

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Ancient City of Polonnaruwa

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

• Sri Lanka

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

201

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1982

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Ancient City of Polonnaruwa	7.916 / 81.001	0	0	0	1982
Total (ha)			0		

1.4 - Map(s)

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

Department of Archaeology Central Cultural Fund

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

• Senarath Dissanayake

Director General

Department of Archaeology

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

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

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

Comment

Buddhist Temporalities Act 1968

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

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

(i)(iii)(vi)

Comment

Agreed

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion I: great artificial reservoir and the laying out of royal and monastic structures within parks, colossal Buddha images
 Criterion III: Parakkrama Samudra or the 'Sea of Parakkrama', the artificial reservoir of immense proportions constructed to irrigate the vast extents of agricultural fields positioning of numerous Buddhist and Hindu shrines and by the architectural characteristics of South Indian and South-east Asian region
 Criterion VI: special shrines water stored within the Parakkrama Samudra or the great artificial reservoir.

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

Not relevant as SOUV was submitted in February 2011

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

Defining a SOUV leads to a proper management of the property.

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

No specific factors

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact	Origin			
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities						
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure						
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure						
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.5 Major linear utilities						
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.4 Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals						
3.5.10 Forestry /wood production						
3.6	Physical resource extraction					
3.6.4 Water (extraction)						
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric					
3.7.1 Wind						
3.7.2 Relative humidity						
3.7.3 Temperature						
3.7.4 Radiation/light						
3.7.7 Pests						
3.7.8 Micro-organisms						
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses						
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage						
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation						
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1 Illegal activities						
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage						
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1 Storms						
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
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure				
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	localised	on-going	significant	medium capacity	static
3.5	Biological resource use/modification				
3.5.4 Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.5.10 Forestry /wood production	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.6	Physical resource extraction				
3.6.4 Water (extraction)	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric				
3.7.1 Wind	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.7.2 Relative humidity	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.7.8 Micro-organisms	localised	frequent	significant	low capacity	static

		Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	extensive	frequent	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	static
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage	localised	one off or rare	significant	medium capacity	decreasing

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

3.17.1 - Comments

No any special comments

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, but there is a need for one

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 **do not limit** the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved

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

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of its inscription** on the World Heritage List

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

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

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

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

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

Effective buffer zone must be identified and regulations must be made to control the activities.

4.2. Protective Measures

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

Public ownership under Antiquities Ordinance n° 9 of 1940 and the Central Cultural Fund Act n° 57 of 1980

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?

An adequate legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of

Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are **some deficiencies in implementation**

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 property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

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?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

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

If proper protective measures could be established through a legal framework, it will be more effective.

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

4.3.2 - Management Documents

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 **not 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?

No annual work / action plan exists **despite an identified need**

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	Fair
Landowners	Not applicable
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Fair
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Not applicable

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 **no input** into decisions relating to the 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

A separate entity for management comprising all the relevant parties is needed

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 any special changes

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)	10%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	90%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	
Other grants	

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

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

The available budget is **inadequate** for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage

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

Existing sources of funding are **not secure**

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

There is a **major flow** of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the World Heritage property

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

There are **some** equipment and facilities but overall these are **inadequate**

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

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

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

There are Financial difficulties to provide equipment and infrastructural needs.

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	100%
Seasonal	

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

Paid	100%
Volunteer	

Periodic Report - Second Cycle

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

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

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	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Poor
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	Low
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Low
Education	Low
Visitor management	Low
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Not available
Tourism	Low
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low

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

No capacity development plan or programme is in place; management is implemented by external staff and skills are not transferred

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

Training of personel and strengthening human resources are important

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** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management

Section II - Ancient City of Polonnaruwa (201)

needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **small amount** of research, but it is not planned

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **not shared** at any level

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

No Publications

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

Research activities should be developed and disseminated to the public.

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	Not applicable
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Average

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 **limited and ad hoc** education and awareness programme

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 **partially influenced** education, information and awareness building activities

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

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is **not adequately** presented and interpreted

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
Site museum	Excellent
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Not needed

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

A proper awareness programme must be conducted on World Heritage Values.

4.7. Visitor Management

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

Last year	Major Increase (100%+)
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Static
Four years ago	Decreasing
Five years ago	Decreasing

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

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Transportation services
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys
Other

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

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?

