.potalapalace.net">www.potalapalace.net</a>	005
f.	Date of report: September 5, 2002	006
g.	Signature on behalf of state party: Signature: Qiangbagesang Name: Qiangbagesang Title: Director of the Potala Palace Management Office	007

#### II.2. Statement of significance

	Criteria for inscription into the list: Cultural criteria ii-iii-v	008
	Is there any re-nomination or is there any new criterion for expanded and added heritage? (yes/no)	009
	No	010
	Assessment of the heritage made by the consulting organization at the time of nomination evaluation:	011
	Decision and evaluation/suggestion made by the World Heritage Committee in inscribing it on the list and expanding and adding to the heritage:	012
	Follow-up actions taken after the assessments and/or decision were made: The protective zone of the Potala Palace was expanded to include Jokhang Monastery and Norbulinka	013
	Statement of significance: The Potala Palace is the largest and the most complete ancient palace architectures now existing in Tibet. In terms of the palace layout, wood, earth and stone structure, metal smelting, sculpture, frescoes and cultural relics housed in the palace, they all	014

	prove the hard working and wisdom of the Tibetans in ancient times and the great achievements in Tibetan architectural art. It is a condensation of the Tibetan history, and is a treasure house and material evidence for the study of Tibetan history and the cultural and artistic achievements. It could meet the standards about the value and conditions for inscription into the list of world heritages.	
	Will the heritage be considered for re-nomination? (yes or no) No	015 016
	Is the demarcation line and its buffer zone of the heritage (still) sufficient for the protection and preservation of the value of the site as a world heritage: (yes/no) No If the answer is no, please explain and specify the changes to the demarcation lines and/or buffer zone of the said heritage: The existing protective zone and buffer zone are insufficient to ensure the protection and preservation of the values of the heritage, because newly constructed buildings, particularly high-rise buildings, outside the protective zone and buffer zone still affect the perceptive values of the Potala Palace. If such construction continues, it will damage the overall environment and landscape of the Potala Palace. Therefore, it is necessary to make new plans about the protective zone and construction control zone and to expand the scope of such zones.	017 018
	Is the signatory country actively considering amending the demarcation line or buffer zone of the heritage? (yes/no) Yes What work needs to be done to achieve this goal: The management organization of the said heritage is planning to apply, through the competent administrative department of cultural heritage, to the people's government to define such zones again, and to expand the protective scope and buffer zone of the Potala Palace.	019 020

### II.3. Explanation of the authenticity/integrity

	Has the value as a world heritage of the above-mentioned heritage been preserved since it was inscribed into the List of World Heritages? (yes/no) Yes	021 022
	What is the evaluation of the authenticity/integrity of the said heritage at the time of inscription into the catalog: The Potala Palace is a "pearl on the roof of the world." In terms of palace layout, earthen, stone and wood structure, metal smelting, sculpture and frescoes, it reflects the superior and unique design and construction skills, and maintains rich historical information. It proves the long history of the Tibetan people, rich culture and outstanding scientific, technological and artistic achievements, and bears clear signs of the blend of various history and culture. It therefore qualifies to be inscribed into the list of world heritages and is to be protected by the mankind.	023
	Since inscription on the List, are there any changes in the authentic/integrity of the property? Yes/No No	024 025
	Could any foreseeable (further) change to the authenticity/integrity of the said heritage happen in the near future? (yes/no) Yes If the answer is yes, please explain and state how such changes would affect the value of this world heritage: With social progress and development of urban construction, commercial streets of the city will expand, the surrounding environment of the Potala Palace would also	026 027

	change accordingly. Outside the protective zone and buffer zone, high-rise buildings of various kinds would be built, and this would seriously obstruct the perceptive views of the Potala Palace from a distance, and people would be unable to see the grand view of the Potala Palace.	
--	---	--

#### II.4. Management

	<p>How to make the most appropriate arrangement for the protection and management of the heritage?</p> <p>Law: In terms of the management system of the country, the Potala Palace Management Office assumes the responsibility of protection and management of the Potala Palace. The office has five functional divisions and office, including the security division, the cultural relics research office, the protection and preservation division of cultural relics, the publicity and reception division and the administrative office. The office executes the protection and management of the Potala Palace according to the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics.</p> <p>Contract: No</p> <p>Tradition: Full-time monks take part in the management of all the Buddhist halls and scripture chanting halls of the Potala Palace according to the traditional customs and historical practices.</p>	028
	<p>Please explain and evaluate the functions of the execution of these arrangements in preserving the values stated in II.2 at the county, province and/or city level:</p> <p>Laws can effectively prevent local governments and government departments from taking actions not favorable for the protection of the heritage under the influence of economic interests. Arrangement under traditions can help, to a certain extent, improve people’s awareness for protection and management of the heritage.</p>	029
	<p>Generally speaking, are the arrangements of protection by law, contract and/or tradition sufficient? (yes/no)</p> <p>No</p> <p>Please explain:</p> <p>Generally speaking, the system and measures of protection by law and tradition are sufficient, however, along with the development of community construction, professionals are needed for the protection by law and tradition and the people’s overall quality needs to be improved. High-tech content of the protection measures also needs to be increased.</p>	030  031
	<p>A list of laws and regulations on the protection and management of cultural and natural heritages as well as their excerpts</p> <p>Article 22 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China states: The state protects sites of scenic and historical interest, valuable cultural monuments and relics and other significant items of China’s historical and cultural heritage. Article 17 of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural relics states: The people’s governments at all levels should take measures to protect cultural sites, ancient trees and famous trees, and no damage is allowed; Article 23 states: Urban and rural construction should harmonize with the local natural environment, vegetation, water areas and natural landscapes should be protected, and the construction of urban gardening, green areas and the places of scenic and historical interests should be strengthened.</p>	032
	<p>Administrative and management arrangements made for the cultural heritage:</p> <p>Organizations with management authority over the Potala Palace include: the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of the People’s Republic of China, the People’s Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region, the Department of Culture of the Tibet Autonomous Region, and the Administration of Cultural Heritage of the Tibet</p>	033

