Support to the
South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

Final Narrative Report • July 2018
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South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

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<tr>
<td><strong>Name of Persons completing the present report</strong></td>
<td>Roland Lin (UNESCO WHC) in close collaboration with UNESCO Office in New Delhi</td>
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Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

Kyichu Lhakhang, Paro, Bhutan © UNESCO/Roland Lin
1. Summary and Background

As combined works of nature and humankind, cultural landscapes express a long and intimate relationship between peoples and their natural environment. South Asia, and the Himalayan region in particular, is known for its unique cultural landscapes that bear witness to a distinctive history and culture as well as traditional wisdom and customs. Cultural landscapes are therefore a prime asset of the Himalayan region, particularly for Bhutan and Nepal. However, the region’s cultural landscapes, together with traditional ways of living, are today increasingly vulnerable due to the changes brought about by urbanization and a lack of awareness about their significance. As the preservation and sustainable development of these cultural landscapes are intimately linked to the processes of development and urbanization, increased understanding of, and respect for, Nepal’s and Bhutan’s fragile cultural landscapes would also contribute to the development agenda of the Himalayan region. In particular for Bhutan, a country whose draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan considers the entire nation as a unique cultural landscape, the protection and preservation of cultural sites and landscapes is crucial to the achievement of sustainable development of the nation.

Since 2014, UNESCO has made several efforts to support the Government of Bhutan in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of its cultural landscapes. On 7-18 August 2014, UNESCO (World Heritage Centre and Office in New Delhi), with a financial contribution from the Paris-based NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance, supported the Department of Culture of Bhutan in hosting an international competition titled “Cultural Landscape – its interpretation and ways to enhance the safeguarding of cultural landscape in Bhutan”. On 19 August 2014, an international forum, supported by UNESCO, was organized in Bhutan to collect expert advice and raise awareness of cultural landscapes. In 2015, Kyushu University (Japan) joined the above-mentioned partners to support Bhutan in hosting the 2015 Workshop on Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, from 21 July to 9 August 2015.

The current project built on previous achievements and aimed to further enhance the understanding, conservation and awareness-raising of cultural landscapes in Bhutan through a variety of activities. Due to Nepal’s urgent priorities to cope with recovery measures following the severe earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015, this project has not provided direct support to Nepal, nor implemented activities in Nepal. Nevertheless, the current project has provided opportunities for Nepal, and in particular the Nepali Department of Archaeology, to share experiences.

The specific objectives of this project were to:

- Create and facilitate national activities/workshops in Bhutan on the topic of cultural landscapes;
- Provide technical assistance to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frameworks, and prepare national cultural landscape World Heritage tentative list submissions of Bhutan;
- Strengthen awareness of cultural landscapes in Bhutan.

The two-year duration of the project was approved by the Japanese Donor on 31 May 2016. The project was officially launched on 3 August 2016, by the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mechtild Rössler, together with the relevant Bhutanese authorities and leading experts from Japan (Prof. Yukio Nishimura, University of Tokyo and Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, Kyushu University), on the occasion of the first cultural landscape workshop under the project’s framework in Paro & Thimphu, Bhutan.

This final narrative report summarizes the activities undertaken from 31 May 2016 to 31 May 2018.
II. Description of project implementation

This project aimed to support the South Asian State Parties, and particularly Bhutan, in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of their cultural landscapes. The activities undertaken within the framework of the project were to organize and facilitate national activities/workshops in Bhutan on the topic of cultural landscapes; to provide technical assistance in order to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frameworks; and to strengthen local awareness of cultural landscapes. Through these activities, the project has fulfilled its development objectives of enhancing Bhutan’s abilities to balance conservation needs and development pressures, especially those related to rural-urban migrations, and strengthening local capacities, awareness and ownership.

Activity 1: Two annual national workshops organized in Bhutan on the topic of cultural landscapes

In the 2-year project period, UNESCO has organized two national/international workshops on the topic of cultural landscapes, in close collaboration with the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan. These workshops brought together Bhutanese professionals and officials working with heritage, national and international experts as well as policymakers and other local and national stakeholders to discuss cultural landscapes. The activities have therefore contributed to a better understanding of cultural landscapes in Bhutan – their history and importance as well as their preservation and management – and contributed to the documentation of Bhutanese cultural landscapes, as well as preparatory work in view of the future update of the World Heritage Tentative List of Bhutan by adding the first Cultural Landscapes to the Tentative List. These national activities have also contributed to raising awareness about cultural landscapes by including representatives of all concerned stakeholders in the process.

The 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan

The Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2016 was held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan, from 11 July to 3 August 2016. The workshop aimed
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Panel members, participants and observers of the 2016 July meeting

Panel members (notably Dr. Mechthild Rössler/UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Prof. Yukio Nishimura/Japan and Prof. Toshiyuki Kano/Japan) together with participants and observers of the 2016 August meeting

The working group developing the value-based design of the 2016 August meeting
to assist with the development of management frameworks for two selected cultural landscape sites in Paro, Bhutan. The workshop, co-organized by the Department of Culture (DoC) of the Bhutanese Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, involved both national stakeholders and international experts in the discussion and deliberation of implementable management schemes for one cultural site within the Paro valley and the broader Special Area – Cultural Landscape of the Paro valley. Exercises included the identification of elements/aspects underpinning cultural heritage values, deliberations on key areas that need to be surveyed, examined, and planned for, and finally the preparation of proposals on implementable management schemes of the two cultural landscape aforementioned sites. The outcomes of these working exercises were reviewed by several invited international experts, who also provided advice before submission to the respective panels for final deliberation. The Bhutanese Department of Culture may implement the proposed schemes on a trial basis after the necessary modification and improvement. The organization of this workshop has benefited from the continuous collaboration between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and has been supported financially by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, the NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France) and Kyushu University (Japan).

The 2017 International Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017, 22–27 October 2017, held in Thimphu, Bhutan

The “Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017” was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 22 to 27 October 2017. It aimed to assist the staff of the Department of Culture of Bhutan in reviewing the development of management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the twenty Dzongkhags/Districts of Bhutan (Bumthang, Samtse, Trongsa, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang). This event was part of an ongoing series of workshops on cultural landscapes in Bhutan and followed three previous annual workshops: in 2014, for the International Competition of Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, post-degree university teams from Japan, Thailand and UK were invited to work with Bhutanese experts. In 2015, young professionals from Bhutan, China, Cyprus, France, India, Japan and Serbia were invited to conduct a study of a village in the Haa District of Bhutan, in order to identify and analyse various elements that constitute the cultural landscape of the village (e.g. architecture, settlements, natural environment, community and peoples’ lifestyle), while the 2016 Workshop for Cultural Landscape of Bhutan assisted with the development of management frameworks for two selected cultural landscape sites in Paro, Bhutan.
The 2017 "workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - Bhutan 2017" was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 22 to 27 October 2017.

Panel members (notably Dr Roland Lin/UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Prof. Yukio Nishimura/Japan, Prof. Toshiyuki Kono/Japan and Mr Eric Dubois/French NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance) together with participants and observers of the 2017 October meeting.
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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A Cultural Landscape is the result of human interaction with the environment. In cultural landscapes, land is shaped by human activities for a wide variety of purposes: agriculture, settlement, industry, recreation, and others. The area is characterized by the presence of cultural and natural features that are interdependent and interrelated. Cultural landscapes reflect the cultural and historical heritage of a place and the values that people hold for the landscape.

01 BULU: PARADISE OF CHENDI-NAGHAM

Bulu village is located in the eastern side of the cultural landscape. The village is surrounded by dense forests and is home to several species of flora and fauna. The village is known for its abundant water resources, which provide a unique ecosystem.

02 SAMOE: MEDIEVAL WONDERLAND OF LIMANG

Samoe village is situated on the western side of the cultural landscape. The village is known for its medieval architecture and unique cultural features. The village is surrounded by dense forests and is home to several species of flora and fauna.

03 URA: SOUTH-EASTERN JEWEL OF DHUMA PANG

Ura village is located in the southern side of the cultural landscape. The village is known for its beautiful natural scenery and unique cultural features. The village is surrounded by dense forests and is home to several species of flora and fauna.

04 NARJI: A HISTORIC VILLAGE

Narji village is located in the northern side of the cultural landscape. The village is known for its historical significance and unique cultural features. The village is surrounded by dense forests and is home to several species of flora and fauna.

05 BUNGTEY: A SACRED NESTL

Bungtey village is located in the central side of the cultural landscape. The village is known for its sacred historical and cultural features. The village is surrounded by dense forests and is home to several species of flora and fauna.

06 RINCHENANGA HISTORIC SETTLEMENT

Rinchenanga is a historic settlement located in the eastern side of the cultural landscape. The village is known for its historical significance and unique cultural features. The village is surrounded by dense forests and is home to several species of flora and fauna.
Activity 2: Technical assistance, provided by UNESCO and international experts to Bhutan in developing a national strategy and building capacity towards the holistic protection of its cultural heritage and cultural landscape

Since 2013, UNESCO has provided technical assistance to Bhutan in developing a national strategy and building capacity towards the holistic protection of its cultural heritage and landscape. As part of ongoing activities to that effect, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCSH) of the Department of Culture (DoC) at the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, in close collaboration with UNESCO Office in New Delhi, organised the abovementioned 2016 and 2017 Workshops on 'Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan'.

The first part of the 2016 Bhutan Cultural Landscape Workshop started from 11 to 26 July 2016 with very intensive fieldwork in two traditional villages of Paro Valley in Bhutan, Chhubar and Aatsho, undertaken by 4 participants: one from the Department of Culture’s Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites; one from the Paro District Government’s Agriculture Office; and two international experts from Belgium and Serbia. The working group produced a draft Management Plan of the Chhubar and Aatsho Cultural Site (CACS; see the cover page of the draft Management Plan above) which identifies the sites’ values and attributes, along with all relevant stakeholders related to the CACS, and outlines ways to assist them in meeting their responsibilities and roles for sustaining the significance of CACS. It will ensure that the values of the CACS are protected and that the management actions proposed are carried out in a coordinated manner. Boundaries for the CACS and its buffer zone have also been proposed based on the values, significance and management objectives.

For the DoC, the draft management plan for Chhubar and Aatsho Cultural Site could be used as a pilot exercise for the future implementation of the draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan (expected to be adopted during the 2018-2019 Bhutan Parliament sessions), which declares the whole of Bhutan as a unique Cultural Landscape and proposes a shift in policy by extending the concept of cultural heritage beyond monuments to embrace all of Bhutan’s historical assets (for example cultural sites, cultural landscapes, traditional villages, but also the expression of traditions), thus embracing both tangible and intangible aspects of culture. This is in line with the Gross National Happiness (GNH), the developmental philosophy of Bhutan, which has the "preservation and promotion of culture" as one of its four main pillars. This key document for the country and its development philosophy recognises the utmost importance of cultural heritage, and setting up an appropriate legal framework is therefore indispensable. Once the Cultural Heritage Bill is enacted, a cultural site for which outstanding cultural heritage values have been identified is to be designated as an Important Cultural Site. The DoC of Bhutan shall prepare management plans for the Important Cultural Sites.
On 25 July 2016, the draft management plan of CACS was presented to and reviewed by a panel comprising 40 participants, including relevant stakeholders, the local village’s community leaders, and two international panel members (Dr. Roland Lin, representing WHC, and Professor Nancy Pollock-Ellwand of the Faculty of Environment Design, University of Calgary, Canada & Vice-President for the North America Region of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes). The panel discussion was organized in three sessions: (1) Values and Boundary; (2) Management Objectives and issues; and (3) Management strategies and issues and buffer zones.

A follow-up debriefing discussion between international experts, the representative of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the staff of the Department of Culture of Bhutan took place on 26 July 2016 in Paro.

The four main challenges for the management plan of the Chhbar and Aatsho Cultural Site (CACS) in Paro are listed below:

1. **Policy:** The large scope of this Cultural Site/Cultural Landscape and its management issues will require that the institutional framework is further defined; that the stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities are identified more clearly; and that the cooperation between national authorities, ministries, services, local authorities and communities is improved. This will require greater stakeholder consultations and more surveying, documentation and coordination efforts.

2. **Governance:** The stakeholders requested further clear recommendations from this Management Plan/Framework, including priorities and a short-, medium- and long-term timeframe; an Action Plan, resources. They also expressed that further operational guidelines and a plan for the allocation of resources for the future monitoring of the preservation and sustainability of the Cultural Landscape and CACS must be formulated.

3. **Research:** Currently, a large buffer zone is proposed to better control visual impacts on the site and to maintain the values and attributes of the Cultural Site/Cultural Landscape. The local stakeholders consider the proposed CACS buffer zone too large.

4. **Resources:** Community leaders showed strong concerns about incentives for the villages and inhabitants, notably regarding (a) income generation recommendations/guidelines, including Community-based tourism; (b) land use issue, self-efficiency of the community/village; (c) the balance between the use of the natural/cultural resources and the preservation of these resources; and (d) the balance of cultural preservation and sustainable development.

These four challenges are generally similar to those faced in the management of other cultural landscapes and in the preservation of cultural sites vs sustainable development (Holistic Concepts of Sustainability: UN 17 goals).

Finally, the Department of Culture, Bhutan reported that they are planning on updating the World Heritage Tentative List of Bhutan in the near future by adding the First Cultural Landscapes to the Tentative List.

The second session of the workshop started on 22 July 2016 with extensive reconnaissance surveying of the entire Paro Valley. This valley, which stretches over more than 10 km along the Pachhu River, was selected as the case study for cultural landscapes. It is expected to be a model of good management practices for other cultural landscape sites in Bhutan. The working group consisted of four participants: one from Bhutan’s Department of Culture; one from Bhutan’s Department of Human Settlements, and two international experts from Japan and Cyprus. The working group came up with a value-based design for the purpose of protecting and sustaining cultural landscape. The value-based design included 10 parameters (good quality, existing problems, potential dangers, possible actions, unexplored options, etc.) which were explored and identified for each of the elements that constitute the cultural landscape, in order to understand their significance and their relationships with each other. Two sites were selected as case studies by the group to explain the application of the value-based design, especially in terms of developing possible actions and management plans that would positively impact the cultural landscape.

The value-based design was presented to and reviewed by a panel comprising 10 national participants and 3 international participants (Dr Mechtild Rüssler, Director of World Heritage Centre; Prof. Yukio Nishimura, Director General of the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Tokyo, Japan; Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, Distinguished Professor at Kyushu University, Japan), along with 9 observers from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites of the Department of Culture of Bhutan.

Discussions were very lively between the panel members and the working group and mainly addressed the following issues:

- Management of tourism pressure and carrying capacity;
- How to maintain the values of the landscapes, its rice paddies (including those left by people going to the city) and the livelihood of people living from the land;
- Transport infrastructure and its impacts on the landscape;
- The involvement of communities in decision-making processes.

The workshop culminated in the launch of the current UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “South Asian
Cultural Landscape Initiatives” by the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Dr Mechtild Rössler, together with the relevant Bhutanese authorities and leading experts from Japan (Prof. Yukio Nishimura of the University of Tokyo and Prof. Toshiyuki Kono of Kyushu University), during an event held in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 3 August 2016.

In short, the 2016 workshop involved over 60 participants comprising Bhutanese government officials, national and international experts, and UNESCO staff. The workshop led to consultations with a number of local residents and community leaders on heritage preservation and management issues. It produced two concrete results: a draft Management Plan for the Chhubar and Aatsho Cultural Site, and a value-based design for the cultural landscape of Paro Valley. The two documents were carefully reviewed by their respective expert panels, and the panel members provided with valuable advice regarding possible improvements to the proposed management schemes. The DoC could use the proposed management schemes as pilot exercises for the future implementation of the draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan, which is to be adopted in the near future.

In 2017, within the framework of the Project, and as part of ongoing activities to that effect, the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS) of the Department of Culture at the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre organised the fourth edition of the Workshop on ‘Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017’.

The workshop helped improve the capacity of the DCHS; develop draft management plans for six potentially important cultural sites in Bhutan; and improve the Bhutanese authorities’ understanding of the methodology used for the management of cultural landscapes. More specifically, the Final Panel Review Session, held 25–26 October 2017 in Thimphu, engaged both national stakeholders and international experts in a discussion about the revision of implementable management schemes for six selected cultural sites/cultural landscape located in five different Dzongkhags/Districts of Bhutan. This workshop was organised thanks to the continuous and close collaboration between the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and is being supported financially by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives”, the NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France), and Kyushu University (Japan).

The inception of draft Cultural Heritage Bill, the first legislative framework in culture sector of Bhutan, has introduced the notion of sustaining the cultural landscape and its importance for equitable and sustainable development in the country. Furthermore, in the present juncture, where changes to the landscape are paramount, there is an utmost need to manage change. The Department of Culture, under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, has worked for the past two years within the framework of this Project, in the line of sustaining cultural landscape of Bhutan in parallel to forming the draft cultural heritage bill. Once enacted, the Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan will be the first holistic legislative document on cultural heritage in Bhutan, including heritage sites, and will thus aim to provide value-based protection for heritage sites in the country. The Bill is to protect not only heritage buildings but also cultural sites, including rural settlements, with their settings and surroundings. It also recognizes Bhutan, as a whole, as a unique cultural landscape bearing witness to the distinctive history, wisdom and custom of the people.