There is **some** management of the visitor use of the World Heritage property

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

There is **limited 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?

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

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

Visitor entries must be recorded by using modern equipment and data should be used in future plans

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 **small amount** of monitoring, but it is not planned

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 and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

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	Poor
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Not applicable
Industry	Not applicable
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

No recommendations received from World Heritage committee

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

A daily monitoring process must be implemented

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	
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	Criterion I: City planning and architectural design can be affected.	Proper tourist trail system should be introduced.	Monitoring should be done to assess the physical damage to the property.	Two years	Department of Archaeology Central Cultural Fund	Road system should be reconsidered immediately since it affects the physical integrity of the property.
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric						
3.7.1	Wind	Criterion I Edifices of contrasting forms and remarkable detailing within compounds.	Creating wind barriers after a scientific research	A proper controlling and monitoring system should be established	10 years	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund,	It takes time to implement necessary remedial actions
3.7.2	Relative humidity	Criterion I Numerous edifices of contrasting forms and remarkable detailing can be affected by the humidity.	Humidity should be monitored and suitable technical measures should be taken to prevent physical damage.	More scientific monitoring is essential	Continuous	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund,	There is no scientific monitoring available
3.7.8	Micro-organisms						
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage						
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	Criterion VI The serenity and peace achieved in unique sculptural art of colossal Buddha images are also a result of the association of Buddhism. The site is also directly and tangibly associated with the ultimate realization of the unique idea of water preservation held by South Asia's ancient dry zone civilizations that "... not a drop of rain water be allowed to drain into the ocean before serving the humankind, as reflected by the immense sheet of water stored within the Parakkrama Samudra or the great artificial reservoir.	A good relationship must be created between the property managers and the religious community	Committees should be established periodically to monitor the issues	on going	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Religious and community organizations	It is essential to continue these activities
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	Criterion I: city planning and architectural design as reflected by the juxtaposition of the royal city with the great artificial reservoir and the laying out of royal and monastic structures within parks	visitor management and awareness plan should be implemented	Management Authority must be empowered with suitable resources.	on going	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Religious and community organizations	Presently, it is not properly done due to lack of human resources

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones				
	Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment

4.1.1	There is a need for a buffer zone	Defining the buffer zone to fulfill the SOUV needs	1 year	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund	Defining buffer zone is more important
4.3 Management System / Management Plan					
4.3.4	Management system / plan is inadequate	A well defined management system must be established to control specific activities related to the World Heritage site	2 years	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund, Urban Development Authority	Apart from the existing system draft management plan is available
4.4 Financial and Human Resources					
4.4.3	The budget is inadequate for management needs	A planned budgetary allocations has to be made for the annual identified programme based on long term plan	1 year	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund	Budget mainly depend on the tourist tickets and it has the possibility to fluctuate
4.6 Education, Information and Awareness Building					
4.6.5	The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is not adequately presented and interpreted	Awareness programmes on SOUV must be conducted	2 years	Department of Archaeology	Intepreting SOUV is very important
4.7 Visitor Management					
4.7.4	Some management of visitor use of the property but this could be improved	Visitor management should be done according to carrying capacity	on going	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund	Visitor use of the property must be recorded properly
4.8 Monitoring					
4.8.1	Some monitoring, but it is not planned	Monitoring of the property must be done in a planned way	on going	Department of Archaeology, Central Cultural Fund	Monitoring is not done systematically

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 **seriously compromised** by factors described in this report

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property has been **compromised** by factors described in this report

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

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **impacted** by factors described in this report, but this situation is being **addressed through effective management actions**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values are being **partially degraded** but the state of conservation of the World Heritage property has not been significantly impacted

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

5.4.1 - Comments

Conservation techniques must be improved and training must be given

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	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	No impact
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	Positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

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

World heritage values of the monument is being maintained. Apart from the excavations, conservations and maintenance there is no any major change in the property since the inscription

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
Staff from other World Heritage properties
Donors
External experts
Advisory bodies

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

There should be regular intervals in periodic reporting. Present reporting which is being carried out after eight years is too long.

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

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Very good

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 World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
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	Excellent
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

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

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

Reason for update: Agreed

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

Satisfactory and encouraging