	<p>Autonomous Region.</p> <p>Major repair and maintenance and protection projects of the heritage are reported to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the Central People's Government jointly by the Administration of Cultural Heritage, Department of Culture and the people's government of the autonomous region. The State Administration of Cultural Heritage will then organize professionals and experts from across the country to study and implement the major repair, protection and management projects of the Potala Palace, and will supervise and inspect to see if the projects are executed according to the laws, regulations and policies on the protection of cultural relics.</p>	
	<p>Under which level of leadership is the cultural heritage managed:  Heritage ( )  Region (Tibet Autonomous Region)  Country (The People's Republic of China)</p> <p>Name, address and telephone/fax/e-mail of the organization directly responsible for the management (preservation, maintenance and visitor management) of the heritage:  Name: Administration of Cultural Heritage of Tibet Autonomous Region  Address: No 19 Norbulinka Road, Lhasa, Tibet  Telephone: 0891-6826332  Fax: 0891-6831260</p>	<p>034</p> <p>035</p>
	<p>Is it necessary to revise the administrative and management arrangements for the heritage?  (yes/no)  No</p>	<p>036</p> <p>037</p>
	<p>Is there any management plan?  (yes/no)  Yes</p> <p>If the answer is yes, please provide a summary, explaining whether or not the plan is being implemented and when its implementation began?  On November 18, 1997, the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region promulgated the Rules on the Protection and Management of the Potala Palace.  See appendix</p>	<p>038</p> <p>039</p>
	<p>What legal and administrative measures would be taken in the future to preserve the value stated in II.2:  The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics  The Regulations of Tibet Autonomous Region on the Protection and Management of Cultural Relics  The Rules on the Protection and Management of the Potala Palace  The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</p>	<p>040</p>
	<p>Provide details about the following matters, particularly changes undergone since the inscription of the heritage into the catalog:  ● Preservation</p> <p>Since the construction of the Potala Palace began in the seventh century, several large-scale expansion and reconstruction were undertaken in history. Today, the Potala Palace maintains the entirety of reconstruction in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but also maintains historical information of all important historical ages. The construction and reconstruction could be categorized in the following three stages:  The first stage: The Tubo Dynasty period (from the seventh to the ninth century). During this period, palace architecture suffered serious damages in the eighth century due to wars and thunder-strikes, only a few palace halls and chambers were left. When the Tubo Dynasty collapsed in the ninth century, the construction of palace-style architecture faded.  The second stage: sites as pure religious activities (from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the mid-17<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>041</p>

<p>century). With the development of Tibetan Buddhism, the masters of the Gedang school and Gelu school made use of the ruins of the Potala Palace for reconstruction and maintenance, and made it the site for scripture teaching activities. They did not make large-scale reconstruction of architectures of the Potala Palace.</p> <p>The third stage: the Potala Palace after its reconstruction by the fifth Dalai Lama (from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century). Most of the existing architecture and cultural relics and decorations now housed in the palace are all the original of this period (from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century). Of them, the Buddhism-practicing Cave of the King of Dharma and the Holy Avalokitesvara Palace maintain their original state of the Tubo Dynasty period (from the seventh century to the ninth century).</p> <p>Since the Potala Palace was inscribed into the List of World Heritage, it has been protected and managed according to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Charter for the Protection of World Cultural Heritages and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics. The authenticity and integrity of the Potala Palace has been maintained and preserved.</p> <p>● <u>Ownership</u> Owned by the People's Republic of China</p>	042
<p>Detailed explanations about the staff: The Potala Palace Management Office now employs 195 staff, including 50 on the state payroll (16 with college education or above and 12 with technical school education) who are responsible for research of cultural relics, preservation, publicity and reception, logistics service and financial management; 65 full-time religious persons who are responsible for the management of halls and chambers and daily religious activities; 60 odd helpers for daily maintenance and repair; 20 long-term helpers who are responsible for security and safety and publicity and reception.</p>	043
<p>Are the staffs sufficient to apply appropriate management to the heritage? (yes/no) No</p>	044
<p>If the answer is no, what measures should be taken to improve this situation? (1). As compared with the management personnel of other heritages in China, the education level, professional knowledge and general quality of staff on the state payroll responsible for the management work are lagging, and this has become the biggest obstacle for bringing the various work of the Potala Palace to the same level of other heritages. Therefore, long-term training plan should be worked out to provide professional training for the existing management personnel and persons with senior and intermediate academic titles in the cultural relics and museums should be recruited. (2). At present, most of the full-time religious personnel at the palace has only a junior middle school education and most them does not have any formal education in Buddhism, their knowledge in Buddhism and overall quality should be improved urgently.</p>	045
<p>Do the staffs need extra training? (yes/no) Yes</p>	046
<p>If the answer is yes, what training do the staffs need? At present, the Potala Palace Management Office lacks technical personnel in ancient architecture and frescoes, therefore, technical personnel in maintaining, preserving</p>	047