Realizing that cultural sites and the cultural landscape reflect the uninterrupted interaction between human activities and environment, the process to protect cultural sites and sustain the cultural landscape would observe success only when economic needs of the individuals are harmoniously balanced with the spiritual, emotional and cultural well-being of the society. Hence, it is understood that the protection of cultural sites and sustenance of the cultural landscape requires the people-centred management framework and schemes developed in the close cooperation with various stakeholders of the central and local government agencies and other concerned organizations.

For the past two years within the framework of the Project, the Department of Culture of Bhutan has worked to introduce the concept of cultural landscape and provide awareness for its importance to the officials working in the culture sector and other various stakeholders. The Department of Culture of Bhutan has now gained good experience in conservation of heritage buildings but the preservation of cultural sites is a new field for most of the officials.

In short, thanks to this Project, we have generated the key four outputs:

1. Capacity building for culture and heritage professionals: by organization of the Training sessions within the two above-mentioned workshops in 2016 and 2017 for the professionals and officials of the Department of Culture of Bhutan in order to enhance understanding of cultural landscapes and their conservation needs, and to improve the Bhutanese capacity for scientific documentation and management of the tangible and intangible heritage found within the cultural landscapes;
2. **Updating of legal frameworks**: the national legal frameworks on heritage – Bhutan’s Draft Cultural Heritage Bill has been updated to reflect the needs and challenges specific to cultural landscapes;

3. **Further documentation and inventory of existing archives**: by supporting Bhutan in the process of conducting research and gathering scientific documentation on cultural landscapes. An inventory of existing archives has been also undertaken; and

4. **Initiatives have been taken by the Department of Culture of Bhutan in Preparatory work for an eventual updating of national Tentative List to include cultural landscapes.**

On 26 October 2017, after the Panel Review Session of the 2017 Workshop, H.E. the Minister of Home and Culture Affairs of Bhutan chaired a working dinner to encourage all the partners involved to continue this endeavour to preserve and to safeguard the cultural landscape of Bhutan. With the agreement of the H.E. the Minister of Home and Culture Affairs of Bhutan and the staff of the Department of Culture of Bhutan, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Bhutan will jointly prepare a final technical report covering the four years of activities on cultural landscapes (see Annex ix). H.E. the Minister of Home and Culture Affairs of Bhutan and the staff of the Department of Culture of Bhutan also requested that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre continue this important UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives” Phase II from late 2018.

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**Activity 3: Awareness-raising activities**

Outreach and awareness campaigns about cultural landscapes have been organized in Bhutan in conjunction with the above-mentioned 2016 and 2017 two workshops. The importance of engaging local stakeholders and communities has been emphasized in all project activities, including the national activities/workshops. This project, with its focus in Bhutan, has also provided experience sharing for Nepal, particularly for the Department of Archaeology of Nepal.

The project attracted the attention of high officials, local authorities, site managers and related stakeholders all over Bhutan. The Bhutanese national leading media was invited to attend the opening sessions of the 2016 and 2017 workshops in order to promote the awareness raising of the importance of the cultural landscape preservation as well as the activities of the project. Also, both UNESCO and the Department of Culture of Bhutan have raised the visibility of the donor country, the name and the logo of the UNESCO-Japanese Funds-in-Trust have been duly acknowledged and presented in all public relation materials and publications of the project, and during all events organized under the project (including local, national and international media coverage, use of the logo on the publications...). UNESCO’s website pages and the website pages of Department of Culture of Bhutan have been used to promote the awareness raising of the importance of the cultural landscape preservation as well as the activities of the project.
III. Progress towards results

This current project aims to support the South Asian State Parties, particularly Bhutan, in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of their cultural landscapes. The activities undertaken within the framework of the project were to organize and facilitate national activities/workshops in Bhutan on the topic of cultural landscapes; to provide technical assistance in order to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frameworks; and to strengthen local awareness of cultural landscapes. Through these activities, the project has fulfilled its development objectives of enhancing Bhutan’s abilities to balance conservation needs and development pressures, especially those related to rural-urban migrations, and strengthening local capacities, awareness and ownership. In the two-year project period, UNESCO has organized two national/international workshops on the topic of cultural landscapes, in close collaboration with the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan. These activities, organised in the form of workshops, have brought together Bhutanese staff and officials working with heritage, national and international experts as well as policy-makers and other local and national stakeholders in a discussion about cultural landscapes. The activities have therefore contributed to a better understanding of cultural landscapes in Bhutan, their history and importance as well as their preservation and management, and contributed to the documentation of Bhutanese cultural landscapes, as well as the preparation for updating the World Heritage Tentative List of Bhutan in the near future by adding the first Cultural Landscapes to the Tentative List. These national activities by including representatives of all concerned stakeholders in the process have also contributed to raising awareness about cultural landscapes.

In short, thanks to this Project, the key four outputs have been generated:

1. **Capacity building for culture and heritage professionals:** by organizing training sessions as part of the two above-mentioned workshops in 2016 and 2017 for the professionals and officials of the Department of Culture of Bhutan, in order to enhance their understanding of cultural landscapes and their conservation needs, and to improve the Bhutanese capacity for scientific documentation and management of the tangible and intangible heritage found within the cultural landscapes;

2. **Updating of legal frameworks:** the national legal frameworks on heritage, Bhutan’s draft Cultural Heritage Bill, has been updated to reflect the needs and challenges specific to cultural landscapes;

3. **Further documentation and inventory of existing archives:** by supporting Bhutan in the process of conducting research and gathering scientific documentation on cultural landscapes. An inventory of existing archives has been also undertaken; and

4. **Initiatives have been taken by the Department of Culture of Bhutan as preparatory steps towards an eventual update of the national Tentative List to include cultural landscapes.**

Within the two years of implementation of the project, in addition to the above-mentioned activities (capacity building, update of legal frameworks, further documentation and inventory of existing archives), the Department of Culture of Bhutan produced two draft management schemes for two case sites in Paro, Bhutan and six draft management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the 20 Dzongkhags/ Districts of Bhutan (Bumbhang, Samtse, Trongsa, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang), which could be used by the DoC of Bhutan as pilot exercises for the future implementation of the draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan.
Summary Table

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<tr>
<th>Expected Results</th>
<th>Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Target (T)/ baselines (b) Programmed</th>
<th>Achievement(s)</th>
<th>Outputs contributing to expected results</th>
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| Organization of national activities/ workshops on the topic of cultural landscapes. | **PI:** National activities/ workshops organized during the project period  
**T/b:** Two workshops on cultural landscape organized in Bhutan: 1st Workshop on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 2nd Workshop 22-27 October 2017  
**PI:** Activities attended by relevant experts, professionals and stakeholders  
**T/b:** The two workshops attended by over 100 participants comprising Bhutanese government officials, national and international experts including UNESCO staff, as well as a number of local residents and community leaders concerned. | Two national workshops on cultural landscape were organized in Bhutan on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 22-27 October 2017. The two workshops involved over 100 participants comprising Bhutanese government officials, national and international experts including UNESCO staff, and consulted a number of local residents and community leaders on heritage preservation and management issues. | Output 1: Two national workshops on cultural landscape were organized in Bhutan on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 22-27 October 2017.  
Output 2: The 2 workshops were attended by over 100 participants comprising Bhutanese government officials, national and international experts including UNESCO staff, as well as a number of local residents and community leaders concerned. |
| Technical assistance provided to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frameworks. | **PI:** Capacity-building activities on cultural landscapes organized for national experts, professionals and government officials in Bhutan  
**T/b:** Two national workshops organized; about 40 Bhutanese experts and government officials trained through participation.  
**PI:** The existing national legal frameworks for cultural heritage, Bhutan’s Draft Heritage Bill reviewed to better respond to the conservation needs of cultural landscapes & conducting research and gathering scientific documentation on cultural landscapes.  
**T/b:** Two draft management schemes for two case sites in Paro, Bhutan produced six draft management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the twenty Dzongkhags/ Districts of Bhutan which could be used by the DoC, Bhutan as pilot exercises for the future implementation of the draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan. | Two national workshops on the cultural landscape were organized in Bhutan on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 22-27 October 2017. About 40 Bhutanese experts and government officials were trained in terms of understanding and conserving cultural landscapes in Bhutan.  
The two workshops produced two draft management schemes for two case sites in Paro, Bhutan and six draft management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the twenty Dzongkhags/ Districts of Bhutan (Bumthang, Samtse, Trongsa, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang), which could be used by the DoC, Bhutan as pilot exercises for the future implementation of the draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan. | Output 1: Two national workshop on the cultural landscape were organized in Bhutan on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 22-27 October 2017. About 40 Bhutanese experts and government officials were trained in terms of understanding and conserving cultural landscapes in Bhutan.  
Output 2: The two workshops produced two draft management schemes for two case sites in Paro, and six draft management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the twenty Dzongkhags/ Districts of Bhutan, which could be used by the DoC, Bhutan as pilot exercises for the future implementation of the draft Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan. |
**Overall goal of the project:** to support South Asian State Parties, particularly Bhutan in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of their cultural landscapes.

**Overall assessment:** All activities were implemented in accordance with the work plan and budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Results</th>
<th>Performance Indicators (P1) and associated Target (T)/baselines (b) Programmed</th>
<th>Achievement(s)</th>
<th>Outputs contributing to expected results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness of cultural landscapes strengthened in Bhutan.</td>
<td>PI: Outreach and awareness-raising activities and campaigns organized T/b: Two workshops on cultural landscape organized in Bhutan.</td>
<td>Two national workshops on the cultural landscape were organized in Bhutan on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 22-27 October 2017. The workshop brought together a wide range of stakeholders including government officials, national experts and professionals as well as local residents and community leaders involved in the workshop to discuss conservation and management issues related to cultural landscapes in Bhutan.</td>
<td><strong>Output 1:</strong> Two national workshops on the cultural landscape were organized in Bhutan on 11 July – 3 August 2016 and 22-27 October 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI: National experts and professionals as well as local communities and stakeholders involved in national activities in Bhutan T/b: A wide range of stakeholders including government officials, national experts and professionals as well as local residents and community leaders involved in the workshop to discuss conservation and management issues related to cultural landscapes in Bhutan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Output 2:</strong> A wide range of stakeholders including government officials, national experts and professionals as well as local residents and community leaders were involved in the workshop to discuss conservation and management issues related to cultural landscapes in Bhutan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

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IV. Sustainability and Exit/transition strategy

National experts and professionals participating the two Workshops for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan (11 July – 3 August 2016 & 22-27 October 2017) have been equipped with the skills to undertake the value-based design for protecting and sustaining cultural landscape through a series of discussion. Also, through the use of different methods of documentation as discussed during the workshops undertaken and the knowledge shared with the Bhutanese experts from the international panel members would aid the future sustaining the Significance of Bhutanese Cultural Landscape.

The value-based design for protecting and sustaining cultural landscape is very promising as the key result of the Workshops for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan (11 July – 3 August 2016 & 22-27 October 2017). This proposed value-based design included 10 parameters (Good quality, existing problems, potential dangers, possible actions, unexplored options, etc.) and these parameters were explored and identified for each of the elements constituting the cultural landscape in order to understand their significance and their relationships with each other.

It is worthwhile to mention that additional activities have been undertaken thanks to the financial support from the NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France) and Kyushu University (Japan).14 staff of Department of Culture of Bhutan undertook the 5-days field visit of the World Heritage Sites in Vietnam (20-24 January 2018) and interact with the Vietnamese site managers to exchange ideas on the management of cultural landscape, as they show similar characteristics with the cultural sites in Bhutan. All the Vietnamese heritage sites the Bhutanese colleagues visited (Hoi An Ancient Town; Cu Lao Cham Island; My Son Sanctuary; Duong Lam Ancient Town; Ninh Binh heritage sites; Trang An landscape) were like a ‘Living Museum’ in the eyes of our Bhutanese colleagues. They also observed that the communities are still intact and are solely responsible for the conservation and management of the heritage site. They further considered that Bhutan has a similar setup and can also adopt the practice of advocating and giving the responsibility of conservation and management of heritage sites to the community. They observed additionally that after UNESCO recognized the several sites in Vietnam as World Heritage Sites in 1999, it has brought the rapid change both in terms of economic growth through tourism and advocacy regarding the need and importance of conservation in the country. It has also enabled the world to learn and at the same time experience the history of Vietnam. They concluded that the tourism industry could be a blessing and also a curse with regard to the conservation of cultural heritage assets. The management of large-scale tourism for sustainability of cultural heritage values has to be carefully worked out in the management plan. Bhutan has not experienced the large-scale of tourism in cultural heritage sites as in Vietnam but through the visit, they got to learn through first-hand experience and will help out to mitigate and plan properly in the future. The involvement of education sector in the conservation effort was also a lesson they have learnt during the interaction with the related Vietnamese government officials and site visit. The Bhutanese colleagues further concluded that the engagement of youth in conserving cultural heritage is also top initiatives of Department of Culture of Bhutan and through the experience sharing, they have exchanged ideas and innovations to involve youth in cultural heritage preservation endeavours. Vietnam is a rapidly developing country balancing or trying to balance between conservation and development where tourism has boosted the economy and at the same time added another dimension to the issue. Bhutan can, therefore, take few lessons, both positive and negative, from Vietnam that may help formulate policies and instigate development that can balance conservation and development in Bhutan.
V. Visibility

The logo of the UNESCO/Japan FiT has been clearly put on all UNESCO communications and on the Banner of the ongoing project activities and events. As the Donor, Japan has been mentioned in all UNESCO media releases and communications to stakeholders.

The project attracted the attention of high officials, local authorities, site managers and related stakeholders all over Bhutan. The leading Bhutanese national media were invited to attend the opening sessions of the 2016 and 2017 workshops in order to promote the awareness raising of the importance of the cultural landscape preservation as well as the activities of the project. Also, both UNESCO and the Department of Culture of Bhutan have raised the visibility of the donor country, the name and the logo of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust have been duly acknowledged and presented in all public relation materials and publications of the project, and during all events organized under the project (including local, national and international media coverage, use of the logo on the publications, etc.). UNESCO’s website pages and the website pages of Department of Culture of Bhutan have been used to raise awareness about the importance of the cultural landscape preservation and the project activities.

Through this project activities implementation, UNESCO is leveraging its multidisciplinary expertise in culture to support Bhutan through the heritage preservation comprehensive approaches to reach the goals they Bhutan has set for themselves. It is developing innovative, multi-stakeholder South-South cooperation partnerships with the related Japanese professional institutions (ICOMOS, Japan; Tokyo University and Kyushu University...) to expand and deepen its support to Bhutan to achieve long-term results.

Selected Media Releases:

- Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan (11 July – 3 August 2016, Bhutan)
  ➔ http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/889

- Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan (22 – 27 October 2017, Bhutan)
  ➔ Page 2 of 26 October 2017 the Bhutanese Leading English National Newspaper Kuensel
  ➔ Page 3 of 27 October 2017 the Bhutanese Leading English National Newspaper Kuensel
  ➔ Page 5 of 30 October 2017 the Bhutanese Leading English National Newspaper Kuensel
  ➔ http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1412/
VI. Challenges and lessons learnt

Limited experience sharing opportunities for Nepal

The aim of this project was to support South Asian State Parties, and particularly Bhutan, in understanding, conserving and raising awareness about their cultural landscapes. Due to urgent priorities to cope with recovery measures following the severe earthquakes that hit Nepal on 25 April and 12 May 2015 and caused extensive damage to many heritage sites, this project could not provide direct support to Nepal, nor to the implementation of activities in Nepal. Therefore, the project activities focused only on Bhutan and provided limited experience-sharing opportunities for Nepal, particularly for the Nepali Department of Archaeology.

First steps taken but limited progress regarding the future update of the World Heritage Tentative List of Bhutan, which is to include the first Cultural Landscapes

Another challenge we are facing concerns the preparatory work for an eventual update of the national Tentative List, which is to include cultural landscapes. Little progress has been made, despite the fact that, after the first workshop (July-August 2016), the Department of Culture of Bhutan reportedly planned to update the World Heritage Tentative List of Bhutan in the near future.

Need for continuous technical assistance, provided by UNESCO and international experts to Bhutan and Nepal in developing a national strategy and building capacity towards the holistic protection of its cultural heritage and cultural landscape

While the project has made significant progress in the development of documentation and inventory skills for cultural heritage and cultural landscape in Bhutan, it must be noted that the capacity of the national authorities of the South Asian nations (notably Bhutan and Nepal) remains limited in the field of management of cultural landscapes. The necessity of a second phase of the current project has been expressed by UNESCO in the Mid-term Strategy (2017-2019) of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of World Cultural Heritage, presented and discussed during the Annual FiT Review Meeting held in Paris in March 2017. As mentioned above, at the end of the 2nd Workshop organized in the framework of this project (22-27 October 2017), on 26 October 2017, after the Panel Review Session of the 2017 Workshop, H.E. the Minister of Home and Culture Affairs of Bhutan chaired a working dinner to encourage all the partners involved to continue this endeavour to preserve and to safeguard the cultural landscape of Bhutan. With the encouragement of H.E. the Minister of Home and Culture Affairs of Bhutan, the
Department of Culture of Bhutan and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre have agreed to prepare a Final Technical Report covering the activities undertaken in previous years concerning cultural landscapes (foreseen to be published in the autumn of 2018). H.E. the Minister of Home and Culture Affairs of Bhutan and the staff of the Department of Culture of Bhutan also requested that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre continue this important UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project in a second Phase from late 2018.

