

LUMBINI, NEPAL: The Birthplace of Lord Buddha-World Heritage Property
Report on the state of conservation of the property

1 February 2019



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
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Introduction

Lumbini is a peerless landmark of the Buddhist world. This is the only active religious place that has been listed in the World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1997. Lumbini symbolized ultimate peace and harmony. The eyes of Buddha are the emblem of love, worship; kindness and compassion are the synonym of Buddhism. Lumbini, was inscribed on the List of World Heritage at the 21st session of the World Heritage Committee in 1997 under criteria (iii) and (vi):

Criterion (iii): As the birthplace of the Lord Buddha, testified by the inscription on the Asoka pillar, the sacred area in Lumbini is one of the most holy and significant places for one of the world's great religions.

Criterion (vi): The archaeological remains of the Buddhist *viharas* (monasteries) and *stupas* (memorial shrines) from the 6th century BC to the 15th century AD, provide important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centers from a very early period.

Integrity:

The integrity of Lumbini has been achieved by means of preserving the archaeological remains that give the property its outstanding universal value within the boundaries. The significant attributes and elements of the property have been preserved. The buffer zone gives the property a further layer of protection. Further excavations of potential archaeological sites and appropriate protection of the archaeological remains are a high priority for the integrity of the site. The boundaries however do not include the entire archaeological site and various areas are found in the buffer zone. The entire property is owned by the Government of Nepal and is being managed by the Lumbini Development Trust and therefore there is little threats of development or neglect. However the affects of industrial development in the region has been identified as a threat to the integrity of the property.

Authenticity:

The authenticity of the archaeological remains within the boundaries has been confirmed through a series of excavations since the discovery of the Asoka pillar in 1896. The remains of *viharas*, *stupas* and numerous layers of brick structures from the 6th century BCE to the present century at the site of the Maya Devi Temple are proof of Lumbini having been a centre of pilgrimage already from early times. The archaeological remains require active conservation and monitoring to ensure that the impact of natural degradation, influence of humidity and the impact of the visitors are kept under control.

Management:

The main archaeological site is protected as per the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956. The site management is carried out by the Lumbini Development Trust, an autonomous and non-profit making organization as a Government Authority. The entire site is owned by the Government of Nepal. The site falls within the centre of the Master Plan area, the planning of which was initiated together with the United Nations and carried out by Prof. Kenzo Tange between 1972 and 1978. The long-term challenges for

the protection and management of the property would be to control the impact of the visitors, of natural impacts such as humidity and the industrial development in the region. A Management Plan is in the process of being developed to ensure the long-term safeguarding of the archaeological vestiges of the property while allowing for the property to continue being visited by pilgrims and tourists from around the world.

This report has been prepared as requested by the World Heritage Committee during their 40th Session. It has mentioned about the information of the researches and different activities done in Lumbini World Heritage Property and surroundings.

We would like to express gratitude to the World Heritage Center for the concern they have shown and their encouragement and funding of the project through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666 rev)

Decision: 42 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.42** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes the progress made with the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) document, but regrets the delays encountered with its adoption by the State Party;
4. Notes with concern that development activities have been undertaken within the property and the Buffer Zone prior to the formal adoption of the Management Plan and without systematically conducting the necessary impact assessments or following the Archaeological Risk Map;
5. Urges the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF document as a matter of priority, and to systematically carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the proposed projects, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, before undertaking any further work within the property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;
6. Expresses concern about the Lumbini World Peace City project and its potential impacts on the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details on the proposed project and carry out an HIA, in conformity with the aforementioned ICOMOS Guidelines, and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any activity is implemented;
7. Encourages the State Party to develop a clear strategy and concrete further actions for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

Section A

General Response to Points made by the World Heritage Committee Refer 40 COM 7B.42– State of Conservation

3. Notes the progress made with the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) document, but regrets the delays encountered with its adoption by the State Party;

The Integrated Management Framework document has been finalized under UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in- Trust Project. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, National Planning Commission of Nepal, the Lumbini Development Trust and the Department of Archaeology of Nepal have been adopted and forwarded to the Cabinet for final adoption of the Government of Nepal but has yet to be ratified. The draft Integrated Management Framework (Nepalese Version) document have been already submitted to the World Heritage Center.

4. Notes with concern that development activities have been undertaken within the property and the Buffer Zone prior to the formal adoption of the Management Plan and without systematically conducting the necessary impact assessments or following the Archaeological Risk Map;

Development Activities within the Property

1. Security Post

To manage the systematic security system of the World Heritage Property, it felt necessary to enlarge the security post to fix baggage scanner machine and computer. It is enlarged with the consultation of Department of Archaeology.



2. Electronic Toilet

To provide utility facilities for the pilgrims and visitors in the sacred garden area, LDT has been installed electronic reversible toilet on the surface within the buffer zone.