	and repairing ancient architecture and frescoes should be cultivated and trained.																												
	<p>Fund and fiscal status, sources of capital, amount and current account:  The main sources of fund of the Potala Palace Management Office are ticket revenues. Ticket income is used mainly for the daily maintenance of the Potala Palace, to pay wages for full-time religious personnel, odd helpers for maintenance and long-term helpers as well as to supplement the amount in shortage in the wages for staff on the state payroll with local fiscal allocation. Funds for minor maintenance and repair projects of the Potala Palace are allocated by the local finance department, and funds for large-scale maintenance and repair projects are allocated by the State.  The following is the ticket income and expenditure since its inscription into the list of world cultural heritages in 1994</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1994</td> <td>874,000 yuan in income</td> <td>136,000 yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1995</td> <td>975,000 yuan in income</td> <td>307,000 yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1996</td> <td>1.213 million yuan</td> <td>506,000 yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1997</td> <td>1.353 million yuan</td> <td>731,000 yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1998</td> <td>2.56 million yuan</td> <td>2.84 million yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1999</td> <td>3.742 million yuan</td> <td>3.13 million yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td>4.982 million yuan</td> <td>4.32 million yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001</td> <td>7.886 million yuan</td> <td>5.68 million yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January-August 2002</td> <td>7.403 million yuan</td> <td>5.23 million yuan for cultural relics protection</td> </tr> </table>	1994	874,000 yuan in income	136,000 yuan for cultural relics protection	1995	975,000 yuan in income	307,000 yuan for cultural relics protection	1996	1.213 million yuan	506,000 yuan for cultural relics protection	1997	1.353 million yuan	731,000 yuan for cultural relics protection	1998	2.56 million yuan	2.84 million yuan for cultural relics protection	1999	3.742 million yuan	3.13 million yuan for cultural relics protection	2000	4.982 million yuan	4.32 million yuan for cultural relics protection	2001	7.886 million yuan	5.68 million yuan for cultural relics protection	January-August 2002	7.403 million yuan	5.23 million yuan for cultural relics protection	048
1994	874,000 yuan in income	136,000 yuan for cultural relics protection																											
1995	975,000 yuan in income	307,000 yuan for cultural relics protection																											
1996	1.213 million yuan	506,000 yuan for cultural relics protection																											
1997	1.353 million yuan	731,000 yuan for cultural relics protection																											
1998	2.56 million yuan	2.84 million yuan for cultural relics protection																											
1999	3.742 million yuan	3.13 million yuan for cultural relics protection																											
2000	4.982 million yuan	4.32 million yuan for cultural relics protection																											
2001	7.886 million yuan	5.68 million yuan for cultural relics protection																											
January-August 2002	7.403 million yuan	5.23 million yuan for cultural relics protection																											
	<p>Is fund available now sufficient to apply appropriate management of the heritage?  (yes/no)</p> <p>No</p>	049																											
	<p>What financial resources are needed for the management of the heritage:  Because fund sources of the Potala Palace are mainly from ticket revenues, the Management Office therefore could conduct other jobs as research of cultural relics and relics preservation under the preconditions of guaranteeing the routine maintenance fund and wages for its staffs. It is unable to make medium and long-term development plan, it could not further improve the conditions for the preservation of cultural relics and tourist services either. Therefore, state or local finance departments need to increase their input to make up for the fund deficiency for the preservation and maintenance facilities of cultural relics.</p>	050																											
	<p>From which international assistance has the said heritage benefited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Heritage Fund: No</li> <li>● International publicity activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: No</li> <li>● United Nations Development Program, World Bank or national/or regional projects of other organizations: No</li> <li>● Bilateral cooperation: No</li> <li>● Other assistance: The Zhilian Temple (Buddhist nun temple) in Hong Kong donated some photographing facilities in 1998.</li> </ul>	051 052 053 054 055																											
	<p>Information technology (computer) equipment at the heritage or the management office:  The Potala Palace Management Office has five functional divisions and offices, all of them have been equipped with computers according to their function. These high-tech office equipments play a positive role in improving the work efficiency in the research of cultural relics, record keeping and financial management.</p>	056																											
	<p>Now in use:</p>	057																											

