

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Great Living Chola Temples

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- India

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

250bis




Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1987, 2004

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
	0 / 0	?	?	?	
The Brihadisvara Temple Complex, Thanjavur	10.783 / 79.952	18.07	9.58	27.65	1987
The Brihadisvara Temple Complex, Gangaikondacholapuram	11.206 / 79.449	2.4	2.9	5.3	2004
The Airavatesvara Temple Complex, Darasuram	10.948 / 79.357	1.26	4.23	5.49	2004
Total (ha)		21.73	16.71	38.44	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
The Brihadisvara temple complex, Thanjavur	29/04/2004	
The Brihadisvara temple complex, Gangaikondacholapuram	29/04/2004	
The Airavatesvara temple complex, Darasuram	29/04/2004	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Ministry of Culture

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Superintending Archaeologist
Archaeological Survey of India

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. 1001wonders.org : visit this site in [panophotographies - 360 x 180 degree images](#)

Section II - Great Living Chola Temples (250)

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

The draft Retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) has been submitted in the prescribed format to the World Heritage Centre for review and adoption.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(ii)(iii)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion (ii) The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur became the first great example of Chola temples, followed by a development of which the other two properties also bear witness. Criterion (iii) The three Great Chola Temples are an exceptional and the most outstanding testimony to the development of the architecture of the Chola Empire and the Tamil Civilisation in Southern India.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

Not needed

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

No comments

3. Factors Affecting the Property





































3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

All the factors have been covered.

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

Name	Impact	Origin
3.1 Buildings and Development		
3.1.1 Housing	  	
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities	  	
3.3 Services Infrastructures		
3.3.4 Localised utilities	  	
3.3.5 Major linear utilities	  	
3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric		
3.7.6 Water (rain/water table)	  	
3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage		
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	  	
3.9 Other human activities		
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage	  	
3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events		
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)	  	
3.13 Management and institutional factors		
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities	  	
3.13.3 Management activities	  	
Legend	 Current	 Potential
	 Negative	 Positive
	 Inside	 Outside

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.6 Water (rain/water table)	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.9 Other human activities					
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage	localised	frequent	minor	medium capacity	static

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

Currently the above factors are under control.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but are **not known by local residents / communities/landowners**.

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage Property is sufficient to maintain the Property.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

The proposed properties are all listed as monuments of national importance, under the protection of the Central Government. They are subject to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR 1958), and the corresponding rules (AMASR 1959 Rules). The Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur has been protected from 1922, the Gangaikondacholapuram temple complex from 1946, and the Airavatesvara temple complex from 1954.

The three temples are 'live' in the sense that traditional religious rituals continue being performed there through an active participation of the general public. The properties are thus also subject to the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act (1959).

The areas that are not specifically covered by the notifications issued by the Central Government, but which are part of the proposed core or buffer zones, are covered under the Madras Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (1966).

Comment

The areas not specifically covered by the notification issued by the Central Government, but which are part of the proposed buffer zones, are covered under the Local Municipality legal frame work.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

Legislative frame work is adequate for protecting the World heritage Property.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The Brihadisvara temple complex as well as of the Airavatesvara Temple rests with the Hereditary Trustee of the Palace Devasthanam. In fact, ever since these temples were built, the ownership has remained with the successive rulers. The last such rulers were the Marathas, who reigned until the British took over. On the basis of an agreement, the conservation and maintenance of the properties are the responsibility of the Archaeological Survey of India. The ownership of the Brihadisvara Temple Complex at Gangaikondacholapuram lies with

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

the Government of Tamil Nadu, as it has not continued to enjoy continued patronage as the other two complexes.

Traditionally, living temples of Tamil Nadu have been administered by either individuals or committees. The 1959 Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act brought all such properties under a single system regarding the regulation of administrative and religious activities. As a result, the general administration of the temples is the responsibility of the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments of the Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the conservation management of the property.

The Archaeological Survey of India has detailed conservation plans for the properties, together with programmes for regular maintenance and upkeep, as well as mechanisms for dealing with emergencies and specific requirements.