Also, slight development activities are undertaking as recommended by the Lumbini Development Master plan.

5. Urges the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF document as a matter of priority, and to systematically carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the proposed projects, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, before undertaking any further work within the

property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;

The site manager has great concerned to implement the Integrated Management Framework thus, waiting the formal endorsement of the Cabinet. The State party has appointed an archaeologist as archaeological advisor to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments to protect The Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property, as well as all the archaeological sites of Greater Lumbini Area.

6. Expresses concern about the Lumbini World Peace City project and its potential impacts on the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details on the proposed project and carry out an HIA, in conformity with the aforementioned ICOMOS Guidelines, and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any activity is implemented;

The Master plan of the Lumbini World Peace City was principally approved by the Government of Nepal. However, the Government and the Lumbini Development Trust are not taking any implementation action. The Site Manager fully agrees that the recommendation made by the World Heritage Committee will sincerely follow.

7. Encourages the State Party to develop a clear strategy and concrete further actions for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;

The State Party fully agrees and has great concern to develop a strategy for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area. Thus to understand morphology of the historical sites various researches likes archaeological investigation, geophysical survey have been carried out under the UNESCO/Japanese Fund in-Trust project in the year of 2014-2021. Especially phase III of the project is proposed , which has been designed based on discussions during the International Scientific Committee meetings with stressed the importance to cover conservation, archaeology and overall planning issues related to the three sites -Lumbini, Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, with a specific focus on the ancient Tilaurakot sites and its environs.

The Lumbini Development Trust are taking serious action to develop a clear strategy and concrete further actions for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and organized brain storming program among the experts.



Also, the International Buddhist Conference-2018 has unanimously agreed on following points;

- a. To establish Lumbini as a gateway to the Greater Circuit of Asian Buddhist Pilgrimage by connecting Lumbini (Nepal) with Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kusinara (India), and other great Buddhist centers and heritage sites in countries such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, etc.
- b. To create an integrated management plan to safeguard the archaeological, cultural and natural heritage of the Greater Lumbini Area.
- c. To safeguard the environment within the Greater Lumbini Area, and monitor and control sources of all forms of pollution.
- d. Realizing the great significance of Kapilavastu (the homeland of the Buddha and Sakyas), Devadaha (home of Queen Maya Devi), Ramagram (relic stupa of the Buddha) to all Buddhist and peace-loving people around the world and their potential as pilgrimage destinations within the Buddhist Circuit of Nepal create an integrated Greater Lumbini Area Master Plan.

2562nd BUDDHA JAYANTI AND INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFERENCE

on the theme "LUMBINI, NEPAL: THE BIRTHPLACE OF LORD BUDDHA AND

THE FOUNTAIN OF BUDDHISM AND WORLD PEACE"

Lumbini, Nepal

LUMBINI DECLARATION 2018

We, the global participants from 23 different nations having met in Lumbini, Nepal on the 28-29th April 2018 for the occasion of the 2562nd Buddha Jayanti and International Buddhist Conference, organized by the Government of Nepal and Lumbini Development Trust:

Acknowledging the achievements made in the past to promote the importance of Lumbini as the sacred birthplace of the Buddha and the Fountain of Buddhism and World Peace;

Realize the great significance of the birthplace of one of the greatest teachers of humanity and its profound potential to inspire and promote universal brotherhood, compassion, kindness, and empathy for the welfare of all sentient beings and as an international center for Interfaith and Peace dialogue;

Agree to develop Lumbini as a global peace center where both religious and secular leaders of the world can unite together to help create a world free from poverty and strife as embodied the original vision of the United Nations and the government of Nepal.

Accepting Lumbini as the birthplace of the Buddha and the Fountain of Buddhism and World Peace;

Recognize the great relevance of Buddha's teachings of the Middle Path as a sustainable future for humanity today as it faces unprecedented global challenges such as ecological crisis, climate change, widespread poverty, marginalization, exploitation and violence in the world;

Consolidating and building on the valuable contributions of all the various Buddhist groups, communities and organizations;

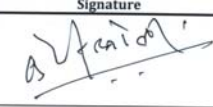
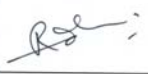

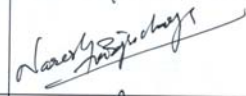
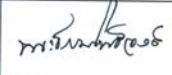


Urging the global community to work together to address rising violence, intolerance and conflicts and to find strategies to unite humanity together for a sustainable world peace by promoting interfaith dialogue, cooperation and harmony as exemplified in the Noble Teachings of the Buddha.