Personal computer ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Apple microcomputer ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Server computer ( <input type="checkbox"/> )  Existing sets of computers: 23 sets	058
Are the computers connected to the Internet? (yes/no) Yes	059
Is the means of e-mail used for daily communication? (yes/no) Yes	060
Is there a geographical information system (GIS) for the cultural heritage? (yes/no) No	061
Scientific and research plans already made for the said cultural heritage: Because leakage and seepage of “Aga Earth” used for the Potala Palace constantly occurs, it threatens the safety of cultural relics and architecture. The Management Office is now cooperating with the China Research Institute of Cultural Relics in conducting experiments and tests to improve the water-proof property of “Aga Earth” under the preconditions of maintaining the quality of the original materials.	062
Financial and human resources input for the scientific research plans: In the overall design plan of the second phase maintenance project for the Potala Palace, the “Aga earth” problem is included, and cost therefor is included in the total expenses for the second phase of the maintenance project. Specific amount of fund will be computed according to the actual expenditure and invention patent. The central government will allocate money therefor.	063
How information/achievements are spread? Mainly through the publication of research results of the Potala Palace to spread and publicize such information/achievements.	064
Is there any statistical information about visitors to the cultural heritage? (yes/no) Yes Please provide the statistics and attach it to this report	065
(1). 1994: 99,371 visitors (2). 1995: 157,124 visitors (3). 1996: 172,990 visitors (4). 1997: 223,803 visitors (5). 1998: 223,139 visitors (6). 1999: 275,359 visitors (7). 2000: 292,597 visitors (8). 2001: 340,443 visitors (9). January to August 2002: 56,141 visitors	066
What are the facilities for visitors at the heritage site? (1). One lounge for visitors. (2). Four small, temporary services centers (selling tourism souvenirs). (3). Two lavatories without flushing water.	067
What facilities are needed for the use of visitors? Pre-recorded tour guiding equipment	068
Is there a plan of public use (tourism/tourist management) on the said cultural heritage? (yes/no) Yes Please explain: During the tour season of the Potala Palace, visitors mainly flock to the palace in the	069
	070
	071

	morning and the number of visitors drops remarkably in the afternoon, causing an uneven distribution of visitors in the morning and afternoon and consequently affecting the weight-bearing of the architecture and tour quality. To cope with this problem, we first make adjustments in terms of the tour time, arranging the worshipping time of Buddhism believers at the period from 1:00pm to 3:00pm to alleviate the overcrowding of visitors in the morning. On the other hand, staffs are dispatched to guide the tour routes and to guarantee the smooth entry and exit of visitors.	
	How is the value as a world heritage of the said cultural heritage communicated to the residents, visitors and the public? Attached are: The Rules on the Management of the Potala Palace and the implementation rules (one copy in Chinese and one copy in Tibetan) Tour Guide of the Potala Palace (one copy in Chinese) Potala Palace – Divine Palace in the Snowland on the Roof of the World (one copy in Chinese and one copy in English)	072
	Is there an education plan about the site catering to schools? (yes/no) No	073 074
	What role does the inscription into the List of World Heritages play in terms of the number of visitors, research plan and/or improvement in understanding about it? With the improving notability of the Potala Palace since its inscription into the List of World Heritage, the number of visitors from home and abroad increases year by year. Research of cultural relics is also conducted gradually. It has in particular improved the notability of the Potala Palace, and made people of all circles from home and abroad have a further understanding about the Potala Palace and the entire Tibet Autonomous Region.	075

## II.5. Factors affecting the heritage

	Please give your comments or suggestions on special problems of the heritage and the degree of threat: 1. The urban expansion projects and commercial street development pose a threat to the surrounding environment of the heritage and its original state of landscape; 2. With the development of tourism in Tibet, the number of visitors increases year by year, consequently worsening the hygienic conditions of the two lavatories without flushing water at the heritage site for the use of visitors. 3. Due to historical reasons, there are still 303 inhabitant households within the protective zone of the Potala Palace, posing a certain threat to the protection of the safety of the Potala Palace. 4. Due to climatic changes in recent years in Lhasa, the threat of thunder-strikes at the Potala Palace increases. In 2001 and 2002, the northern roof ridge of the white palace and the northern roof ridge of the monk school of the Potala Palace suffered thunder-strikes. Although thunder-strikes did not cause serious damages to and impact on the architecture, the safety and monitoring systems were seriously damaged. 5. Due to climatic changes in recent years, the amount of rainfalls in the Lhasa region increases year by year, and rainwater has a serious washing impact on the architecture walls and the Aga earthen roof, causing roof leakage and seepage. 6. Rat has always been posing a certain threat to the architecture of Potala Palace and cultural relics. 7. Because of the long history of the Potala Palace, dangers as cracks and bulging sections occur to the architectural walls, roofs and frescoes.	076
	Is there a contingency plan or risk prevention plan for the heritage site? (yes/no) Yes	077



	<p>construction control zone.</p> <p>In order to solve the impact caused by the factor of climatic changes, the Potala Palace has commissioned the China Research Institute of Cultural Relics to experiment the improved “Aga earth” so as to prevent the roof leakage and seepage. Relevant anti-thunder research organizations and experts have been invited to study and assess the installation of anti-thunder-strike equipment for the Potala Palace.</p>	
--	--	--