The Department of Information and Tourism of the Government of Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, has outlined a number of programmes regarding tourism on the three sites. The detailed plan for Thanjavur is in preparation, but basically all tourism is managed by local authority. In the case of Darasuram, the Airavatesvara temple complex is close to the town of Kumbakonam, and tourism falls under their responsibility. In the case of Gangaikondacholapuram, there is a plan to establish and equip a tourist centre, outside the buffer zone, to assist and also accommodate visitors.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Currently there are no management documents but there exists an effective management system to protect the OUV of the property.

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property but it could be improved

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system/plan is only **partially adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is **only partially** being implemented

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Fair
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Not applicable
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Fair
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Not applicable

Section II - Great Living Chola Temples (250)

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is **little or no contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

The existing management plan is fairly adequate for preserving the property.

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

No changes in any of the above factors.

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Governmental (National / Federal)	100%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	
Other grants	

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

No International Assistance has been received from the World Heritage Fund.

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding are **secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

The Government has finance and infrastructure to maintain the World Heritage Property.

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	100%
Part-time	

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	70%
Seasonal	30%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	100%
Volunteer	

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Good

Section II - Great Living Chola Temples (250)

Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Medium
Interpretation	High
Education	High
Visitor management	High
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Medium

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

Management, administration and conservation expertise are from Archaeological Survey of India.

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

1. Brhadisvara Temple-Form and meaning by R. Nagaswamy 2009 ; 2. Rajarajeswaram by Kudavayil Bala Subramanian, 2010 ; 3. The Brihadisvara temple Thanjavur by Sathyabhama Badhreenath, 2010; 4. Thanjai Periya koil by Dr.A.Sargunan, 2009; 5. Chola Paintings by P.S. Sriraman, 2011; 6. The Great temple at Thanjavur one thousand Years, 1010-2010, by Michell & Indira Viswanathan Peterson, 2010

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

A study was undertaken to interpret the methodology of construction of the temple at Thanjavur.

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Average
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

There is **excellent presentation and interpretation** of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Excellent
----------------	-----------

Section II - Great Living Chola Temples (250)

Site museum	Excellent
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Excellent
Other	Adequate

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

Education, information and awareness building is being regularly imparted which is continuous process.

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Tourism industry
Other

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

Currently no visitor management document is available but there is a management system in place.

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

No fees are collected

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

Since the property is a living temple, both religious visitors and tourists visit the temple.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient to define key indicators, **but this has not been done**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Average
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Average
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

The property is well maintained. However there are no specific recommendations by the WH Committee.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

Archaeological Survey of India is monitoring the property.

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)	Criterion (ii) The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur became the first great example of Chola temples, followed by a development of which the other two properties also bear witness.	The high water table at the World Heritage property at Darasuram has been studied and action has been initiated to prevent stagnation of water in the complex.	It is being regularly monitored	Continuous	Archaeological Survey of India It is being regularly monitored and drained away so that the monument is not affected by it.
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage	Criterion (ii) The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur became the first great example of Chola temples, followed by a development of which the other two properties also bear witness.	Awareness is created to stop vandalism in the World Heritage Property.	It is being regularly monitored	Continuous	Archaeological Survey of India There is watch and ward arrangement to monitor the monument.

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.3 Management System / Management Plan						
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
4.3.10	There is little or no contact with industry regarding management	Present management is adequate.	Static	Archaeological Survey of India	Management of the World Heritage property is monitored by the Archaeological Survey of India, the local and temple authorities. Whenever there is requirement the tourism industry is also involved.	

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

The monuments are well maintained and in good state of preservation

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Very positive
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Positive

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

The World Heritage status of the property has created awareness of its heritage value.

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff

Section II - Great Living Chola Temples (250)

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

A complete questionnaire covering all aspects of the property.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Fair

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Monitoring and reporting
Management effectiveness

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	None

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: The draft Retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) has been submitted in the prescribed format to the World Heritage Centre for review and adoption.

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

The Assessment of the Periodic Reporting Exercise is good.