Following the successful implementation of this current project, the Department of Culture of Bhutan submitted to UNESCO, on 15 June 2018, their draft proposal for cultural landscape preservation activities in Bhutan for next three years, and requested that UNESCO and the international experts continue to provide technical assistance in developing a national strategy and building capacity towards the holistic protection of cultural heritage and cultural landscapes in Bhutan. The Department of Archaeology of Nepal also expressed interest in joining this initiative to preserve South Asian Cultural Landscapes. It is thus desirable that UNESCO and the international and Japanese experts involved continue to provide training and technical assistance to South Asian countries in the possible second phase of this project.

After an internal working meeting between the two leading Japanese experts in Tokyo, on 16 June 2018, Professor Toshi Kono (Japan), President of ICOMOS International, and Professor Yukio Nishimura (Japan), President of ICOMOS Japan, have confirmed their participation in the possible Phase II of the project “Support South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives” to support the South Asian countries in cooperation with UNESCO.

Based on the good results of the on-going project implementation in Bhutan and on the above-mentioned background and consultation with leading Japanese experts, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, in close consultation with both the Bhutanese and Nepali authorities, wish to propose a second phase of this project involving Bhutan, Nepal and potentially India, in the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of World Cultural Heritage. This new phase would need to be discussed and potentially agreed between UNESCO and the Japanese Donor.
VII. Annexes

i. General Workplan of the Project and Self-evaluation

ii. Logframe matrix

iii. List of Project missions

iv. List of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination contract period

v. List of Publications, Reports and other outputs

vi. Final Report of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan by the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan


viii. Selected evidence of visibility

ix. Outline of the Final Technical Report covering the previous years of activities on cultural landscapes in Bhutan, under final preparation by the Department of Culture, Bhutan and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (foreseen to be published in Autumn 2018)
### General Workplan of the Project and Self-evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National activities/workshops</th>
<th>First year</th>
<th>Second year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity building</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal frameworks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation of Tentative Lists updating</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness raising in Bhutan &amp; experience sharing with Nepal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress reports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-evaluation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final report</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The project has been monitored by UNESCO World Heritage Centre in close collaboration with UNESCO New Delhi Office through annual progress reports, as well as regular dialogue and meetings with stakeholders of Bhutan.

The self-evaluation has drawn from the annual progress reports, reports on the project activities by national and international experts, minutes of the two International/National Workshops and stakeholder meetings, site visits and meetings with national authorities.

Further sources of information have come from those working in the field, notably from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCSH) of the Department of Culture at the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan.

Finally, the UNESCO Staff Mission reports have provided a key insight into the ongoing work of the project, and have provided concise and well-rounded information regarding the status of the project throughout its implementation.
## Logframe matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Logic</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators of Achievement / Benchmarks</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development Objective</strong></td>
<td>1. Conservation and development discussed in conjunction with three annual national activities/workshops organized in Bhutan</td>
<td>1. Minutes from national activities</td>
<td>Commitment of the national authorities and experts, as well as local communities and stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Local stakeholders and communities engaged in all project activities, including the annual national activities/workshops</td>
<td>2. List of participants from national activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Capacity building training organized for national experts, professionals and officials</td>
<td>Technical reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immediate Objectives</strong></td>
<td>1. Organize national activities/workshops on the topic of cultural landscapes</td>
<td>1. Two national activities/workshops organized in Bhutan during the project period and attended by relevant experts, professionals and stakeholders</td>
<td>1. Participation of experts and officials, as well as local communities and stakeholders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                     | 2. Provide technical assistance in order to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frameworks, and prepare Bhutan national tentative list updating | 2a. Capacity building training on cultural landscapes organized for national experts, professionals and officials at the Department of Culture (Bhutan)  
2b. National legal frameworks for cultural heritage, Bhutan’s Draft Heritage Bill reviewed to better respond to the conservation needs of cultural landscapes  
2c. An inventory of existing archives, as well as further research on and scientific documentation of cultural landscapes undertaken  
2d. The necessary documentation for Tentative List dossiers of cultural landscapes in Bhutan prepared | 2a. Participation of experts and officials  
2b. Efficient cooperation with national legislative bodies |
|                     | 3. Strengthen awareness of cultural landscapes in Bhutan and experience sharing with Nepal | 3a. Outreach and awareness raising activities and campaigns organized at local, regional and national levels  
3b. National experts and professionals as well as local communities and stakeholders involved in national activities | 3a. Materials produced for campaigns/activities  
3b. List of participants from workshops and/or meetings |
<p>|                     |  |  | 3. Participation of local communities and stakeholders |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intervention Logic</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators of Achievement / Benchmarks</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expected Results</strong></td>
<td>1. National activities/workshops organized on the topic of cultural landscapes</td>
<td>1. Two national activities/workshops organized in Bhutan during the project period and attended by relevant experts, professionals and stakeholders</td>
<td>1. Participation of experts and officials, as well as local communities and stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Technical assistance provided to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frame works, and prepare Bhutan national tentative list updating</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2a. Capacity building training on cultural landscapes organized for national experts, professional and officials at the Department of Culture (Bhutan) and Department of Archaeology (Nepal)</td>
<td>2a. Technical reports</td>
<td>2a. Participation of experts and officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2b. National legal frameworks for cultural heritage, Bhutan’s Draft Heritage Bill reviewed to better respond to the conservation needs of cultural landscapes</td>
<td>2b. New, amended or updated legal documents</td>
<td>2b. Efficient cooperation with national legislative bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2c. An inventory of existing archives, as well as further research on and scientific documentation of cultural landscapes undertaken</td>
<td>2c. Scientific publications, archive records</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2d. The necessary documentation of cultural landscapes Bhutan chose to include cultural landscapes on their Tentative List updating</td>
<td>2d. Tentative List dossier(s)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Awareness of cultural landscapes strengthened in Bhutan and experience sharing for Nepal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3a. Outreach and awareness raising activities and campaigns organized at local, regional and national levels</td>
<td>3a. Materials produced for campaigns/activities</td>
<td>3. Participation of local communities and stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3b. National experts and professionals as well as local communities and stakeholders involved in national activities/workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3b. List of participants from national activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Activity 1 | National activities/workshops in Bhutan | Means: Refer to description of activities and outputs  
Staff: i) International experts; ii) Local experts; iii) Relevant national officials and staff  
Equipment: Venues and associated logistical arrangements | Costs: UNESCO/Japanese FIT organization fee, travel and accommodation cost for international experts, reporting |
| Activity 2 | Technical assistance | Means: Refer to description of activities and outputs  
Staff: i) International experts; ii) Local experts; iii) Relevant national officials and staff  
Equipment: N/A | Costs: UNESCO/Japanese FIT organization fee, travel and accommodation cost for international experts, reporting |
| Activity 3 | Awareness raising | Means: Refer to description of activities and outputs  
Staff: i) Local experts; ii) Relevant national officials and staff  
Equipment: Materials and publications for outreach and awareness-raising activities | Costs: UNESCO/Japanese FIT organization fee, reporting |
### List of Project missions

Various missions were undertaken to Bhutan by UNESCO staff and Japanese/international experts in order to implement the UNESCO Japan FiT “Support South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives” project activities (June 2016 – May 2018).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-26 July 2016</td>
<td>Jelena Pejkovic, Conservation Architect, Serbia</td>
<td>International working members of the 1st Session of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ona Vileikis Tamayo, Heritage Specialist, Leuven University, Belgium</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22-28 July 2016</td>
<td>Roland Lin, Project Officer, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO</td>
<td>International Panel members of the 1st Panel Session of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, University of Calgary, Canada</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; Vice President, North America Region, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21 July – 2 August 2016</td>
<td>Teresa Tourvas, Conservation Architect, Cyprus</td>
<td>International working members of the 2nd Session of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chie Kodama, Phd Student, Tokyo University, Japan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>31 July – 4 August 2016</td>
<td>Mechthild Rössler, Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO</td>
<td>International Panel members of the 2nd Panel Session of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yukio Nishimura, Tokyo University (Japan) &amp; President, ICOMOS, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Toshiyuki Kono, Kyushu University (Japan) &amp; Vice President, ICOMOS International</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moe Chiba, UNESCO New Delhi Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>21-27 December 2016</td>
<td>Yukio Nishimura, Tokyo University (Japan) &amp; President, ICOMOS, Japan</td>
<td>International experts to advice on first review session of Cultural Landscape Management Team.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Junko Mukai, Conservation Architect (Japan)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>13-15 January 2017</td>
<td>Toshiyuki Kono, Kyushu University (Japan) &amp; Vice President, ICOMOS International</td>
<td>International experts to guide the participants for the preparation on management plan focused on on-site management issues and approaches. 2nd Review session of Cultural Landscape Management Team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Junko Mukai, Conservation Architect (Japan)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Motonori Moriya, Deputy Director, Kasaoka City Office, Okayama, Japan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>24-26 May, 2017</td>
<td>Yukio Nishimura, Tokyo University (Japan) &amp; President, ICOMOS, Japan</td>
<td>International experts to advice on 3rd review session of Cultural Landscape Management Team focused on consultative approach through community involvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yukio Nishimura, Tokyo University (Japan) &amp; President, ICOMOS, Japan</td>
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<td>Toshiyuki Kono, Kyushu University (Japan) &amp; Vice President, ICOMOS International</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Junko Mukai, Conservation Architect (Japan)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
iv  List of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination contract period

N/A
List of Publications, Reports and other Outputs

The following reports and documents were produced:

3. Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, Two draft management schemes for two case sites in Paro, Bhutan, October 2016
4. Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, Final Report of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan by the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan (33 pages)
5. Roland Lin (UNESCO, WHC) in close collaboration with Moe Chiba (UNESCO Office in New Delhi), Progress report prepared for the period of June-December 2016. January 2017 (50 pages)
6. Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, Brochure of the 2017 International Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017, 22–27 October 2017, held in Thimphu, Bhutan (6 pages)
8. Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, Six draft management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the twenty Dzongkhags/ Districts of Bhutan (Bumthang, Samtse, Trongsa, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang), December 2017
10. Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, Tour report, South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives workshop; Learning the experience from Vietnam (20th to 24th January, 2018), March 2018 (10 pages)
Final Report of 2016 International Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan, 11 July to 3 August 2016, held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan by the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan

Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - Bhutan 2016

July 12 to August 3, 2016
Paro and Thimphu in Bhutan

Organized by:
Department of Culture
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan

Supported by:
Japan Funds in Trust for South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives’ Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance, Paris, France,
Kyushu University, Japan,
UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO New Delhi Office
1. Background

The protection of heritage sites and sustenance of the cultural landscape is a critical factor as well as a holistic indicator in achieving Gross National Happiness (GNH) – Bhutan’s development philosophy to ensure equitable, balanced and village-centric development. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan stipulates that the State shall endeavour to preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the country (Article 4) and that Bhutanese citizen shall have the duty to preserve, protect and respect the environment, culture and heritage of the nation (Article 8). Despite such high recognition and the existence of the principles on culture, the socio-economic development of the country has posed tremendous pressure to the protection of heritage sites and sustenance of the cultural landscape in Bhutan, which in the long term would result in deterioration of the strength of the communities.

The Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan, which once enacted will be the first holistic legislative document on cultural heritage in Bhutan including heritage sites, thus aims to provide value-based protection for heritage sites in the country. The Bill is to protect not only heritage buildings but also cultural sites including rural settlements with its surrounding settings. It also recognizes Bhutan, as a whole, as a unique cultural landscape bearing witness to the distinctive history, wisdom and custom of the people. Realizing that cultural sites and the cultural landscape reflect the uninterrupted interaction between human activities and environment, the process to protect cultural sites and sustain the cultural landscape would observe success only when economic needs of the individuals is harmoniously balanced with spiritual, emotional and cultural well-being of the society. Hence, it is understood that the protection of cultural sites and sustenance of the cultural landscape requires the people-centred management framework and schemes developed in the close cooperation with various stakeholders of the central and local government agencies and other concerned organizations.

Therefore, as its continuous endeavor to protect heritage sites and sustain the cultural landscape of Bhutan, the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs is organizing the third event towards the sustenance of the cultural landscape, with the success of the International Competition on Cultural Landscape of Bhutan 2014 and the Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - Bhutan 2015. The event in 2016, the Workshop on for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2016 was targeted to work out for preparing management frameworks for two case sites in Paro district and deliberate proposed schemes with the national stakeholders and international experts to enhance the cooperative approach with the different stakeholder agencies for planning and implementing heritage management.
2. Programme for first session of CLASS-2016 workshop (11th to 26th July, 2016)

The Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - Bhutan 2016 was held from 11th July to 2nd August 2016, with overall program consisting of two phase of working exercises. The Department of Culture selected four international participants and four national participants from relevant agencies to work on the management framework of the two case sites. The first case site, Chhubar-Aatsho Cultural Site was chosen for the workshop as case cultural site to work in line with the draft cultural heritage bill, where the cultural site is one of the categories under heritage sites. The second case site of Paro valley was chosen to understand the concept of cultural landscape from macro view and to deliberate with the District Administration, who is mandated to prepare management framework to protect the cultural landscape as per the draft cultural heritage bill.

2.1 Profile of the participants

a. Jelena Pejkovic (Ms.)

Conservation architect, Ms. Jelena works as external contributor for the Institute for the protection of cultural monuments of Serbia. She has worked for important sites in Serbia like Rogljevo historic wine cellars and archeological site Belo brdo. She has Masters in Architecture form MIT.

b. Ona Vileikis Tamayo (Ms.)

Architect and heritage specialist, Ms. Ona works as heritage consultant and international expert. She advises on the implementation of World Heritage Convention and also works in development of management and conservation plans for World Heritage Properties. She has worked as Researcher and Project Manager in University of Leuven and also as guest Lecturer for University of Barcelona, Spain. She has Master in World Heritage Studies and in Tourism Planning.

c. Leki Dema (Ms.)

Agriculture Officer under Dzongkhag Agriculture Sector, Paro Dzongkhag, Ms. Leki is working for more than five years in Paro. She has grounds on working experience with the community and promotes organic farming.

d. Yeshi Samdrup (Mr.)

Conservation Architect under Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Samdrup has worked for past three years in the field of cultural landscape after the concept was first brought with the draft cultural heritage field. He is also working as project architect for various national important projects under Department of Culture. He is one of the government officials who believes and propagates the importance for the sustenance of cultural landscape for sustainable development.

The first session of CLASS-2016 workshop was focused on the preparation of the management plan of Chubar-Aatsho village under Dotey Gewog (Sub-district), which is one of the potential cultural site as per the Department of Culture. As per the draft cultural heritage bill, the first definition out of two of the cultural site is a group of traditional buildings with its natural setting, the combination of which bears cultural heritage value. A cultural site of significant cultural heritage value is to be designated as an Important Cultural Site. The protection of the Important Cultural Site including its buffer zone will be guided by the district administration office in accordance with a management plan prepared by the Department of Culture.
2.2  Activities in first session of the workshop

During the preparation stage of the workshop, the Department of Culture has communicated and shared for further discussion with the participants on the methodology of the workshop. The preparation of the management plan of the “cultural sites” or cultural landscape in international terminology follows similar approach. The DoC shared the document comprising the information of the case site and the proposed methodology of the workshop before the arrival of the participants and is in Annex I. After numerous exchanges of email, the participants agreed on the methodology of work for preparing the management plan. The activities were also carried out based on the agreed methodology.

2.2.1  Preparing

Day 1 | Monday, July 11, 2016

After the arrival of the international participants, the participants had familiarization visit of Paro valley. The heritage sites of Paro valley were visited and participants shared their background of work. In the afternoon the participants met to discuss on the program of the workshop and for the briefing of the workshop materials by the organizer.

Day 2 | Tuesday, July 12, 2016

The group visited Mr. Sangay Tshewang, Gup (elected leader of the block) of the Dotey Gewog before going to the site. The team was briefed by Gup on the activities undertaken by the Block Administration in the Chhubar and Aatsho villages. He shared that the importance of preservation of culture is promoted by the local government and has provided various platform for the residents to understand the importance. Further, he shared the context of the villages including the history.

After the discussion, the team accompanied by the Gup visited Chhubar and Aatsho villages. The team was received by Mr. Chimi Dorji, the Tsogpa (Sub-block leader). Mr. Chimi walked the team through the village. Later in the afternoon the working team met with Dasho/Mr. Tenzin Tinley, the Chief Administrator of the Paro District (Dasho Dzongda), to discuss on the management plan and his views on the project. In the evening the team met to discuss about the contents of the Management Plan and the final working methodology. The discussions about the values of the site were also initiated.

2.2.2  Assessing

Day 3 | Wednesday, July 13, 2016

The team continued the discussions about the cultural heritage values of our site by categories that were decided on the previous day. Methodology of work was agreed upon and consolidated, and the Aims and Goals of the Management Plan were set up. The team started compiling the legal documents relevant to the Management Plan, a list of stakeholders, land ownership data in GIS, information about the administrative boundaries of the two villages. The team discussed site boundaries and compiled a task list for the next several days.
Day 4 | Thursday, July 14, 2016

In the morning the team put together the questionnaires for the two villages, aiming to survey as many households as possible and to record the physical condition of the houses. In the afternoon the team started the field survey in Chhubar. This included interviewing the residents and checking the physical condition of the houses and their functions. In the evening the team reviewed the results of the surveys taken during the day.

Day 5 | Friday, July 15, 2016

In the morning the field survey in Chhubar was continued. The team interacted with the residents and was invited for lunch by one of the villagers’ houses. In the afternoon, the field survey was continued in Aatsho. In the evening the team reviewed survey results and discussed the boundaries of the site.