## II.6. Monitoring

	<p>Please provide information about previous regular or irregular monitoring activities on the heritage:</p> <p>In 1994, the automatic security alarming system was installed;</p> <p>In 2000, the automatic fire alarming system was installed, and was officially put into use in 2001.</p> <p>Automatic security and fire alarming devices and detectors were installed at the important parts of the palace. The number of fire alarming and detecting devices stands at 46, and there are 755 various detectors.</p>	083
	<p>Has an official monitoring system of the said site been established? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If the answer is yes, please provide detailed information about the organizer (s):</p> <p>The Potala Palace Management Office has a security and safety division with 20 staff. The division is responsible for the security and safety of the Potala Palace. A number of the staff is responsible for the technical security prevention.</p>	084 085 086 087
	<p>Has any quota been set up for monitoring the preservation status of the said heritage? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If the answer is yes, please provide latest information about major quotas already set up and/or applied. Such information should be as accurate and reliable as possible, for example, monitoring with the same method on the same day by applying similar equipment or method. List and explain the main quotas for monitoring the preservation status of the heritage:</p> <p>At present, the automatic security and fire alarming systems used at the Potala Palace operate smoothly, the Management Office makes regular inspection, check, maintenance and replacement of the security and fire alarming devices. Therefore, all equipment now functions well.</p>	088 089 090
	<p>Which cooperation partners (if any) take part in or will take part in the regular monitoring of the site:</p> <p>The automatic security and fire alarming systems of the Potala Palace were installed by the Beijing Lianshishenzhi Security Technology Co. Ltd. under the No 1 Institute of the Ministry of Public Security. Therefore, whenever a major breakdown or a problem with the equipment occur and therefore major overhaul is needed, the company will take part in and take the responsibility.</p> <p>Administrative rules for organizing regular monitoring work of the heritage:</p> <p>According to the Tasks of Functions of the Security and Fire-alarming Systems of the Potala Palace, the security and fire-alarming equipment is operated, inspected, maintained and repaired by professional personnel.</p>	091 092
	<p>What are the foreseeable improvement to the monitoring system or what improvement could be made:</p> <p>Making further improvement about the security and fire-alarming systems and monitoring equipment, and changing them from the existing wire equipment into wireless equipment.</p>	093
	<p>If applicable, please provide detailed information: In specific cases, the World Heritage Committee and/or its Bureau may have already examined the state of</p>	094

conservation of the property and made recommendations to the State Party, either at the time of inscription or afterwards. In such cases the State Party is requested to report on the actions that have been taken in response to the observations or recommendations made by the Bureau or Committee	
The mission of World Heritage Committee to Potala palace has not made recommendations on the state of conservation so far.	

## II.7. Conclusions and recommended actions

Main conclusions about the status of the value as a world heritage of the said heritage (see II.2 and II.5 above): The authenticity/integrity of the heritage is protected and preserved, the significance of its value is also widely cherished. At present, the protection work is conducted soundly and well.	095
Main conclusions about the management of the heritage and factors affecting the heritage (see II.4 and II.5 above): The key to the protection and management of the heritage rests with its authenticity/integrity. To actively control the impact of urban construction and expansion projects on the heritage, actively take scientific methods to prevent damages to the heritage caused by natural disasters.	096
Summarize the actions suggested to be taken in the future: 1. To strengthen cooperation and exchange with domestic and foreign research organizations. 2. To improve the comprehensive service level at the heritage site, and to do a better job in coordinating the relationship between tourism development and protection of the cultural heritage.	097
Name of organization responsible for implementing these actions (if different from that in 005) State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the Potala Palace Management Office and its divisions and offices.	098
Timetable for the implementation of the above action: Implemented at the end of 1988.	099
Which of the planned actions likely needs assistance from the World Heritage Fund No	100

Do you have any contact or exchange with the management units of other domestic or foreign heritages? (yes/no) Yes	101
If the answer is yes, please explain: The Beijing Palace Museum (Forbidden City) provides guiding in terms of professional knowledge and assistance in terms of fund; The Dunhuang Frescoes Research Academy provides professional and technical guiding and support in terms of the protection of frescoes.	102
What experiences you got in the course of regular reporting activities and/or in the work of preservation/protection of the heritage could be shared with other signatory countries in handling similar problems or matters: Timely exchange of information with domestic and foreign heritage sites and research organizations, share the advanced scientific, technological and management methods, and to better and effectively protect the heritages.	103
The organization or name and address of experts that could be contacted for this purpose: Organization: Potala Palace Management in Lhasa, Tibet Person in charge: Qiangbageang	104