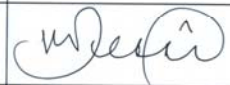
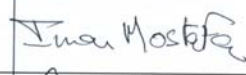
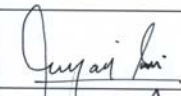
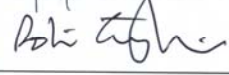
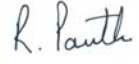

Hereby, we unanimously agree to:

1. Globally promote awareness of Lumbini, Nepal as the birthplace of Lord Buddha and a fountain of Buddhism and world peace as promulgated in the 2016 Lumbini Declaration.
2. To complete the Lumbini Master Plan designed by Kenzo Tange as a Global Center for Peace and Humanity..
3. To promote interfaith dialogue, and bring the world Buddhist community together, to address rising religious and ethnic violence in Asia and to work together to find a Buddhist way to address and resolve conflict.
4. To create an international center for peace and conflict resolution in Lumbini.
5. To establish Lumbini as a gateway to the Greater Circuit of Asian Buddhist Pilgrimage by connecting Lumbini (Nepal) with Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kusinara (India), and other great Buddhist centers and heritage sites in countries such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, etc.
6. To create an integrated management plan to safeguard the archaeological, cultural and natural heritage of the Greater Lumbini Area.
7. To safeguard the environment within the Greater Lumbini Area, and monitor and control sources of all forms of pollution.
8. Realizing the great significance of Kapilavastu (the homeland of the Buddha and Sakyas), Devadaha (home of Queen Maya Devi), Ramagram (relic stupa of the Buddha) to all Buddhist and peace-loving people around the world and their potential as pilgrimage destinations within the Buddhist Circuit of Nepal create an integrated Greater Lumbini Area Master Plan.
9. To develop Lumbini as a global center for Buddhist studies.
10. Enact the 2016 Lumbini Declaration to initiate a global Buddhist forum to establish a network among the Buddhist traditions.

Signature
29-04-2018.

Lumbini : Nepal, The Birthplace of Lord Buddha and the Fountain of Buddhism & World Peace
International Buddhist Conference-2018
Lumbini Declarations
29th April, 2018

S.N	Name	Country	Signature
1	Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli	Nepal	
2	Hon'ble Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, Minister, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation	Nepal	
3	Ven. Metteyya, Vice Chairman of Lumbini Development Trust	Nepal	
4	Prof. Naresh Man Bajracharya	Nepal	
5	Most Ven. Phradhambodhivong	Thailand	
6	Most Ven. Yen Sun	China	
7	Most Ven. Kotugoda Dhammawasa Thero	Sri Lanka	

8	Mr. Batoev Bilikto	Russia	
9	H.E. Wellage Swarnalatha Parera	Sri Lanka	
10	H.E. Mazhar Javed	Pakistan	
11	H. E. Tesso Maria Teresa Nesqutu	Brazil	
12	H.E. Baher Nabal Abdelfattah Helmy	Egypt	
13	H.E. Amjed Hussain B Sial	Secretary General SAARC	
14	Prof. Robin Andrew Coningham Key Note Speaker	Ireland	
15	Prof. Ravindra Panth	India	
16	Ven. Ravi Medhankar	Japan	

17	Ven. Dr. Pallekande Rathanasara Thero	Sri Lanka	<i>Aborn...</i>
18	Prof. Dr. Arvinda Alok	India	<i>mi</i>
19	Prof. Kwon Gi- Hyun	South Korea	
20	Prof. KTS Sarao	India	<i>KTS Sarao</i>
21	Dr. Mark Owen	UK	
22	Dr. Iromi Ariyaratne	Sri Lanka	<i>Iromi</i>
23	Ven. Guruma Bodhi Shakyadhita	Canada	<i>Pou Paste</i>
24	Prof. Bernadette Broskamp	Germany	<i>B. Broskamp</i>

25	Dr. Matthew Richard	France	
26	Dr. Anju Bala	India	<i>Anju Bala</i>
27	Dr. Claudio Cicuzza	Italy	
28	Prof. Marek Mejor	Poland	<i>mejor</i>
29	Prof. Mohamud Darwis Khudori	Indonesia	<i>Mohamud</i>
30	Mr. Lai Seow Khee	Malaysia	<i>Lai Sh</i>
31	Most Ven. Shyalpa Tenzing Rinpoche	USA	

32	Prof. Wang Xuemei	China	Wang Xuemei
33	Prof. Rabindra Pant	India	
34	Guru U Pandita Ananda	Malaysia	
35	Mr. Kai Weise	Nepal	Kai Weise
36	Mr. Rahul Barua Barua	India	Rahul Barua
37	MOST Ven. Eikan Mizutani	Japan	水谷 英彦
38	Md. Maksuduz Rahman Patwary	Bangladesh	Md. Maksuduz Rahman Patwary

39	SUSAMON CHAKMA	Bangladesh B.D.	Susamon Chakma
40	ASIT BARAN SARKER First Secretary-Consular Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu	Bangladesh	Asit Baran Sarker 2014/18
41.	Acharya Kama Rinche Sherpa President, Nepal Besshi Federation	Nepal	Kama Rinche Sherpa
42.	POETR	Cambodia	Poetr