2.2.3 Identifying

Day 6 | Saturday, July 16, 2016

In the morning the team discussed the schedule and the format of submission materials – Management Plan and presentation. Cultural heritage values of the site were also revised. The team then prepared materials for discussion with communities of Chhubar and Aatsho which was planned for Monday. The team also worked on the final outline of the management plan and also discussed on the management plan goals.

Day 7 | Sunday, July 17, 2016

The team worked on defining the values of the cultural site according to the criteria in the Draft Cultural Heritage Bill. The team further prepared for the upcoming community meeting and entered all collected data from the survey into a database. In the evening the team visited Kyichu Lhakhang, the 7th century Buddhist temple in Paro.

2.2.4 Consulting

Day 8 | Monday, July 18, 2016

This was the day of the community meeting when the team met with dwellers of both Chhubar and Aatsho. The villagers had an opportunity to express their views on the current condition and values of their villages, as well as their ideas about the future of the site. This meeting was of invaluable help to the team for proposing a vision statement for the site. The team had a chance to record an interview with Aum Wangmo, translated by Namgay, about the customs and ritual songs related to traditional house construction. The team also visited the main source of irrigation and documented the irrigation network in the villages. Afternoon and evening were devoted to transcription of the recordings (and other data) taken during the day.
2.2.5 Planning

Day 9 | Tuesday, July 19, 2016
The team agreed on the final format for the Management Plan, especially regarding Management Objectives and Management Strategies. The team devoted most of the day to working on Management Objectives and Management Strategies for issues identified.

Day 10 | Wednesday, July 20, 2016
On this day the team continued to work on the management issues. The team defined site boundaries, maps were generated and a list of illustrations that are needed for the Management Plan was also compiled.

Day 11 | Thursday, July 21, 2016
This was another full work day when all the chapters of the Management Plan were further developed and compiled, and maps and illustrations generated. This included working on the data that was compiled during the site survey.

Day 12 | Friday, July 22, 2016
The team had a chance to hike up to Shala Dango. The opportunity to look at the site from this perspective was valuable for a more thorough understanding of the tale about the relocation of Chhubar village. The team also took photographs along the site boundary to support the delineation decisions. The temple at the entry to Chhubar village was also visited and examined.

The afternoon was devoted to finalizing and editing Management Plan chapters and illustrations. We worked on the Risks chapter and revised the stakeholder chart.

Day 13 | Saturday, July 23, 2016
This was the submission day and most of the work was completed by late morning. The Buffer zone boundary was proposed, illustrated and explained. Materials supporting the tentative delineation of the Buffer zone were prepared for discussion with national and international panel members. All questionnaires, notes and sketches were photographed as a record of the working process.

Day 14 | Sunday, July 24, 2016
The team visited the site with International Panel members (Dr. Roland Lin Chih-Hung and Dr. Nancy Pollock) and explained the process of work and the main decisions related to the preparation of the Draft Management Plan. We had another chance to have lunch with a family in Chhubar, and we also witnessed a Puja that was taking place in their household.

2.2.6 Reviewing

Day 15 | Monday, July 25, 2016
This day was devoted to the Panel Meeting. The schedule alternated between presentations of the Management Plan by the team, and discussions with national and international panel members.
2.3 Cultural Landscape Panel Meeting on management plan of Chubar-Aatsho Cultural Sites

Monday, 25 July 2016 Hotel Holiday Home, Paro, Bhutan

Profile of International panel members

Prof/Dr. Roland LIN Chih-Hung

A Sino-French city planner and art historian, is currently Programme Specialist of the Asia-Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO Headquarters in France. Within the World Heritage Centre, he coordinates UNESCO cultural heritage safeguarding projects in Central and South Asia, notably the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nominations and Lumbini, birthplace of the Lord Buddha preservation project in Nepal. He also manages World Heritage issues in India, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, as well as the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Born in Taiwan, but living and working in Paris, France since 1991, Prof/Dr. Lin received his PhD in Art History and Archaeology from Paris-Sorbonne University in 1998, in addition to previous diplomas in City Planning and Oriental Metropolis Studies, as well as Gardens, Landscape and Territorial Studies. In addition to his duties at UNESCO, Prof/Dr. Lin holds two Visiting Professorships in China and contributes his expertise as Research Fellow to a number of research institutions in France and Germany. He previously contributed as Expert & Advisor for the sustainable urban development of Qufu, Birthplace of Confucius, a World Heritage city in China, through the European Commission’s Asia Urbis Programme.

Prof/Dr. Lin has published prolifically, authoring three academic works/books on landscape, historic cities, and World Heritage issues in English, French and Chinese, edited twelve books and contributed over eighty specialized papers on the need for safeguarding world and cultural heritage in Asia.

Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, FCSLA

Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand is Dean and Professor of the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, Canada. She has spent much of her academic and professional career writing, thinking and advising on cultural landscapes. As a landscape architect she has designed, planned and helped to interpret significant landscape resources around the world including sites in the Canadian Arctic, the Persian Gulf, and Australia.

Since 2000 she has served in various roles with the joint International Council of Monuments and Sites/International Federation of Landscape Architects (ICOMOS-IFLA) International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes. She has reviewed, evaluated, and advised, on World Heritage nominations in Asia, Europe, and North America. In addition, Pollock-Ellwand is preparing a book on the father of landscape architecture, the American, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., and the influence of his firm’s work in Canada.

Profile of esteemed observer for the meeting

Dr. Frank LEE Chih Yung

Dr. Frank Lee Chih Yung is Secretary General of Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance, a Non-Governmental Agency based in Paris and established in 2008 with an unprofitable intention, aiming at advancing the conservation as well as promotion of relevant oriental cultural heritage sites. He is also working now as international cultural exchange adviser of Suzhou Humble Administrator’s Garden Management Office and cultural field Consultant of Guangdong Province Development Research Center. He has worked as a key scientific research personnel in Collaborative Innovation Center of the Conservation of China’s Traditional Villages & Architecture Heritages in Tianjin University.
The panel meeting of the CACS management plan was co-chaired by the Director General of the Department of Culture (DoC) and the Governor of Paro District. The workshop began with the introduction of the workshop on “Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance-Bhutan 2016” by Mr. Yeshi Samdroup, Architect from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS), DoC. Following the short welcome note, both the chairpersons of the workshop expressed their views about the workshop. The Director General of DoC emphasized on the importance of the draft cultural heritage bill which is the holistic legislative document aimed at preservation and promotion of cultural heritage of Bhutan and to enhance the value based approach of protection and sustenance of the cultural sites. He expressed that this meeting is a platform to exchange ideas to preserve our unique cultural heritage. He commended and applauded the participants of the workshop for coming up with management plan within short span of time. He also thanked Prof./Dr./Mr. Roland Lin Chih-Hung, Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre for his continuous support and assistance. The Governor of Paro District (co-chair) welcomed the international panel members to the important meeting which is a closure of the workshop. He acknowledged the DoC for choosing Paro district as a pilot to carry out the study and preparation of an explicit management plan. He emphasized that Paro district is unique and bears significant cultural heritage values. He indicated that there are both challenges and opportunities in preparing the management plan and the district authority sees this workshop as an opportunity to learn. He further extended his continued support to DoC for preservation of heritage sites and sustenance of cultural landscape.

Ms. Junko Mukai, Principal Heritage Architect under DCHS, DoC presented on Bhutan’s Cultural Landscape Initiatives starting from the first international competition on cultural landscape in Bhutan 2014 to the current workshop for Cultural Landscape & Sustaining its Significance, 2016. She acknowledged the undying support rendered to the Department of Culture by the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance, Paris (OCHSPA), UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO New Delhi Office, Kyushu University, Japan and UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives”. She highlighted on the various themes of the workshop carried out and its outcome. She further presented on the draft cultural heritage bill of Bhutan and gave emphasis on the designation and preparation of management plan for important cultural site. She emphasized that the insights, critical comments and advice from the panel members will be crucial in the refinement of the management plan prepared by the participants.

The first session of the CACS Management plan 2016 was chaired and moderated by Dr. Prof. Roland Lin Chih-Hung...
Programme Specialist, Asia and the Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre. He congratulated the Director General of the Department of Culture who is the key partner in the conservation and preservation of heritage sites and thanked the Governor of Paro District and emphasized on the need for his commitment to uphold the cultural landscape of Paro. He thanked the Department of Culture for inviting him and shared that it is his honor to be able to participate and render his professional support. He indicated he is pleased to see active participation from various agencies and authority wherein the central government and local authority are working hand in hand to preserve the cultural sites of Bhutan. He believes that through this workshop, proper management plan and/or framework will be adopted for future reference and way forward. He mentioned that the nature and culture is considered separately in other parts of the world, but here in Bhutan, these two components are interlinked. The identification of the values and with it the management and monitoring from the Paro district will further contribute to the sustenance of the cultural landscape of Bhutan. With this remark, he welcomed the members of the first working group to present their management plan of Chhubar and Aatsho Cultural Site.

The members of the working team for the CACS management plan started with the need for the management plan. They informed that like all other management plan, value based approach was taken and presented on the methodology and process of the CACS management plan. For objective planning, they informed that they have looked into key issues, challenges and opportunities like what do we need to have?? With this background, they presented the vision, objectives and strategies covering the implementation and monitoring aspects of the management plan.

They highlighted the importance of mutual corporation and understanding between various stakeholders and agencies for successful implementation of the management plan. They have prepared the plans of the buildings, photographic documentation of the village and its components and carried out questionnaire with the local community. Furthermore, they spoke with different stakeholders and authority to enable the understanding of the vision and mission of the management plan. They have carried out community consultative meeting to properly examine their views and needs of the community, more so to have active involvement of the residing community. To understand the background of the village, they studied and gathered information about the location of the village, giving emphasis on the surroundings (river and mountains), agriculture and irrigation system, Buddhist temples and the coherent living between the nature and human.

Furthermore, they have carried out historical research about the village and have come up with the study of settlement patterns of the two adjacent villages and its significance. They mentioned that the CACS, with its built structures, traditional agriculture practices, rich natural surroundings and strong, close-knit communities, represents a powerful combination of natural and cultural elements and a continuous testimony of the unique way of life in rural Bhutan. They discussed on the Chhubar and Aatsho Cultural Landscape (CACS) criteria and key attributes and described the associated intangible values such as association with person/group of person in history, association with the community and covered other aspects of criteria as cited in the draft cultural heritage bill if Bhutan. However, there are equivalent emerging threats such as the modernization and natural disaster amongst many others. Coming to the CACS boundaries, they presented the CACS boundary considering the various values. They informed that the ownership of the land, agriculture practice, irrigation channel, footpath, river and roads were various aspects considered in determining the boundary.

Following the presentation, the moderator summed up the whole presentation and opened the floor for Q and A or for comments. The modality of the open discussion started from the national panel members to international panel members, followed by chair person. The working team members were questioned on how the boundary was defined and what criteria were evaluated. Mr. Rinzin Wangchuk, Dzongkhag Agriculture Officer, commented to include natural disaster such as cyclone Aila in the historical background of the village. Further he shared his concerns on whether the proposed archaeological study for understanding the particular time period and giving clear perspective of the village setting is feasible as one of the recommendations of the management plan. Further deliberations were made on the criteria about the traditional houses and the traditional roofing system. The local authority of the gewog shared that the culture and tradition has been preserved and is still intact. He explained the reason behind the development of clustered villages and shared his knowledge about the history of the village as per the oral history. The working members clarified and agreed to amend as well as include some of the recommendations made by the panel members. The working team also shared their findings on the setting of the village and the history behind the relocation of the village amongst other interesting beliefs and stories. The panel members have advised the working team to capture the narrations as discussed and reflected as the discussion proceeded. With regard to the agricultural practices, it was highlighted that all the nine cereals would grow in this village but considering the man power and implication of monetary benefits, the villager prefer to grow cash crops.

The representative from the community, the tshogpa indicated that they had difficulty in comprehension of the meeting although they could understand few content of the presentation and discussion as all the discussion were in English and they would have preferred Dzongkha. The community representative emphasized on the sustenance of the traditional buildings and addressed the issue of
seismic resilience of the building. With particular example to one of the earthquake affected traditional building, they presented the controversial issue with assessment reporting and insurance to the regulation of height of the building. Moreover, they highlighted if the traditional buildings needs to be preserved and sustained, how to address the challenges with regard to disaster mitigation and cultural values needs to be considered.

The moderator expressed that considering the presence of the international experts and to extract upmost benefit from their experience, they had to convene the meeting in English and they hope further deliberation and consultation will be carried out with the community. He emphasized that the management plan needs to be translated in national language and local dialects upon finalization of the management plan. Following, the working team mentioned if there was enough time that they would have like to review the damage assessment and then accordingly advise on the mitigation measures. Following which, there were more discussion on the site selection and subsidy to be rendered to the community for the sustenance of the cultural landscape. The floor was informed that the site selection of the pilot study was selected by the Department and there are challenges when it comes to subsidy. In continuum, there were discussion that there are many traditional villages around the country and for proper designation, tangible evidences and strong justification on values and reasoning is required, considering abundances of the living traditional villages. With much deliberation, the question of whether the CACS is valuable was raised although the meeting agreed that the village bear significant but the need of more comparative analysis reference to whole country and consideration of convergence of overall aspects of country was flagged out. However, considering the time for the preparation of the CACS management plan, the working team were not able to grasp and deliver the comparative analysis.

Other aspects such as the tourism were also highlighted and the members felt that all cultural sites may not be tourist oriented. The working team were also questioned on why the intangible aspects is separated from the set criteria and there are too many criteria set for the CACS management plan. Panel members pointed out that the vision statement needs to be short and precise and the team needs to rephrase the vision statement. More so, the working team needs to be careful while defining local terminology and considerations of development aspects needs to be addressed. The roles and responsibilities and resource management were also not covered in the management plan. Finally, the moderator thanked the working team members for the comprehensive presentation and the panel members for sharing their valuable comments.

The second session of the CASC Management plan 2016 was moderated by Nagtsho Dorji, Chief of the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites. Ms. Jelena Pejkovic presented the second session of the presentation from the working team. He stated the vision of the CACS management plan and management objectives. The team has defined and emphasised on six management objectives such as protection and transmission of heritage to future generation, promotion of agriculture practices, fostering social bond and equality, guidance to community residents, sustainable tourism and providing new infrastructure. Under the key management issues, four broad subjects very identified and defined. They have highlighted the need for conservation to manage the change and discussed on conservation of buildings. Settlement, natural surroundings, intangible heritage and risk management.

Under the conservation of building section, they have raised the concern of the need of complete set of documentation and need to make precise conservation project entailing good measurements, details of various components of the building, record of joinery system and sections. Aside from the architectural documents, the need for structural documentation and maintenance proposals very emphasized. They discussed on the need of proper channel for approval works to ensure safety and proper monitoring system. The need for proper hygiene, conservation plan for buildings, improving amenities within the building, replacement of CGI sheeting to traditional shingles were discussed.

Similarly, under the conservation of settlement, need for cathedral survey maps with precise measurement of the houses, establishment and regulation of buffer zone, legalization of boundaries, improvement of public spaces and concealment of the infrastructures like power cables were described under the desired management outcomes. They emphasized on the need for protection of the natural surroundings and mapping and documentation of the intangible heritage. Under the conservation: risk management, damage assessment from the 2011 earthquake and requirement of risk management plan for fire mitigation, water supply, abandonment of house amongst others were explicitly described.

Following which the moderator summarized and translated the presentation into national language (Dzongkha) for understanding of the local community participating in the forum, as requested in the former session. She then invited the panel members to comment of question the working team members. The panel members felt that although most of the subjects were covered, there needs to be boarder look in terms of the risk focused on built environment, tourism management and global pressure of technology. Few of the recommendations such as concealment of the infrastructures such as power and cable lines, improvement of the drainage system were important and can be easily carried out. Whereas the change of roofing materials need further study and discussion, although the retention of traditional look of the building is important from aesthetic point of view. The local community felt that they will need support from the government if such changes have to be implemented. Clear responsibility and entity needs to be described in managing.
change and issues pertaining to plan of action with predefined timeline for check and balance of the management plan. With regard to the road connectivity to the village as desired, it will also have negative impact on the village and proper study and solution needs to be addressed. It was also felt that certain issues such as land fragmentation, incorporation of special need of the community, the positive impact of the common water source needs to be studied and incorporated.

The third session of the CASC Management plan 2016 was moderated by Professor Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand. The team presented on the key management issues such as preservation of agricultural land and practices, infrastructure such as roads and parking, water supply, waste, drainage and sewerage management, energy supply, community based tourism and buffer zone with regard to desired outcomes and management response. The team also explained on how the buffer zone was assigned considering the importance of the visual integrity. Following the presentation, the moderator requested for translation into Dzongkha language for the local community participant.