	Address: No 35 Beijing Zhonglu, Lhasa, Tibet City/postal code: Lhasa 850000 Telephone: 0891-6822896 Fax: 0891-6838091 E-mail: <a href="http://www.potalapalace.net">www.potalapalace.net</a>	
	During the preparatory stage of the regular reporting activities, is adequate and sufficient information provided to the organization and individuals in charge: In order to successfully complete the regular reporting activity of world heritages in China, the Heritage Management Division of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage organized a seminar on the monitoring of world heritages, explained and stated relating knowledge about world heritages such as the aim, requirements and goals of the World Heritage Committee, and provided relevant information to heritage sites across China.	105
	Is the questionnaire comprehensible and is it helpful for the signatory country to meet the reporting requirements? Yes	106
	What are the benefits and lessons got from the regular reporting activity? The regular reporting activity serves as an enlightenment in terms of the management method, protection methods and legislative progress concerning heritage. The lessons are: the owner of the heritage should not only effectively protect the heritage site, but also rectify and manage the surrounding environment of the heritage site, and local governments and government leaders should pay high attention to the protection and management of heritages. In particular, the government and government leaders should pay high attention to the importance and necessity for protecting the surrounding environment of the heritage.	107
	What are the results expected from the regular reporting activities, and what follow-up actions are expected from the World Heritage Committee: We expect to acquire scientific and advanced management experiences from the regular reporting activity so as to further improve and develop the protection and management measures of the heritage site. We hope that the World Heritage Committee will make strict review and assessment of the protection measures and methods of the heritage, and in particular, we hope the World Heritage Committee will publicize and stress the extreme importance in protecting and preserving the world heritages, maintaining the historical landscapes of the heritage sites and surrounding environment for the attention of the local governments.	108

## II.9. Enclosed reference documents and other literature

Signatory country is required to provide the following materials. Please check if the following materials are appended.

1. (  ) Maps indicating the general location, demarcation and buffer zone of the heritage, plane schematic figure and necessary details about the heritage (see 003 for details)
2. (  ) Photograph about the heritage (bird's-eye view)
3. (  ) Explanations about the preservation status of the heritage (photographs, slides and, if any, film/video)
4. (  ) Detailed information about main aspects of the heritage (scenery, species of animals and plants, museums)
5. (  ) Photographs explaining main threats posed to the site and its surrounding environment
6. (  ) Digests of relevant national and provincial laws and regulations concerning the protection of cultural and natural heritages
7. (  ) Copies of the management plans of the site and digests and/or copies of other plans relating to the sites (including contingency plan and application plan), Rules on the Protection and Management of the Potala Palace
8. (  ) Bibliography for reference

## **Location of the Potala Palace in China**

The People's Republic of China

Tibet Autonomous Region

Potala Palace

The Tropic of Cancer

Equator

## **Location of Potala Palace in Tibet Autonomous Region**

Tibet Autonomous Region

Potala Palace

Yarlung Zangbo River

## **The Protective Scope and Buffer Zone of Potala Palace**

North

Linguo Xilu

Linguo Beilu

Beijing Zhonglu

Kangang Lu

Niangre Lu

Yutuo Lu

Jinzhu Zhonglu

Jinzhu Donglu

Protective Scope

Construction Control Zone

**In the past 15 years, the constructed area in Lhasa increased 17 times**

Total city area of Lhasa in 1948

Total city area of Lhasa in 1985

Total city area of Lhasa in 1998

## **Protection of Cultural Relics at the Potala Palace**

Registering cultural relics

Sorting out cultural relics

Sorting out and cataloguing scriptures housed in the palace

Repairing and restoring cultural relics with traditional method

Categorizing cultural relics

Making research of cultural relics

Maintaining cultural relics on display in Buddhist halls

## **Protection of Cultural Relics at Potala Palace**

Maintaining Aga earthen floor with traditional techniques

Maintaining Aga earthen floor and walls of the Potala Palace with traditional techniques

Trying to improve the Aga earth floors

Sorting out and cleaning construction rubbish from the alleys and drains

Experts make on-spot survey about the danger of architecture and cultural relics

## **Photographs About the Current State of the Potala Palace**

Potala Palace in the 1980s

Potala Palace in 2002

A view of Potala Palace from the Jokhang Monastery

Front view of the Potala Palace

Rear view of the Potala Palace

The Jiebu Cellar and the Red Palace of the Potala Palace

Buddhist sculptures inside the Renzenglakang Hall of the Potala Palace

The Eastern Hall of the Potala Palace

## **Basic Information about the Potala Palace**

Conducting a Buddhist ceremony

Preservation state of the inside of the palace

Scriptures

Tangka

Repairing and restoring Tangka with traditional techniques

Conducting a Buddhist ceremony

Costumes

Applying earthen materials to the outer walls each year

## **Basic Information about the Potala Palace II**

Frescoes

Repairing frescoes

Protection status of frescoes

Carved patterns at a column head

Bone ornament

Memorial Pagoda of the Seventh Banchan Lama

Shilun Hall

Sculpture of Qiangba Buddha

## **Basic Information about the Potala Palace**

Installing security facilities

Visitors at the Potala Palace

Installing scripture shelves in the warehouse

On September 27, 2001, the northern roof of the White Hall was hit by thunder

Learning how to use fire-fighting apparatus

On June 11, 2002, the northern roof of the monk school was hit by thunder

## Bibliography

1. “Complete Collection of Works of Srong-Brtsan-Sgam-Po” (two volumes), ancient Tibet (Tubo) in the 7<sup>th</sup> century (in Tibetan language), Srong-Brtsan-Sgam-Po;
2. “The Qing Historical Records” (Tibetan language), the Ming Dynasty, 14<sup>th</sup> century, grand translator
3. “The Hong Historical Records” (Tibetan language), the Ming Dynasty, the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Caibagongga Duoji;
4. “Biography of Awangluosangjiacuo” (Tibetan language), the Qing Dynasty, 1617-1682, Sangjiejiacuo
5. “Records of the Divine Pagoda of the Fifth Dalai Lama” (Tibetan language), the Qing Dynasty, 1690-1695, Sangjiejiacuo
6. “Sources of the Budun School” (Tibetan language), the Ming Dynasty, Budunrenqingzhuba
7. “Sources of the Gama School of Buddhism” (Tibetan language), the Ming Dynasty, Bawozulachenwa
8. “Sources of the Gelu School of Buddhism” (Tibetan language), the Qing Dynasty, the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Sangjiejiacuo
9. “Records of Divine Pagoda of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama” (Tibetan language), 1936 in the Republic of China, Qiangbajiacuo
10. “Sources of the Potala Palace Frescoes” (Tibetan, Chinese and English), compiled by the Potala Palace Management Office in 2001
11. “Potala Palace – Divine Palace in the Snowland” (Tibetan, Chinese and English), compiled by the Potala Palace Management Office in 1996
12. “Report on the Maintenance Projects of the Potala Palace” (Chinese), compiled by the Maintenance Engineering Office of the Potala Palace Management Office in 1994
13. “Tour Guide of the Potala Palace” (Chinese), compiled by the Potala Palace Management Office in 2001
14. “Records of the Potala Palace” (Tibetan language), compiled by the Tibetan Society for Cultural Relics Management in 1985
15. “Biography of Tugula” (Tibetan language), the Qing Dynasty (17<sup>th</sup> century), by the Fifth Dalai Lama (Awangluosangjiacuo)
16. “Golden Glaze” (Tibetan language), Sangjiejiacuo, the Qing Dynasty (17<sup>th</sup> century)
17. “Records of Tibetan Monarchs” (Tibetan language), the Yuan Dynasty, Sajiasuonanjiacuo
18. “Records of Tibetan Kings and Officials” (Tibetan language), the Qing Dynasty, 1617-1682, the Fifth Dalai Lama

Potala Palace Management Office in Tibet  
September 5, 2002

## **Appendix 7**

### **Rules on the Protection and Management of the Potala Palace**

#### **Article 1**

In order to strengthen the protection and management of the Potala Palace and in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics, the Regulations of Tibet Autonomous Region on the Protection and Management of Cultural Relics as well as relevant laws and regulations, these Rules are enacted.

#### **Article 2**

These Rules are applicable to the protection and management of the Potala Palace.

All units and individuals involved in the protection and management of the Potala Palace should abide by these Rules.

#### **Article 3**

The Potala Palace Management Office affiliated to the administrative department of cultural relics in Tibet Autonomous Region (hereinafter referred to the management office) takes specific responsibility for the protection, management, maintenance and preservation of the Potala Palace.

#### **Article 4**

All units and individuals are obligated to assist the management office in the protection and management of the Potala Palace in accordance with the laws and regulations on the protection of cultural relics and these Rules.

To those who vigorously implement the laws and regulations on the protection of cultural relics and these Rules and have made outstanding achievements in the protection and management of the Potala Palace and relevant cultural relics, the people's government of the autonomous region or the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region should confer medals and rewards.

#### **Article 5**

The protective scope and construction control zone of the Potala Palace.

The protective scope: areas within the walls and the northeastern corner of Hongshan.

Construction control zone: area from Kangang Donglu–Reniang Lu to Jinzhu Lu, area south of the southern encircling wall of Longwangtan Park; area from the cultural palace west of the square and the southern encircling wall of the water supply company to the northern encircling wall of the cultural palace and Yaowang Mountain; area between 15 to 180 meters of the green belt from the Lhasa seed company at Jinzhu Zhonglu to the regional government; the area outside the regional department of broadcasting, film and television, going northeastward to the west encircling wall of the Longwangtan Park; and area from the east and south encircling walls of the Potala Palace to Kangang Donglu and Beijing Zhonglu.

#### **Article 6**

No unit or individual is allowed to damage or destroy architectures and accessory cultural relics within the protective scope of the Potala Palace. Within the protective scope of the Potala Palace, no flammable, explosive or other goods and facilities endangering the safety of cultural relics may be stockpiled or erected, and no construction project is allowed without approval.

#### **Article 7**

If a construction project is necessitated due to special needs within the protective scope of the Potala Palace, it must be reported to the administrative departments of cultural relics and urban planning of the autonomous region for review and examination, be reported to the people's

government of the autonomous region or the State Administration of Cultural Heritage for examination and approval. If a construction project is necessitated within the construction control zone, it must, after being approved by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region, be reported to the urban planning department from examination and approval. All construction projects within the protective scope and construction control zone of the Potala Palace must follow relevant rules on the planning of Lhasa as city of history and cultural. The height, volume, color and style of any architecture and structure must be in harmony with the environmental landscapes of the Potala Palace.

#### **Article 8**

No unit or individual may engage in any production activity that pollutes the environment within the protective scope and construction control zone of the Potala Palace. For all facilities that fail to qualify the environmental protection requirements of the Potala Palace, the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region should, together with relevant units, order for rectification within a given period or for relocation.

#### **Article 9**

The management office carries out routine maintenance and preservation of the Potala Palace, and at the same time, is responsible for the cleaning and treatment of environment of the Potala Palace and its protective scope, and reports, at set interval, maintenance and preservation information to the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region.