The representative from the community were happy to learn about the recommendations such as improvement of the agricultural and cropping system for self-sustainability and sufficiency, development of the infrastructures for better living conditions, community forestry, transportation system, proper waste management and community based tourism but were not very receptive when it comes to restriction. More so, the panel members also felt that more study are needed in the designation of the buffer zone although the working team has set of parameters and reviewed existing legislation. The gup felt that the designated buffer zone covers other chiwogs and it may not be suitable and justifiable. They felt that although there are good recommendation regarding protection of natural resources and water reserves, continuity of traditions and others, the restrictions may lead to failure in the management plan. It was indicated that such cited practices are strong and have self-protection and preservation measures in place. More concerns with regard to the land fragmentation were raised with the wet and dry land conversation which may have negative impact on the overall landscape of the place. In similar line, the community raised the concern on waste management, fire vulnerability and hazard, vulnerability of the traditional houses with regard to seismic performance and difficulty in the extraction of the timber shingles. They indicated that the community will require support from the government if incase the management plan is in place. They welcomed the idea of home stay and hotspots as generation of income. With much deliberation on the recommendation from the working team, challenges and issues from the community and their perspectives, it was felt that much deliberation and involvement of the community and improvement need to be incorporated in the CACS management plan. The document prepared by the working members were appreciated and can be the basis while the Department prepare the management plan for implementation. More advocacy and awareness needs to be raised for further understanding of the importance of the designation and preservation of cultural landscape.

With the closure of the third session, the chair persons of the panel meeting concluded the panel meeting by thanking all the panel members for their active participation and contributions and critical remarks. They thanked the working team for coming up with comprehensive management plan despite the very limited time.
Follow up meeting on Chubar-Aatsho Cultural Sites management plan

Day 17 | Tuesday, July 26, 2016
Venue: Hotel Dorjiing conference hall
Date: 26th July, 2016
Time: 9:00 AM

International Participants:
Prof. Roland Lin Chih-Hung
Prof. Nancy Pollock

National Participants:
Ms. Nagtsho Dorji, Head, DCHS, DoC
Ms. Junko Mukai, Principal Heritage Architect, DCHS, DoC
Ms. Kasumi Ishida, Senior Architect, DCHS, DoC
Mr. Yeshi Samdrup, Architect, DCHS, DoC
Mr. Sangay Kinga, Asst. Architect, DCHS, DoC
Ms. Dechen Yangzom Nedup, DCHS, DoC
Mr. Sonam Tenzin, Archeologist, DCHS, DoC
Mr. Sonam Gyelshen, Archeologist, DCHS, DoC
Mr. Pema, Engineer, DCHS, DoC
Ms. Phuntsho Wangmo, Engineer, DCHS, DoC
Ms. Jigme Choden, Engineer, DCHS, DoC
Mr. Randup Tshewang, Engineer, DCHS, DoC
Ms. Leki Dema, Agriculture Officer, Paro Dzongkhag

The meeting took off with presentation on World Heritage Sites under Cultural Landscape category by Prof. Roland Lin Chih-Hung. It was followed by the presentation on international practice of management of cultural landscape by Prof. Nancy Pollock. After the Q&A session of the presentation, the participants discussed on the management plan of CACS. The first discussion was on the buffer zone and it’s after effect. By defining the boundary of the buffer zone, the experiences shared was the price of the land and other assets inside the buffer zone either increases as it is in the close proximity of the designated site, or decreases as the buffer zone restrict further development. The member of the group who have worked on the management plan of CACS explained that the buffer zone of the boundary was defined considering visual from and in to the the valley and the ridge line of the surrounding mountains were considered. In order to encourage people to protect the areas marked under buffer zone, the question of providing subsidy was raised. However, it was also flagged out that the tourist attraction and its subsequent benefit would be advantage to the community people, thereby motivating them to protect the site.

The meeting was aimed to deliberate the management plan prepared during the workshop within the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites’ officials and further work to create model management plan, which is feasible and doable by the DCHS office. In this light, the selection of the sites as potential cultural sites was also discussed. The meeting agreed that the selection has to be carried out based on two categories; community’s interest and value base selection. Mr. Pema from the DCHS cited an example of Shingkhar village under Bumthang, where the community came up with an exemplary initiative of preserving the intangible heritage. It was compulsory for all the people visiting the Tsechu to wear traditional Gho and Kira, and anyone failing to comply with the rule is fined. The fine collected being utilized for community beneficial works. This example was considered as added value in selection of site, since the community plays vital role in management of cultural sites.

In the discussion of the values, the working team of CACS explained the unique values found in Chubar-Aatsho village. The meeting deliberated in the values and found out that many of the specified values were found in most of the villages of Bhutan. The stand out value of the CACS was the story of relocation of Chubar village to the current site as recommended by the 14th century Buddhist saint Thangthong gyalpo. To further authenticate this value, the meeting discussed on whether the archeological survey of the earlier village can be carried out and can this modality of intense work be feasible while preparing management plan for other potential important cultural sites in Bhutan. The meeting also discussed on number of potential sites in Bhutan and how to approach based on the draft cultural heritage bill and after its enactment. In this light, the officials of DCHS were to be mindful of selection of potential cultural sites, considering the limited human resources in the office.

The economic status of the rural community and in particular the Chubar-Aatsho village was also discussed in regard to the restriction in the management plan. Land fragmentation is one of the biggest issues in Bhutan and if the cultural heritage values as specified in the management plan are the agricultural practices, the community will be restricted to sell land. The community in the panel meeting has suggested that one of the main income for the people was from selling land. This income is used to construct new houses and support education for their children. In this light, the meeting also discussed in how the management plan has to cover the socio-economic benefit for the community of important cultural sites. One way to response to the economic needs for the community is to promote sustainable tourism. Other issues like rural-urban migration were also flagged out and the engagement of youth in the village has to be considered while preserving the village as important cultural sites. The international panel members and participants cited few successful management plans across the world and the methodologies adopted by them.

In the evening, the meeting discussed on the way forward for next year’s workshop. The Department of Culture proposed that the program will be the next step guided by the three earlier workshops. Unlike the past three workshops, the event in 2017 will not be participated by any international
participants but rather focus on working with the officials under Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites. Seven to eight teams will be formed with each team of two officials and will be given the task to prepare the management plan of one cultural site. The management plan prepared by the teams will be evaluated and discussed in the panel meeting with the participation of international panel members and national panel members from relevant agencies. In this light, Dr. Roland suggested that the best management plan after the evaluation to be updated in the tentative list of world heritage sites. The program was discussed and was tentatively agreed, and the DCHS informed that the office will work on to prepare the detail proposal and submit to UNESCO New Delhi office.

The second day of the workshop was closed with concluding remarks from Nagtsho Dorji thanking all for the active participation and contribution.

3 Program For the Second Session of CLASS-2016 Workshop, Cultural Landscape of Paro Valley (21st July – 2nd August, 2016)

The working team for the second phase of the workshop on CLASS-2016 will work out for a broader area, Paro valley. Paro valley, stretching out more than 10 km along with Pachhu River, is selected as the case site for cultural landscape. Under the Cultural Heritage Bill, the district administration office identifies cultural elements of local importance and develops rules and regulatory plan to protect cultural elements identified. In case of large-scale development activities, cultural landscape assessment is to be conducted. Paro valley is expected to be the model case of good management practice for cultural landscape.

The working team will discuss how to embark on each task and the process and methodology to be undertaken in the exercise, in the initial stage of the each phase of the workshop.

3.1 Profile of the Participants

a. Teresa Tourvas (Ms)

Ms. Teresa Tourvas is an architect with a Master of Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She serves as an adjunct faculty member to the Department of Architecture in University of Cyprus, Frederick University and the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. She is also a visiting faculty to the Department of Architecture at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon. She was also one of the international participants for the workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance, CLASS-2015 which was the second annual workshop organized by the Department of Culture, Royal Government of Bhutan.

b. Chie Kodama (Ms)

Ms. Chie Kodama is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Urban Engineering at the University of Tokyo, Japan. She did her Masters of Engineering from the same University. Ms. Chie Kodama has participated in the International Competition on Cultural Landscape, 2014 and the Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance, 2015, the first and the second annual workshop organized the Department of Culture, Royal Government of Bhutan.

c. Tshering Phuntsho (Mr)

Mr. Tshering Phuntsho is an Architect/Urban Planner in the Department of Human Settlements under the Ministry of Works and Human Settlements, Royal Government of Bhutan. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from McGans Ooty School of Architecture, India. He has been involved in the town planning of Gelephu, Bumthang and Tashiyangtse during the last two and half years as an urban planner.

d. Jamyang Singye Namgyel (Mr)

Mr. Jamyang Singye Namgyel is a Conservation Architect working in the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from Bengal Engineering and Science University, India. He works as project architect for various national important projects under Department of Culture. He is one of the government officials who believes and propagates the importance for the sustenance of cultural landscape for sustainable development.
3.2 Activities in Second Session of the Workshop

During the preparation stage of the workshop, the Department of Culture has communicated and shared information on the various acts and laws relevant to the Cultural Landscape like the Bhutan Building rules, the Land Act and Rural Construction rules to get the participants familiarized with the governing acts and laws of the country. The DoC shared the document comprising the information of the case site and the proposed methodology of the workshop before the arrival of the participants and is in Annex III.

3.2.1 Preparing

Day 1 (21st July, 2016)
On the evening of the arrival of the international participants at the Workshop site, the participants were briefed about the task and the expectations of the workshop by the co-coordinator of the Workshop from the Department of Culture.

Day 2 (22nd July, 2016)
The team went on an initial reconnaissance survey of the whole Paro Valley. The team drove through the main Highway to get an initial idea of the setting of the Paro valley, its settlements, the paddy fields and observed the various aspects of the Paro valley making it a unique Cultural Landscape. The team covered the northern end and the northern end of the valley on the first day. The positive aspects of the landscape and the elements which pose risk to the Unique Landscape were observed and discussed along the site visits. The various examples of illegal constructions in the rural area of the valley were shown to the international participants by the two national participants and shared the challenges of the various government agencies in implementing the existing laws mainly due to the pressure of socio economic development.

Day 3 (23rd July, 2016)
The team had a discussion on the approach of the work. Understanding the enormity of the site and the very limited time for deliverance, the team discussed lengthily on the scope within which to work during the workshop. The emergence of new reinforced concrete structures in between the beautiful paddy fields and the poor architecture of the contemporary structures in the town and the rural areas alike were seen as the major factor which posed the risk of damaging the unique landscape of the Paro valley.

Day 4 (24th July, 2016)
The team reviewed the Paro Valley Development Plan prepared by the Ministry of Works and Human Settlements to understand the developing trend and the issues and the upcoming proposals for the Paro valley. The team also studied the existing acts and laws like the Land Act of Bhutan -2007, the rural construction rules and regulations -2013 and the Thromdey act of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Day 5 (25th July, 2016)
The participants attended the Panel Meeting of the first session of the workshop which worked out the management plan of Chuba-Autsho Cultural site. Observing the presentation and the deliberations made by the participants of the first session, the team members got a clearer idea of how to go about with the task ahead.
3.2.2 Planning and development of the proposal

Day 6 (26th July, 2016)
Through the numerous site visits made earlier, the team decided on the approach and methodology of presenting the proposal. The critical observations from the site visits were discussed and listed down. Through these observations, the findings and the possible solutions and the challenges to it were discussed in detail. These important findings were very critical in developing our approach to the task.

Day 7 (27th July, 2016)
The various elements of the Cultural Landscape of Paro valley were listed down. These elements were further categorized into three parts, the open, the built and the infrastructure. By categorizing these elements, the team could understand the different agencies responsible for its upkeep and the complex integration of various agencies and their relation to each other.

Day 8 (28th July, 2016)
In continuation, the team worked out the conceptual rules/development guidelines for better management of these aspects in accordance with the existing guidelines and the legislations. The team started formulating the draft tools into the value based design tools formed by the teams during finalizing the methodology and the discussion.

3.2.3 Finalization of the proposal

Day 9 (29th July, 2016)
The various elements of the Cultural Landscape were studied in detail. The team listed down the values, existing problems, potential dangers, future potentials and the possible actions of each element. These various parameters were detailed and put up in a tabular form. The various examples of proper planning where the significance of the heritage sites, the agricultural lands and the traditional settlements have been achieved were in the meantime discussed and digitized for presentation to the panel members.

Day 10 (30th July, 2016)
The team finalized the Value based design tool in the table incorporating as much details as possible. The team also discussed the two case sites where the Value Based Design would be explained. The team visited the two case sites (Gaptey area above the main town and the old street with the Paro Dzong as the vista) in detail and studied the different aspects of the site to be explained.
Day 11 (31st July, 2016)

The team was involved in preparing the presentation slides. While the two international participants was involved in making the presentation regarding the methodology of the work and the Value Based Design tool principles, the two national participants deliberated and prepared the presentation of the two case sites through which the Value based design tool would be explained. The preparation of presentation completed by late afternoon and it was submitted to the Department of Culture for review.

Day 12 (1st August, 2016)

As per the program of the workshop, the team visited the Paro valley site along with the international Panel members – Dr. Mechtild Roessler, Prof. Yukio Nishimura and Prof. Toshiyuki Kono. The team explained the findings of the workshop from the Ta Dzong overlooking the whole valley and also explained to the panel members the various legislations in effect. After lunch, the team members and the panel members moved to Thimphu to attend the reception dinner hosted by Hon’ble Minister of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.

3.2.4 Reviewing

Day 13 (2nd August, 2016)

This day was devoted to the Panel Meeting. The schedule alternated between presentations of the Proposal by the team, and discussions with national and international panel members.

3.3 Panel Meeting on Cultural Landscape of Paro Valley

Tuesday, 2nd August, 2016.

Profile of International Panel Members

Dr./Ms. Mechtild Rössler
Director, Division for Heritage and World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Dr. Mechtild Rössler has a master in cultural geography from Freiburg University (Germany) and a Ph.D. from the Faculty for Earth Sciences, University of Hamburg (1988). She joined the Research Centre of the “Cité des Sciences et de L’Industrie” (Paris, France) in 1989 and worked in 1990/91 as a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley, USA, in the Department of Geography.

In 1991 she joined UNESCO Headquarters in Paris at the Division for Ecological Sciences and transferred in 1992 to the newly created UNESCO World Heritage Centre. She held different positions including as Programme Specialist for Natural Heritage (1993-2001), Chief of Europe and North America (2001-2010), Chief of the Policy and Statutory Meeting Section (2010-2013) and Deputy Director (2013-2014). In May 2014 she became the Deputy Director of the Division for Heritage covering 4 UNESCO Conventions (1954, 1970, 1972 and 2001) and was appointed Director of the Division for Heritage and World Heritage Centre in September 2015. She has published and co-authored 13 books and more than 100 articles.

Prof. Yukio Nishimura
Director General, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Tokyo, Japan

Majoring in conservation planning, physical urban design and public participation in planning, involved in drafting conservation plans for a number of historic cities throughout Asia. He is the President of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Japan and former Vice President of University of Tokyo.
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Prof. Toshiyuki Kono  
Distinguished Professor, Kyushu University, Japan

He is Member of the Committee for Heritage Law at the International Law Association; Vice President of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), a consultative body of UNESCO. Since 2011, he is working with the Dept. of Culture to establish the legal framework in culture sector in Bhutan.

National Panel Members:
1. Dasho Karma Weezir, (Director General, DoC)
2. Dasho Tenzin Thinley, (Dzongdag, Paro Dzongkhag)
3. Dr. Mechthild Roessler, (Director, WHC)
4. Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, (Kyushu University)
5. Prof Yukio Nishimura, (University of Tokyo)
6. Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin, (MoWHS)
7. Mr. Chimi Rinzin, (MoAF)
8. Mr. Nima Gyalpo, (NLC)
9. Mr. Phuntsho Gyaltshen, (TCB)
10. Mrs. Nagtsho Dorji, (DoC, MoHCA)

Participants:
1. Ms. Teresa Tourvas
2. Ms. Chie Kodama
3. Mr. Tshering Phuntsho
4. Mr Jamyang Singye Namgyel

Observers from DCHS:
1. Ms. Junko Mukai
2. Mr. Yeshi Samdrup
3. Mr. Pema
4. Ms. Dechen Y Nedup
5. Mr. Sonam Gyaltshen
6. Ms. Jigme Choden
7. Ms. Phuntsho Wangmo
8. Mr. Tenzin Namgyel
9. Mr. Mindu Gyeltshen.
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Introduction Session:
The panel session on the Cultural Landscape of Paro valley was chaired by the Director General of the Department of Culture, Dasho Karma Weezir. He thanked all the international and national panel members for their presence in the very important discussion on sustaining the Cultural Landscape of Paro Valley. He hoped that the various stakeholders from different agencies can deliberate on the findings by the team members and give rise to new ideas and concepts for sustaining the Cultural Landscape of Paro valley and that of Bhutan as a whole.

Session 1

Presentation:
The first session of the Panel Meeting on Cultural Landscape of Paro Valley was chaired by Prof. Yukio Nishimura. Mr. Jamyang Singye Namgyel, Architect from Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites gave a brief introduction of the workshop and highlighted that the team has focused in the more compelling and urgent issues which are adversely affecting the Cultural Landscape of the Paro Valley. Ms. Teresa Tourva presented the first session whereby she introduced the concept and definition of Cultural Landscape as defined by the Heritage Bill of Bhutan and the World Heritage Committee. She introduced the concept of "Value based Design- to protect and sustain cultural landscape" which is the final outcome of the workshop. She then went on to explain how the team went about the task, with their understanding/findings from the observations made during their site visits and how that has led them to approach towards their proposal/outcome. She also presented the existing legislations in relation to the built environment, the infrastructures, the legislations in place for protection of the paddy fields, the rivers and the environment which forms the major component of the Cultural Landscape. She pointed out in her presentation some of the main findings of the team which are:

1. The definition of a buffer zone around cultural or heritage sites can only offer limited results. Protecting and sustaining the wider context becomes integral to these sites continuity and value.
2. Limitations in current legislation do not ensure good quality built environment, stricter planning laws can regulate density/sprawl, the streetscape, pedestrian life, of both urban and rural environment, also elements like proportion, articulation of elevations, materiality, etc
3. The registered wetlands, the forest and the built cultural landscape are under threat as their continuity is not ensured through legislation and planning laws
4. The Cultural Landscape is alive, and the changing needs of the users need to be taken into consideration, design accommodating for change.

As the rapid socio-economic development is the eminent threat to the Cultural Landscape of the Paro valley and Bhutan in general, she pointed out that the term 'Development' has come to mean the new construction and new building stock which is not the case. The protection and sustenance of the Cultural Landscape is not the enemy of Development and that developing within the context of the Cultural Landscape is very important as that would be a method to improve the quality of development. Therefore, the concept of Value based Design which particularly emphasizes at managing change will aim to bring about development whereby the Cultural Landscape is respected. The concept has been derived from the four key principles:

1. Preserve the context
2. Good quality built environment
3. Ensure continuity
4. Accommodate for change and growth.

Q and A session:

1. Professor Nishimura stated that the cultural landscape is a broader picture than what the participants have looked into which is the mostly in the architectural perspective. The presentation needs to reflect the overall picture, its history, its evolution and how it came about to the current state so that people will have a clearer idea and will be able to propose what needs change and what needs improvement. Individual control should be the first thing to consider when proposing a scheme. To this Ms. Teresa Tourva responded by stating that the second half of the presentation will try to explain that and the first half is an introduction to what the group mindset was, considering the values and what they felt was different and unique in the surroundings of the Paro valley.
2. Dr. Rossler pointed out that the group presentation had not considered one element that defines cultural landscape which is Associative Landscape. Dr. Rossler emphasized that the group needs hard evidences to prove the evolution of the landscape. The group needs more than informal interview; they need photographic evidences, historic maps and other forms of historic documentation to prove their point. To this Mr. Tshering Phuntsho stated that the record keeping in Bhutan is
poor and so the historical evidences are very limited and quite often non-existent.

3. The Agriculture Ministry representative, Mr. Chimi Rinzin questioned the group whether they had considered ethnic mix that is altering the development of Paro valley. Emphasizing that it is a powerful force in changing the face of the valley. The group agreed to the statement.

4. The Director General of the Department of Culture, Karma Weezir, emphasized that the history of the landscape should be taken into consideration at all times and stated that the group will face problems and objections by the public on their proposals if they do not.

5. The Tourism Council of Bhutan representative, Phuntsho Gyeltshen, asked the group on what the incentives would be given to the locals with their proposal of a management plan.

The Ministry of Works and Human Settlement representative, Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin inquired the implications of designating the site as a cultural landscape, would that imply that the development at the site would be frozen or will it have some form of restrictions. He also stressed that there are many factors that will be involved for such proposals, the consolidation of livable land, availability of materials and so on.

Prof. Kono stated that the coordination of the stakeholders is key to the success of the management plan. To draft or issue regulations for a specific area, testing is needed to see how it would work and then after deliberations and evaluations can it be legally bind. The framework should be well understood and manageable where the Dzongkhag will be able to play a key role. Dr. Rossler agreed and added that there should be different strategies for implementation.

Prof. Nishimura further added to the associative landscape element that is very strong visually as you fly into Bhutan for the first time, the prayer flags that have been placed in the mountains. Consideration of the locals perception to the folklores should meld together. Karma Weezir also added that the local deities and rituals should be put into account as it plays a big role in the lives of village people.

The Head of the Division for Conservation of Heritage Site, Nagtsho Dorji, added that in associative landscape, there is development with no limitations and with that controlling is difficult. Nagtsho Dorji continued stating that the challenges that will be faced are making the people feel and think that it is a collective effort and instilling the feeling that this is for everyone. Paro valley is at an advantage as there are considerably more well to do people from other parts of Bhutan and with them spearheading this kind of initiative will be reasonable.

Prof. Kono urged the group to consider the enforcement of the regulations and how it would be effective.

Prof. Nishimura ended the first session with complimenting the group on a very good start and stressed that they observe the current situation, interpret the complex cultural landscape and figure out typologies for the management plan.

Session 2

Presentation:

The second session was moderated by Dr. Mechtild Rossler. Ms. Chie Kodama presented on the details of the Value Based Design concept. She explained the three major categories falling within the umbrella of the Cultural Landscape which are the Built environment, the Open Space and the Infrastructure. Each of the three categories had various elements and these elements were discussed in detail. The value based design concept had 10 parameters (Good quality, existing problems, potential danger, possible actions, unexplored options, etc) and these parameters were explored and identified for each of the elements constituting the Cultural Landscape in order to understand their significance and their relationships with the other elements. After identifying these parameters, the team could give new solutions or possible actions which would positively impact the Cultural Landscape. By identifying the dangers and possible actions, the relevant authority could select actions according to relevance, urgency criteria and impact.

1. Dr. Rossler pointed out the keywords of the session which were harmony, integrity and authenticity and also mentioned the additional stakeholders which are the tourists.

2. Prof. Nishimura stated that the group had forgotten to mention the irrigation channel which explains a lot about the agricultural landscape at the site. The idea of interrelationship between the villagers and the land, and the integration of various elements. To which Tshering stated that they did consider it but since there were over 32 elements, they had to reduce it down.

3. Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin said that the challenges on built areas is only an issue for the urban areas and not the rural areas. He added that the management of the buffer at heritage sites will be an easier task than cultural landscape, and so a solution needs to be discussed.

4. Prof. Kono pointed out that a checklist needs to be made, a checklist to identify a site as a cultural landscape, and tools needed for the analysis and assessment should be

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identified. To which Jamyang stated that we will make a checklist putting into consideration perspectives from the locals, architects as well as tourists. Teresa added that the aim of this project is to protect and sustain. There is still more to do as currently the work is still at its draft form.

5. Mr. Chimi Rinzin agreed with Prof. Kono on the statement of needing a checklist and added that the qualifications of the criteria needs to be stated clearly. He also stated that they should also consider the agricultural aspect in this project. Dr. Rossler agreed that the agricultural aspect is important as it greatly affects the landscape, and added that the transportation system needs to be regulated in regard to tourist visiting.

6. Prof. Nishimura suggested that the management strategy be a five year long plan, and added that a map based approach to be done by mapping out the critical areas and zoning for the management strategy.

7. Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin stated that the current systems and policies need to be reviewed and it would not be enough to look at one specific area but to consider the carrying capacity of the valley.

8. Prof. Kono suggested a good strategy and marketing creating a tourism potential.

9. Yeshi Samdrup from the DCHS asked how the incentives given by the Agriculture Ministry to the rural areas are different from the proposed incentives of the protection of the cultural landscape.

10. Dr. Rossler added that the garbage management needs to be planned properly keeping in mind the tourism aspects. In regard to tourism, Mr Chimi Rinzin suggested to look into the Paro valley resort capacity and proposing rice as a tourism gimmick. Dr. Rossler agreed that rice tourism could be considered and marketing the experience in the rice fields could be looked into.

Session 3

Presentation

The third session was moderated by Prof. Toshiyuki Kono. Mr. Tshering Phuntsho and Mr. Jamyang Singye Namgyel presented the two case sites whereby the method of Value Based Design was explained. The first case site was the small stretch of urban sprawl from the main town area cutting the stretch of paddy fields. This case site was chosen since the team has identified this example as a case whereby the urban sprawl and development cutting the long stretch of paddy is an example of the new development hampering the continuity of the beautiful paddy fields. He also highlighted the issue of small pockets of dry lands within the larger paddy fields being developed which led to the continuity of the paddy fields being compromised and adversely affecting the beauty of the paddy fields. Since there are areas where this sprawl could continue, this case site was seen as an area where urgent intervention was
required. By studying the various elements in the area and their potential dangers and possible actions by the value based design process, he pointed out that land exchange programs could be a method to avoid further sprawl in the area and the relevant authorities which are the Dzongkhag Thromdey and the National Land Commission along with the Ministry of Agriculture could work on the proposal of land exchange programs to avoid further sprawl.

4. Launching Session of Japan Funds in Trust for South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

Date: 3rd August, 2016
Time: 09:30 AM
Venue: Library hall, Department of Culture, Kawajangsa

International Guests present for the Launching Session

1. Dr./Ms. Mechtild Rössler
   Director, Division for Heritage and World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
2. Prof. Toshiyuki Kono
   Distinguished Professor of Law, Kyushu University (Fukuoka/ Japan)
3. Prof. Yukio Nishimura
   Director General, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, and former Vice President, University of Tokyo, Japan

National Dignitaries in the Launching Session

1. Dasho Sonam Topgay, Hon’ble Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
2. Dasho Karma Weezir, Director General, Department of Culture
3. Dasho Doma Tshering, Director, Department of Multilateral, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Dasho Thinley Wangchuk, Director General, Department of Immigration
5. Dasho Lungten Dorji, Director General, Department of Local Governance
6. Dasho Chhador Wangdi, Director, Department of Disaster Management
7. Dasho Sonam Dawa, Director, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
8. Dasho Tashi Tobgay, Director, Department of Census and Civil Registration
9. Dasho Tenzin Thinley, Dzongda, Dzongkhag Administration, Paro
10. Ms. Wangchuk Bidha, Chief, Bhutan Natcom
11. Ms Ugyen Lhamo, Planning Officer, PPD, MoHCA
12. Ms. Nagtsho Dorji, Chief, DCHS, DoC
13. All the Divisional Heads under Department of Culture
The launching Session started with the welcome address by the Director general, Department of Culture. He welcomed everyone in the room for making available in this important event and stressed the importance of the Japan Funds in Trust for South Asian Cultural Landscape initiatives. Following the welcome address, the Hon’ble Secretary of Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs addressed the floor on the cultural landscape initiative from the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs and the draft Cultural Heritage Bill. He expressed the utmost importace of sustenance of culture for the sustainable growth and in turn realizing the Gross National Happiness. He explained about the past events related to cultural landscape and how this continued support from UNESCO has benifited Bhutan. He extended his acknowledgement to Professors for continued support. He emphasized on how the presence of the Director of World Heritage is to Bhutan and further committed in preserving heritage for humankind.

After the opening remarks of the Hon’ble Secretary, Director of Division for Heritage and World heritage, UNESCO addressed the floor. She briefed the floor of the World Heritage and importance of Cultural Landscape. The importance of awareness of the importance of cultural landscape was also stressed since the concept is new in Bhutan. After her address the Japan Funds in trust was launched by the Hon’ble Secretary of Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs and Director of Division for Heritage and World heritage, UNESCO.

The Launching session concluded with the vote of thanks by the Director of Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. The tea and snacks was served after the tea and snacks.
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The launching of Japan Funds in Trust for South Asian Cultural Landscapes Initiatives
Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

**Saving cultural landscape; a race against time**

Tshering Palden

Bhutan's rapid urbanization and development activities such as roads and institutional structures have come at a cost. They are adversely impacting, in numerous ways, the cultural landscapes, a vital component of Bhutanese history.

A cultural landscape is generally defined as 'a geographic area including both cultural and physical features and the interactions between the two.' This definition encompasses the historical, social, economic, and aesthetic values of a place. In the context of Bhutan, cultural landscapes are an integral part of the nation's identity, heritage, and the traditional way of life.

The preservation of cultural landscapes is crucial for the sustainability of traditional Bhutanese culture. The government has emphasized the importance of cultural landscape preservation through various initiatives. It is evident that the loss of these landscapes, which are often associated with cultural, historical, and environmental values, can have significant socio-economic impacts.

"Thematic socio-economic development has posed enormous pressure to the preservation of heritage sites and sustainability of cultural landscapes," said the Home and Cultural Affairs Secretary of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.

The protection of heritage sites is crucial to the preservation of cultural landscapes. The government has taken several steps to protect these sites, including the implementation of strict regulations and the establishment of heritage management frameworks. These efforts are aimed at preserving the cultural and historical heritage of Bhutan for future generations.

The Bhutan government is committed to preserving its cultural heritage and has taken several initiatives to protect cultural landscapes. The country's cultural heritage is recognized as an asset that contributes to the national identity and pride. The government's efforts to preserve these landscapes reflect its commitment to ensuring that the cultural heritage of Bhutan is preserved for future generations.

The programme is supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Japan Funds for the Promotion of Cultural Heritage. The programme focuses on the identification, documentation, and preservation of cultural landscapes in Bhutan. The programme aims to ensure that cultural landscapes are protected and conserved for future generations.

The programme's success is evident in the preservation of several cultural landscapes in Bhutan. The government's efforts have resulted in the identification and preservation of several important cultural landscapes in the country.

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Background

The inception of draft Cultural Heritage Bill, the first legislative framework in culture sector has conceived the notion of sustaining the cultural landscape and its importance for equitable and sustainable development in the country. Further, the present juncture we are in, where the changes to the landscape is paramount, there is utmost need to manage the change. The Department of Culture under the Ministry of Home and Cultural has worked for past three years in the line of sustaining cultural landscape of Bhutan in parallel to forming the draft cultural heritage bill.

The Cultural Heritage Bill of Bhutan, which once enacted will be the first holistic legislative document on cultural heritage in Bhutan including heritage sites, thus aims to provide value-based protection for heritage sites in the country. The Bill is to protect not only heritage buildings but also cultural sites including rural settlements with its surrounding settings. It also recognizes Bhutan, as a whole, as a unique cultural landscape bearing witness to the distinctive history, wisdom and custom of the people. Realizing that cultural sites and the cultural landscape reflect the uninterrupted interaction between human activities and environment, the process to protect cultural sites and sustain the cultural landscape would observe success only when economic needs of the individuals is harmoniously balanced with spiritual, emotional and cultural well-being of the society. Hence, it is understood that the protection of cultural sites and sustenance of the cultural landscape requires the people-centred management framework and schemes developed in the close cooperation with various stakeholders of the central and local government agencies and other concerned organizations.

For the past three years, the Department of Culture has worked to introduce the concept of cultural landscape and provide awareness for its importance to the officials working in the culture sector and other various stakeholders. The International Competition on Cultural Landscape of Bhutan 2014 focused on importance of preserving our rural landscape and deriving the benefits from it for the custodians of this unique heritage was well received by the individuals at decision level bodies. The Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - Bhutan 2015 focused in understanding the values of cultural landscape
and its protection approach was successful in providing the platform to understand the value-based approach. The event in 2016, the Workshop on for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2016 targeted to work out for preparing management frameworks for two case sites in Paro district and deliberate proposed schemes with the national stakeholders and international experts enhanced the cooperative approach with the different stakeholder agencies for planning and implementing heritage management. Further, the workshop was also successful in developing the guidelines for preparation of management plan for the cultural sites. In continuation of the past works, the workshop entitled “Management of Cultural Sites for Cultural Landscape Sustenance- Bhutan 2017” is aimed to provide platform for the professional working under Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites to work to develop the management plan for potential important cultural sites in Bhutan. The Department of Culture has good experience in conservation of heritage buildings but the cultural sites preservation is new field for most of the officials.

Programme

The Workshop on “Management of Cultural Sites for Cultural Landscape Sustenance- Bhutan 2017” has been held from October 2016 to October 2017. Six working groups, two officials (one architect and engineer) in a group will be formed for the workshop. Each group will choose one cultural site and work on to develop comprehensive management plan of cultural site.

Each group should carry out following tasks:

- **Identification and justification of the site**

  The working group should identify a cultural site for the preparation of management plan. The identification of the cultural site should be carried out through preliminary exercise of formulating the cultural heritage value of the sites and comparative analysis with other similar sites. The group should be able to justify the selection of the site through the comparative analysis and the community support can be added value to the selection. This selection will be presented to small panel comprising of international and national experts. The working group can have two more options for the site, in case the primary site is found not appropriate during the panel meeting. The selection of site and methods of comparative analysis will be provided by the coordinator for standard practice for all the working groups.

- **Preparation of management plan**

  After the selection of site is justified and approved in the panel meeting, the working group will work on to prepare the management plan of each selected site. Standard methodology of preparation of management plan will be adopted in the panel meeting and the working groups will follow this guideline while preparing the management plan. Three reviews will be carried out during the preparation phase and the deliverable will be endorsed during the first panel meeting.

- **Evaluation of management plan**

  The panel meeting comprising of international and national experts will be formed to evaluate the management plan of the working groups in September-October 2017. The working group should present the management plan during the panel meetings. The submission has to be two forms; management plan documents and PowerPoint presentation of the management plan.

For the first panel meeting, four panel members will be invited including one international panel member. The review session in the preparation phase will be carried out by the one international and national expert. For the evaluation of the management plan, four international members will be invited to review and advice on the outcomes of the working groups. The final outcomes will be deliberated and evaluated during the CLASS Panel session to be held in Paro and Thimphu, which members consist of officials in multi-disciplinary sectors of Bhutan and the aforementioned international members. Finally, the Department of Culture will implement the proposed schemes in trial basis. The winning proposal will be reviewed and updated in the tentative list for the world heritage.

As per the programme of the CLASS-2017 three following reviews were organized during the course of preparation of management plan.