#### **Article 10**

For any major repair and maintenance project of the Potala Palace, repair and maintenance plan must be worked out and be reported by the people's government of the autonomous region to the State Administration of Cultural Relics for examination and approval. When such a project is completed, the people's government of the autonomous region should report to and ask the State Administration of Cultural Relics for acceptance inspection.

#### **Article 11**

The management office is responsible for the safety and management of the Potala Palace and cultural relics housed, and should supervise and urge the hall administrators to a good job in ensuring the safety and preservation of cultural relics.

The public security and fire-fighting departments should exercise supervision and guiding for the fire-fighting and security work of the Potala Palace and its cultural relics, and apply a quarterly inspection system.

#### **Article 12**

The management office must set up and improve various management systems, draft its fire-fighting and anti-theft measures and implement them after being reported to and approved by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region.

#### **Article 13**

The management office should, in accordance with the fire-fighting needs the Potala Palace and upon review and approval by the fire-fighting and cultural relics administrative departments of the autonomous region, assign and install corresponding fire-extinguishing equipment and fire-alarm facilities. At important sections where precious and valuable cultural relics are housed or on display, automatic fire alarming and extinguishing devices should be installed, and the management office should make regular testing and maintenance of such devices.

The management office should employ full-time or part-time fire fighters according to the fire prevention scope. The hall administrators, full-time religious personnel and other staffs should have basic fire-fighting, extinguishing knowledge and skills, and regular tests and drills should be

conducted.

Passages and entry-exit route of the Potala Palace must keep clear of obstacles, no unit or individual may block or occupy them.

**Article 14**

Installation of lighting and other electric facilities at the Potala Palace must be reviewed by the fire-fighting department, and be approved by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region, should then installation be conducted.

Installation of electric facilities must strictly follow the operating technical norms for electrical appliance installation.

**Article 15**

Various cultural relics of the Potala Palace must be preserved and protected strictly according to law.

The management office should conduct regular check and verification of cultural relics of Grade I, II and III at the state level, important cultural relics should be checked frequently.

**Article 16**

Photographing of cultural relics on display in the halls of the Potala Palace should be approved by the management office. Cultural relics kept in the warehouses may not be photographed, if photographing of housed cultural relics is necessitated for research or teaching, it must be examined and approved by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region, and then the management office provides such photographs and charges the cost.

**Article 17**

Shooting films or TV plays inside the Potala Palace must, after being reviewed by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region and being finalized by the people's government of the autonomous region, be approved by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage. But shooting TV news programs is excluded.

The publication of cultural relic albums of the Potala Palace should, after being reviewed by the administrative department of cultural relics, be approved by the administrative department of publication.

**Article 18**

Those approved to shoot films and TV plays inside the Potala Palace must sign agreement with the management office on the protection of cultural relics.

**Article 19**

The shooting of photographs, films and TV plays must be conducted strictly according to the shooting projects and contents approved. Anyone who conducts shooting beyond the project and content approved should be order by the management to stop the shooting activities, and films so shot should be withheld temporarily.

**Article 20**

Various funds and other incomes of the Potala Palace must be managed strictly according to relevant regulations and rules, special fund could be used only for the special purposes, and supervision and auditing by the fiscal and auditing departments should be carried out.

**Article 21**

If anyone constructs architectures or structures within the protective scope or construction control zone of the Potala Palace without approval, the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region, together with the urban planning department, should order it to stop the construction, dismantle the illegal architectures and structures, and impose thereon a penalty fine equivalent to 1% of the construction cost of the architecture or structure.

**Article 22**

If anyone stockpiles or erect flammables, explosives, goods threatening the safety of cultural relics or facilities, causing serious consequences, the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region should order it to move them out within a given period of time, and impose thereon a penalty fine less than 1,000 yuan.

**Article 23**

If anyone, without approval, takes photographs or shoots films or TV plays inside the Potala Palace, the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region should confiscate all or part of its films or cinefilms, imposes a penalty fine less than 5,000 yuan if an individual person is involved and more than 5,000 yuan but less than 20,000 yuan if a unit is involved.

**Article 24**

If anyone violates the laws and regulations on the protection of cultural relics or these Rules, the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region or departments provided for by the laws and regulations, should mete out administrative penalty according to law; if a crime is constituted, criminal liability should be investigated according law.

**Article 25**

If any functionaries of the management office neglects his duty, abuses his power or causes destruction or loss of cultural relics due to his dereliction of duty, the competent department should give administrative penalty to the person in charge and person held directly responsible; if a crime is constituted, criminal liability should be investigated according to law.

**Article 26**

If any party involved disagrees with any administrative penalty decision made by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region or other administrative departments, he may apply for administrative review or initiate a legal action according to law. If a party involved neither applies for review with the prescribed period nor initiates legal action to the people's court, nor performs the administrative penalty decision, the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region and other administrative departments may apply to the people's court for a compulsory enforcement according to law.

**Article 27**

Specific problems in the application of these Rules should be interpreted by the administrative department of cultural relics of the autonomous region. The management office may work out specific management measures in accordance with these Rules.

**Article 28**

These Rules shall be executed and implemented from the date of promulgation.