**First Review of works carried out by Cultural Landscape Management Team (CLMT) – 21st to 27th December, 2016**

The first review was chaired by Professor Yukio Nishimura, who is one of the panel members for cultural landscape workshop in October 2017. The first review was focused on selection of the sites chosen by the six working team. Following are the list of sites chosen by each group;
1. CLMT 1 (Ms. Pema and Mr. Sonam Gyeltshen)
   - Buli village under Zhemgang Dzongkhag/District
   - Khoma village under Lhuntse Dzongkhag

2. CLMT (Mr. Karma Tenzin and Mr. Sonam Tenzin)
   - Rukubji village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
   - Taba Ramtoe villages under Samtse Dzongkhag

3. CLMT 3 (Mr. Pema, Mr. Pema Wangchuk and Mr. Dendup Tshewang)
   - Shingkhar village under Bumthang Dzongkhag
4. CLMT 4 (Mr. Yeshi Samdrup and Ms. Phuntsho Wangmo)
- Nabji and Korpu village under Trongsa Dzongkhag
- Merak and Sakteng village under Trashigang Dzongkhag

5. CLMT 5 (Mr. Jamyang Singye Namgyel and Mr. Tenzin Namgyel)
- Gangtey village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
- Ura village under Bumthang Dzongkhag

6. CLMT 6 (Ms. Jigme Choden and Ms. Chozang Doma)
- Rinchengang village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
- Dawakha and Bjibjokha villages under Punakha Dzongkhag
- Yangthang village under Haa Dzongkhag
The justification of each site (preliminary value assessment) was presented in the review session and at the end of the review session each group selected one site as their case site. The selection was based on the guidance and observation by Prof. Yukio Nishimura. Following sites were selected by each group:

1. CLMT 1: Buli village under Zhemgang Dzongkhag
2. CLMT 2: Ramtoe village under Samtse Dzongkhag
3. CLMT 3: Ura village under Bumthang Dzongkhag (The group only presented Shingkhar village but the review session recommended for Ura village considering the landscape approach)
4. CLMT 4: Nabji village under Trongsa Dzongkhag
5. CLMT 5: Gangtey village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
6. CLMT 6: Rinchengang Village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag

The review session also adopted the standard management plan format, which is attached in Annexure I.
2nd Review (13th to 15th January, 2017)

The second review was chaired by Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, Ms. Junko Mukai and Mr. Motonori Moriya

The second review was focused on description of the site, value assessment and comparative analysis of the site with other similar sites. All the groups presented and recommendations of the panel members were noted for further analysis and research on the site.

The second review was also a platform for the working teams to understand the onsite condition of management of the site through the presentation of Mr. Motonori Moriya. He focused on engaging the youth in protection of cultural landscape.

Presentation by CLMT 1 on the value assessment of Ramtae village

Presentation by Mr. Moriya on the importance of engaging community at grass root level and importance of youth in managing cultural landscape.

3rd Review (24th to 26th May, 2017)

The third review was chaired by Prof. Yukio Nishimura

The third review was focused on the management of the site and each group presented on the management strategy in relation to the cultural heritage value of the site. Some of the group had carried out community consultation and also discussed the management plan with the school children.

The management strategies presented was reviewed and the expert provided recommendation. The highlight of the recommendation was how to manage the change and not to restrict change through management plan. The restrictions will not be received well by the community. In addition, the expert gave case examples of similar sites in the world for the working team to understand the real conditions of managing the site.

The working groups agreed to work on the management plan and also to go back and forth with the value assessment. Finally, the review session concluded that the internal review will be done on 6th October, 2017 of the draft management plan, before the final panel session from 22nd to 27th October, 2017.
List of Participants

1. Cultural Landscape Management Team (CLMT) 1- Buli Village under Zhemgang Dzongkhag
   a. Ms. Pema, Dy. Chief Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   b. Mr. Sonam Gyeltshen, Archaeologist, Dy. Chief Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture

2. CLMT 2 – Ramtoe village under Samtse Dzongkhag
   a. Mr. Karma Tenzin, Sr. Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   b. Mr. Sonam Tenzin, Archaeologist, Dy. Chief Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture

3. CLMT 3 – Ura village under Bumthang Dzongkhag
   a. Mr. Pema, Dy. Executive Engineer, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   b. Mr. Pema Wangchuk, Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   c. Mr. Dendup Tshewang, Engineer, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture

4. CLMT 4 – Nabji village under Trongsa Dzongkhag
   a. Mr. Yeshi Samdrup, Sr. Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   b. Mr. Kunzang Tenzin, Engineer, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   c. Ms. Phuntsho Wangmo, Engineer, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture

5. CLMT 5 – Gangtey village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
   a. Mr. Jamyang Singye Namgyel, Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   b. Mr. Tenzin Namgyel, Engineer, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture

6. CLMT 6 – Rinchengang Village under Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag
   a. Ms. Jigme Choden, Engineer, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
   b. Ms. Chozang Doma, Architect, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
Profile of the resource persons

International Panel Members

1. Prof./Dr. Roland LIN Chih-Hung

Sino-French city planner and art historian, is currently Programme Specialist of the Asia-Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO Headquarters in France. Within the World Heritage Centre, he coordinates UNESCO cultural heritage safeguarding projects in Central and South Asia, notably the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nominations and Lumbini, birthplace of the Lord Buddha preservation project in Nepal. He also manages World Heritage issues in India, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, as well as the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Born in Taiwan, but living and working in Paris, France since 1991, Prof./Dr. Lin received his PhD in Art History and Archaeology from Paris-Sorbonne University in 1998, in addition to previous diplomas in City Planning and Oriental Metropolis Studies, as well as Gardens, Landscape and Territorial Studies. In addition to his duties at UNESCO, Prof./Dr. Lin holds two Visiting Professorships in China and contributes his expertise as Research Fellow to a number of research institutions in France and Germany. He previously contributed as Expert & Advisor for the sustainable urban development of Qufu, Birthplace of Confucius, a World Heritage city in China, through the European Commission’s Asia Urb Project Programme.

Prof./Dr. Lin has published prolifically, authoring three academic works/books on landscape, historic cities, and World Heritage issues in English, French and Chinese, edited twelve books and contributed over eighty specialized papers on the need for safeguarding world and cultural heritage in Asia.

2. Prof. Toshiyuki Kono

Toshiyuki KONO is Distinguished Professor, Kyushu University (Fukuoka/Japan). After he obtained his LL.B. and LLM. at Kyoto University and passed Japanese Bar Exam, he joined the faculty of law at Kyushu University. His main research field is private international law and international heritage law. His recent research interests are economic analysis of private international law (private international law) and issues on authenticity (international heritage law).

He was invited to give special lectures at the Hague Academy of International Law in 2013, which is published in its Pocket Book series in 2014. He is currently, among others, Vice President and Titular Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, Director of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law, Chairman of the Committee for Intellectual Property and Private International Law at the International Law Association; Member of the Committee for Heritage Law at the International Law Association; Vice President of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS); Science Advisor of Ministry of Education, Cultures, Sport, Science and Technology of Japan; Chairman of the Committee for Cultural Affairs of UNESCO National Commission, Japan.

3. Prof. Yukio Nishimura

Born in 1952, Professor Yukio Nishimura gets his BA, MA and D.Eng. at the University of Tokyo. He is appointed as Vice President of the University of Tokyo in April 2011. He teaches urban planning, urban design and urban conservation planning at the Department of Urban Engineering, University of Tokyo. Majoring in conservation planning, physical urban design and public participation in planning, he has also been involved in drafting conservation plans for a number of historic cities throughout Asia. He also served as Vice President of International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), whose function includes evaluation of World Cultural Heritage nominations as a consultative body of UNESCO. Since 2010, he is the President of ICOMOS Japan. Professor Nishimura has published 8 books including two award-winning “Urban Conservation Planning” (Japanese, Tokyo University Press, 2005, in Japanese) and “Urban Conservation and Urban Design” (Kajima Shuppankai, 1997, in Japanese), edited 25 books including “Urban Landscape Planning” (Gakugei Shuppansha, 2000, in Japanese, Korean translation in 2003), and contributed more than 100 books as co-author.

4. Ms. Junko Mukai

Appointed as heritage architect of the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Ms Junko Mukai has worked in Bhutan since 2001 to lead various heritage surveys and conservation projects. Some of the key activities led by Ms Mukai include inventory survey of Buddhist temples, the drafting of Cultural Heritage Bill, capacity building workshops on cultural landscape, study on seismic vulnerability of traditional construction, and heritage conservation awareness programmes.

National Panel Members

1. Dasho Dorji Norbu, Director General, National Library and Archives
2. Ms. Nagtsho Dorji, Chief, Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites, Department of Culture
3. Mr. Ugyen M. Tenzin, Chief, Department of Human Settlements, Ministry of Works and Human Settlements
4. Mr. Ganesh B Chhetri, Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Key points of Management Plan

The crucial part of the management plan is recognizing the cultural heritage value of the cultural sites selected for CLASS-2017. The group agreed on the cultural heritage value to be based on following:

- Historic/Cultural background
- Architectural specificity
- Uniqueness of Settlement/Setting
- Livelihood/Products determining feature of architecture/setting

To protect the cultural heritage value, the demarcation of the boundary of the cultural site was also deliberated and agreed on.

- Boundary of Important Cultural Site and Buffer zone

The Management Organization for the management plan has to have bottom up approach and the management plan has to emphasize on this aspects. Therefore, inclusion of community was considered to be crucial part for management organization.

- Community initiatives (association)
- Monitoring
- Incentive scheme

The theme of management of cultural sites was decided to be “Management of Changes”. Under this theme following points were discussed and included in the management plan.

a. Building code
   - Restoration and rehabilitation
     - Change on Façade
     - Extension (design, material, size, etc.)
   - New construction
     - Ancillary building
     - New house (ownership, building orientation, plot coverage/building size and height, design, material)
   - Removal/improvement of existing building/structure

b. Surrounding setting
   - Improving community space
   - Fencing/boundary wall
   - Water source/spring
   - Choeten and other sacred elements
   - Foot path
   - Road and parking space

Through series of discussion, the management plan format was decided as follows;

Part 1 Description of ICS

A. Basic information of the site
   Name, Location, Households
   (basic introduction to the site)

B. Documentation and Assessment of ICS

1. History, Origins and folklore
   The history of the place plays pivotal in defining its inclusion as important cultural sites. The interpretation of name of the village to the association with historical figures has influenced the growth of the village. Therefore, proper documentation of historical facts is needed to interpret the tangible form of the village.
   Method: Interview with village elders and biographies
   Product: Historical description and if possible, display the historical records on the map.

2. Natural systems and its related features
   a. Topography and drainage (irrigation system): The shape of the ground plane and its height or depth. Topography occurs naturally and as a result of human manipulation and drainage course as surface expressions of topography.
   b. Vegetation: The Forest covers in most of the place are documented through Community Forest or National Parks and Corridors. The information is particularly important to understand the dependence of the community to the Forest and its influence to the settlement pattern.
   c. Water bodies, sources, irrigation channels
   d. Sacred natural sites
   e. Any other natural elements

   Method: Interpretation of the landscape, questionnaire with the community and desk study.
   Product: Description and recorded on the map

3. Land use
   a. Agricultural cultivation (dry/wet)
   b. Settlements (residential and commercial)
   c. Communal spaces
   d. Institutional

   Method: Interpretation of the landscape and questionnaire with the community
Product: Description and recorded on the map

4. Settlements / spatial organization
   a. Landmarks: temples, important house, mountains etc.
   b. Communal spaces: Gathering space, communal ritual space etc.
   c. Settlement arrangements and patterns
   d. View and vistas: From and to the settlement
   e. Access, circulation and nodal points (e.g., pathways)
   f. Small structures (e.g., fences, gates)

Method: Documentation and interview

Product: Documented on the map which will enable us to understand the spatial organization and prioritization of the importance of space in the ICS.

5. Buildings and structures
   a. Typology: This study is to determine the diversity of the built form and also helps to understand the change the structures has gone through the time. It also provides information of change in livelihood and needs of the households.

   b. Materials and techniques

   c. Use and functions in the house.

Method: Documentation of different typology showing plan, sections and elevations. Document houses which are old. Relate this to the settlement pattern study to interpret the importance of the façade and spatial organization.

Product: This helps to understand the importance of tangible elements in the cultural sites and guide us for coming up with the rules and regulations for the new construction or reconstruction and also for the façade control. Further, it also enables us to understand the importance of structures based on history or typology and guide us to plan the conservation.

6. Cultural traditions and expressions
   a. Agricultural practices
   b. Spiritual beliefs
   c. Rituals and events
   d. Skills and knowledge (e.g., crafts, cuisine, medicinal)
   e. Oral cultures (e.g., songs, poems, folklore)

Method: Questionnaire and interview

Product: Descriptive understanding of intangible heritage and its relation to the settlement.

7. Socioeconomic profile
   a. Demography (e.g., age, gender, literacy, population/migration patterns)
   b. Livelihoods and sources of income (e.g., farm, non-farm, tourism, skilled/unskilled, religious, business)
   c. Management practices (e.g., modern/traditional methods, organic/non-organic)
   d. Basic service (e.g., education, health, water supply, sanitation, solid waste management)
   e. Infrastructure (e.g., roads, power)

Method: Questionnaire and interview, desk study

Product: Information that can guide us to understand the socioeconomic profile and enable us to understand the type of incentives needed to be planned. It also guide us for recommending the provision for infrastructures development not only from benefit to the community but also looking at the physical and aesthetic impact the infrastructure can bring to site.

Part 2 ICS Evaluation

A. Cultural Heritage Value
   ● Historic/Cultural background
   ● Architectural specificity
   ● Specificity of Settlement
   ● Topography and setting
   ● Livelihood/Products determining feature of architecture/setting

B. Boundary of Important Cultural Site and Buffer zone

The boundary of important cultural sites has to be delineated base on the cultural heritage value and for its protection.

The buffer zone can be delineated base on visual path and integrity, protection of landuse, protection of environment which are indirectly benefiting to the community and other parameters.
Part 3 Management Plan

A. ICS Management Organization

- Community initiatives (association)

It is crucial to understand the existing setup of the community organization. Community Forest is one such setup to understand how the community functions within the setup.

- Monitoring of site

B. Management of Change

- Visioning

Method: Community consultation meeting. This meeting enables us to understand perception of community for the management and their expectation

Product: Vision statement

1. Building code

- Improvement on current status

Important part of the cultural site restored within the current setup. For example the entrance of the cultural site is the gateway and plays vital role in defining and asserting its importance. However, within the current setup, if the entrance is not speaking of its value recognized, minor changes can be recommended in the plan.

- Restoration and rehabilitation

  → Change on Façade
  → Which part of the facade is important? Protection of all the facades for all the houses or just for the old buildings in the village or part of the village where visual connectivity is strong?
  → Restoration
  → What should be protected during the restoration/renovation of the house? What element is most important in the house?
  → Extension
  → Extension is inevitable. How to recommend extension? Is extension allowed for all the houses or restrictive to some? If allowed, which side of the house? How to incentivize those restricted? What type of materials and design for the extension?
  → Dismantling of house
  → Issue of abandonment of houses and dismantling of the ruins. Protection scheme for the house, if the dismantling of the house devalues the CHV.

- New construction

  → Ancillary building
  → New house
  → Plot coverage which determines the size and the height of the building
  → Design and material
  → Orientation
  → Type of ownership

2. Land use control

Land use management. (Example of Buli, demarcating the space of old lake as empty...)

3. Infrastructure: Planning

- Improving community space

- Fencing/boundary wall

- Water source/spring

- Choeten and other sacred elements

- Foot path

- Road and parking space

4. Waste management

5. Incentive scheme
## Deliberations of Panel Meeting

### Panel Session

**Agenda**

Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Culture  
Date: 25 and 26 October, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:20</td>
<td>Opening remarks by Director General, Department of Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Introduction to CLASS-2017 workshop by Project Coordinator</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 9:45 to 12:00 | Session I: Buli village  
  Session Moderator: Ms. Nagtsho Dorji, Chief, DCHS DoC |
| 9:45 to 12:00 |  
  9:45 to 12:00 | Presentation on documentation and assessment of the site |
| 10:15  | Tea Break                                              |
| 11:15  | Presentation on value assessment and management plan    |
| 12:00 to 14:15 | Q & A session and wrap up session                    |
| 12:00 to 14:15 |  
  12:00 to 14:15 | Session II: Ramtoe village  
  Session Moderator: Prof. Yukio Nishimura |
| 12:00  | Presentation on documentation and assessment of the site |
| 13:30  | Presentation on value assessment and management plan    |
| 14:15  | Lunch Break                                            |
| 15:00 to 17:20 | Q & A session and wrap up session                    |
| 15:00 to 17:20 |  
  15:00 to 17:20 | Session III: Ura village  
  Session Moderator: Dr. Roland Lin Chih-Hung |
<p>| 15:00  | Presentation on documentation and assessment of the site |
| 16:30  | Presentation on value assessment and management plan    |
| 15:30  | Afternoon tea will be served during the session        |
| 18:00  | Q &amp; A session and wrap up session                      |
| 18:00  | Dinner hosted by Hon’ble Home Minister                 |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Arrival of Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 to 11:05</td>
<td>Session IV: Historic village of Nabji</td>
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<td>9:15</td>
<td>Session Moderator: Prof. Toshiyuki Kono</td>
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<td>9:45</td>
<td>Presentation on documentation and assessment of the site</td>
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<td>11:05</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50 to 14:45</td>
<td>Session V: Sacred Hamlet of Gangtey Q &amp;A session and wrap up session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Session Moderator: Ms. Junko Mukai</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45 to 16:15</td>
<td>Session VI: Rinchengang village Q &amp;A session and wrap up session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>Session Moderator: Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15</td>
<td>Presentation on documentation and assessment of the site</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:15</td>
<td>Presentation on value assessment and management plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:50</td>
<td>Closing of the panel session Q &amp;A session and wrap up session</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:50</td>
<td>General observation and discussion</td>
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<td>17:10</td>
<td>Declaration of winners</td>
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<td>17:20</td>
<td>Vote of thanks by the Head, DCHS</td>
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Session I: Buli village

The Buli team presented on the value assessment of the cultural sites of Buli in the first part of the session. The second part of the session was focused on the management of cultural sites. After the presentation following were discussed;

Ms. Junko asked the team about the 2 layers of the core zone and how they segregated the 2 layers in their plan. The team admitted that they have not gone into details due to lots of restrictions in the buildings in the core zone. She commended the team for their good study of architectural typology. With regard to their settlement construction code, she raised her doubts on how there are no different codes that are applicable to different typologies. The team said that the building code is only applicable to new constructions instead of the existing structures. Thirdly, she inquired on whether the maintenance of the façade for different typology should be within the typical façade or within the Bhutanese architecture. The team said that although they haven’t explicitly mentioned in the code, they have identified how the typology has transformed (Rabsey with Geykar and Payab). Lastly, she asked the team about how they plan to mitigate burdening the community during their involvement in the management plan. The team said that they will capitalize on the existing group.

Dr. Roland, commended the team on their intensive consultation with the community. He then asked them whether the traditional management system exists for the 3 villages and whether they are co-worked together or not. He inquired on whether the Statement of Significance was standard for all the 6 groups or not. He suggested working with historians to document the oral history from elder people.

Prof. Nishimura said the presentation was very clear. However, he asked justification of the outer core zone being very big and suggested to use the ceremonial road to the lake as the outer core zone instead of the two-tiered core zone. He also mentioned that the buffer zone on the mountain ridge is very clear. He commended the team for their very compelling SWOT analysis. He suggested to include land use plan in the management plan to protect the central open space and to delineate some area for expansion together with its building guidelines. He asked if the ancient is visually different from other road and if it is very significant or if it same in terms of the landscape. He suggested that if the stonewalls are different in this region, a basic study should be done to emphasize the importance of preserving this walls and also add value to Buli village. Lastly he recommended using contour map in order to clearly show the former lake position and the surrounding mountain as the lake is the main value of the village.

Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin mentioned about how the team highlighted different sectors doing different programs in the village. He then asked how they are going to resolve if the programs are contradictory to their management plan. He suggested that it is more practical to have a management committee than to have a member from each household. He also mentioned that since the government structures are located where it is easy to mobilize the land and asked how they are planning to manage this and also the damages that has been already afflicted the place.

Mr. Ganesh mentioned that management plan has very little focus on agriculture. He feels that it is important as it is the main source of livelihood and some plans should be incorporated to make it more sustainable. He also mentioned that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests have built farm infrastructures to promote services of buying and selling of agriculture products. He also highlighted wild animals damaging crops, land fragmentation and climate change as few of the many challenges faced by the farmers. He suggested that this management plan can be used to address these challenges keeping cultural landscape in mind and using innovative approaches such as organic farming. He lastly suggested including biodiversity as a part of conservation.

Dasho Dorji Norbu suggested the team to find more historical background on the lake since the management plan is revolved around the lake. This also strengthens their argument that it is a cultural site. He also suggested that since lots of developments are taking place in the central space, the management plan should get support from the government to get the government structures reallocated.

Ms. Pema said that most questions were not covered in the management plan and to take all the suggestion into consideration for the final management plan. She clarified that the Statement of Significance is different for all the groups and that the traditional route are the same as the other routes.
Session II: Ramtoe village

Ramtoe village in Tading gewog, Samtse is one of the many villages in the Lhop community, a tribal community in southwestern Bhutan. Lhops, considered Monpas are believed to be the indigenous inhabitants of the sub-Himalayan foothills of Bhutan. Given its remoteness, Ramtoe, fairly untouched has its unique architecture, lifestyle, social and beliefs system still intact and preserved making it a living testimony of a type of medieval vernacular architecture and aboriginal settlement of Bhutan. However, with the new Phuentsholing-Samtse highway to open soon and after the completion of bridge and farm road in the village, the settlement could come under threat of haphazard development, if proper preservation efforts are not implemented on time.

A study on the current economic condition, demography statistics and people’s attachment to retain and preserve their unique bamboo house architecture, a core component enhancing the value of Ramtoe village, indicates that it is time for intervention and educate the people on the benefits and importance of preservation of cultural site through this management plan. Therefore, the vision of this management plan is to improve their livelihood and to educate the people in the process through incentives collected by promoting Ramtoe village as a tourist destination, thereby achieving the goal of prolonging the sustenance of the village and its significance.

Deliberations

Participants recognized the importance of the site and preserving a tradition that has come under threat from modernization. They pointed out the example of a similar settlement, Lotokuchu, which has already lost most of the cultural and traditional means of life of the Lhop and how development activities have changed the landscape and life of the people. They suggested a study to authenticate the changes in Lotokuchu to learn and incorporate in the management plan of Ramtoe. Planners suggested keeping the cultural site as a buffer zone, since the role of a buffer zone is not to control developments but to understand the external effects of the surrounding on to the site.

They questioned why the team proposed tourism and major interventions to promote tourism as a main focus area to sustain the significance of Ramtoe when Ramtoe is only a few hours drive from urban centres like Samtse and Phuentsholing. They suggested new interventions like toilets and improved footpaths to help improve the livelihood and liveability of the residents if the plan was to promote tourism, create a source of income for the younger generation and help youth stay back in Ramtoe. Participants pointed out that the proposed plan was focusing more on agricultural practices. On the buffer zone, some suggested to look into the pros and cons, as a lot of people depended on natural resources such as Bamboo to construct houses.

Experts noted the emotional attachment of the people in performing their Makhyim rituals in their old houses and reminded the team to be considerate on their old traditions. The team ensured that the typology of house that would not contrast with the original design of the Makhyim while it would enhance the living condition with improved facilities. However, the location of new houses wasn’t discussed or addressed in the management plan. Participants also pointed out the conflict between conservation and shifting cultivation the people practiced. They said that it would be unjustifiable and imposing to tell people to live the way they lived.

Experts recommended studies on other Lhop communities to understand what interventions could be taken. They noted that although the present residents could be proud of their way of life, it could change with time. Therefore, educating the residents was recommended. They also recommended the management plan to address tourism management if tourism was proposed. It was also recommended that the team do a careful need assessment with regard to promoting tourism since the same idea failed when implemented for Nabji-Korphu in Trongsa. They said that growing pressure of development in the nearby areas was pushing the community of Taba Ramtoe.

In concluding the session, participants congratulated the team for choosing Ramtoe as the site and in attempting to address a wide range of Cultural heritage. They reminded how Cultural Heritage workers should understand how the communities developed without losing their unique cultural heritage values. They pointed out how developmental activities in Lotokuchu benefited the people but also how it affected the cultural heritage. They emphasized on the need of a clear demarcation of development to protect the heritage site and recommended designating a few buildings as cultural heritage.
Session III: Ura village

After the presentation, following discussions were done during the session III.

Professor Nishumura stressed on the significance of visual integrity of Ura village with the surrounding mountains. The protection of the view is one of the important objective of management plan of Ura and must have proper ways to manage it. Regarding the buffer zone demarcation, he mentioned that the physical structure of the site prior to its settlement and analysis of the Dozhi as organic settlement is very difficult to understand and it needs to include the special structures;

Ms. Junko emphasized her observations on the timeline of the change in lifestyle of Ura from the nomadic to modern should be justified and it may help to understand the site in more details. She also inquired about the managing the ruins of four settlement which later became dozhi and maintaining the social system of dozhi through materializing. And the channelling of approval of new construction to maintain current social system without losing the essence of the older practice was also brought out in her comments.

Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin mainly commented on three following issues:

1. Planning now to sustain in future which needs to be done properly focusing on the emerging conflict such as institutional buildings like school.

2. Adapting to the local system or new methods to allow current trends and managing the changes

3. The expectation of the local from the management plan must be inculcate and framed properly for the sustenance of village.

He also shared his concern over the management plan regarding the view from the new bypass and new setting along it. And further on the expansion on the dozhi system.

Mr. Ganesh expressed his views on the agriculture and forest product available in Ura valley and management of such activities in the site. Such as collection of mushroom shall be incorporate in management plan and using of chemical fertilizer in the production of the crops.

Professor Kono commended the team members to have consulted with some of the most influential people in Bhutan and through this the message of protection of cultural landscape is being imparted.

Madam Nagtsho informed group members that the images from the new bypass should also come in the presentation.

Dr. Roland stressed on the importance of the maintaining the old footpath which passes through the village for the future memory connecting between places like olden days.

Session IV: Nabji Village

After the presentation, the moderator immediately started off with the question and answer session.

Professor Nishimura congratulated group four for the excellent presentation. He said that this presentation can be a model for how to define core zone, buffer zone and for very detail guidelines. Having said that, he asked the team two questions. One is irrigation channel. Since the landscape and the paddy field is the key to appreciate the heritage site of area, irrigation is one of the major components. Is there any management to sustain the irrigation as it is very important? Second question was; We can see the water for the irrigation is fetch from the natural river. What kind mechanism is used at the mouth to manage the flood during the monsoon season as the mouth of the irrigation channel is very important. Is there any historic water system to tap the water from the natural river?

Mr. Yeshi Samdrup responded to the question. For the intangible aspect for the irrigation, we only enquired about how they manage or maintain. Every household from nabji and korphu have to contribute. He mentioned that they did try to ask detail on the irrigation channel and all but we could not get the information and couldn’t analyze on it also. Only thing is that we could relate the irrigation channel to landscape and the built special organization. For the second question, the mouth of every channel is at the favorable slope of the river, depending upon the natural topography. The system gets deteriorated during the heavy rainfall on the places where the slope is steep.

Professor Nishimura then asked the third question. The communal space is very important to understand the space structure of settlement. Is there any other communal space to understand the heritage space structure?

The space around the tree (shingshinglakor) is a place where people gather yearly to celebrate and offer good harvest. However, now it is converted into parking and we also want to further develop it into parking area without disturbing
the deity who is believed to be residing in it, so that the people can come to perform rituals and all. In relation to settlement, if we put hypothesis on the creation of space, the tree serves as a landmark as they enter the village from their old route, thereby giving sense of place leading to development of such a place and we need to protect that. The other space is in front of the Nabji Lhakhang. It is used by the people during the time when they organize festivals inside the temple.

Junko provided general comments for the team. She said that the team studied very well about the site and they also distinguish the cultural exchange with Bumthang region. That is because they realized the different construction materials, rammed earth and stone, whereby the Nabji people built with rammed earth while Bumthang people built with stone. So they found that this is the evident of the cultural exchange, tangible. Actually there must be more ways to find the cultural exchange. For example, Bumthang has lot of rice species and all and the Nabji people do grow rice. So I want to know if agriculture has done any research on it, some area where we can identify the cultural exchange.

To this Mr. Ganesh responded. I think Bhutan has quite a unique traditional rice. We have carried out very comprehensive studies in the past and I myself is a rice breeder by profession and I have developed varieties of Bhutanese rice using varieties from outside. One of the example is the Bhutanese red rice. Different altitude has different varieties of rice growing. We have national biodiversity conservation program whereby we do conserve varieties of rice. Because of the unique altitude, the country has varied types of rice ranging from aromatic to red and white and several different kinds especially cold tolerant in upper altitude and tropical types in lower latitudes.

Rolland also congratulated the team on very comprehensive presentation and also the previous team. Though you all are all architects and engineers with heavy renovation works, we can see that you have larger consideration about not only architectural typology of monument but of cultural site. My first question is: in your presentation you have mentioned about the perception of landscape as a peacock and also you have put forward your consultation with children, children’s drawing of what is their perception of the landscape and also you have mentioned very important interaction between man and beauty of landscape. Also you have talked about historical route. So do you have any difficulty in reflecting this three issues in the management plans, although you have touched a bit in your presentation. My second question is; in this one year while working on the standard management plan format as agreed/adopted by all the team, do you have any difficulty or anything to be added in Bhutanese context. This can be answered by any of the group member of you being the coordinator.

My third question is; I wonder if you have referred Bhutan culture atlas which features nabjilhakhang as in your presentation you have covered on the history of nabji etc.- or if you all have carried out any inter-agency or inter-institute consultation.

Mr. Yeshi Samdrup responded to the questions accordingly. First question is relevant to my case site. Regarding the second and third question, I think I will answer on behalf of the office. The first one on the perception of landscape, we have difficulty in managing the beauty of the landscape, so we took care of landscape, entry points and the paddy fields. The formats is the very simplified one and if my colleagues feel that it needs to be changed, we can still change. Regarding the third question, we have done some inter-institutes consultation whereby we have engaged students from taktse in carrying out inventory work and their works are highly appreciated.

Mr. B.Chettri raised few comments and some minor questions. As far as the cultural landscape is concerned, I think what we saw, two crops have been mentioned. Rice and cardamom. Other than that we don’t see any other crops being mentioned. Mostly likely there are other crops grown as well. After rice, are the land fellow, or do they grow winter vegetable or stray animals graze. - what is the winter utilization of the paddy field. Regarding cardamom, many areas has taken up due to its lucrative business. What is the extent of cardamom cultivation as it can’t be grown in the paddy field as it requires shade? Are they grown at the backyard? Regarding the irrigation, the water sharing is a problem. What kind of water sharing system do they have and if there is any conflict? I think it’s important to mention. Since only two crops are mentioned, there may be few more. But as a part of the managing change for future, I think there is need for diversifying in crops and products. Soil fertility maintenance is the key aspects of the agriculture, so for the large paddy field, how is the soil fertility is maintained. Do they use manure from the forest or from the animals? The rice variety which is grown at nabji should be a in situ conservation of the rice variety and should be a part of a managing change. The incentive mechanism which is 20% suggested to household is probably high. The rice is not the income generating crop actually. I don’t know what they get from cardamom. So I think strengthening the farm mechanism and labor should also be looked into and addressed as a part of incentives. Regarding the branding of the products, I think good examples has been gives.

Yeshi Samdrup clarified on the above. On the vegetable cultivation, before 2011, they used backyard for it, however after introduction of cardamom, they converted it into the cardamom field. One point of time we were also afraid of paddy field being converted into cardamom field, but they informed that cardamom required shade and it’s not possible. Regarding the water sharing, we didn’t really look into it as, as of now they have enough water and they don’t
Session V: Gangtey village

After the presentation session, Prof. Nishimura commented that the origin of the settlement and its formation is different from other setups in Bhutan with the monastery on the top of the settlement. Since there is several pressure on the site like growing population because of the socio-economic development and with increasing numbers of visitors at site, the proposal or the building guideline or the building code is genuinely put up for the benefit the society. He mentioned that the two layers of guideline with one being mandatory and the other one optional with detail incentives is commendable. He highlighted that this kind of proposal is very good for the changing society. The selection of two old houses for the protection which is kind of proposal is very good for the changing society. The detailed incentives is commendable. He highlighted that this example of how the management plan should be. Another question is how the cardamom as a cash crop would impact the settlement. There is chances that the paddy field might be left barren as they might focus more on cardamom.

Fourth point is that with the cardamom, tourism, road etc. if the population increases, the demand of houses will be increasing for sure. Our land act allows to convert wetland as per the inheritance. The mechanism for replacing the plot is mainly from the government land in this guideline. So it is very important to look into how the private land can be replaced and all.

Yeshi Samdrup responded accordingly; Regarding the chronology of land use, before there was agriculture field. When the paddy was introduced we were not able to figure it out. Earlier, it was owned by one person and the servants works on the paddy. Regarding the cardamom plantation, it was the biggest issues and it might lead to the change of landscape. However, the time has taught them good lessons as the cardamom price is not reliable and the price is also purely dependent on the India. So they feel the rice is more reliable. The positive part of the cardamom is that it has brought back the youth to village as it is lucrative business. Regarding the population, it’s increasing and for the land replacement, we need to understand from the organization and put up in the final plan.

Further, he commented on the reallocation of the plots to the community since everyone will go for the nearer to the road. So, this idea will not be feasible in this management plan.

Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin mentioned that the management plan seems imposing with restrictions and controlling on western side while the community is showing clear indication on the development on their owned land/plot. The individual are thinking of developing the site for the commercial hub for their sustenance and livelihood. So, this is the bigger challenge that we have to deal with since the management plan is to protect the landscape. So need to think to resolve or address these issues. Further, he suggested to think of relationships between the temple and the village to enhance the beauty to the site with Lhakhang and the village. Due to more visitors, there can be development pressure at site. So, the management plan has to have more on what community need when it comes to the development and further study and link with Chitokha as this is also one of the related site as presented. He also shared his views on to study on what is the issues there at Gangtey? What is the interest in the community for their better living in a way developing the village in a holistic perseverance? And what kind of development in the community to be implemented?
Further, he shared on that the crust of the management plan should evolve around how we make it the community to stay there.

Mr. Ganesh commented on the cultivation of potato in future in terms of management change since the locality took high interest in mass cultivation as the serials cannot grow and have no commercial benefits to the community. Further, the team should take consideration in terms of yak harder management, water shade management, and black neck Crain management if the people start using more pesticides and chemicals while farming. Since the management plan is to develop the community in a holistic development, the team need to think on how this will be managed in terms of management change and should be able to address the challenges on agricultural farming to protect the landscape and how it is changing with evolution of the site.

Dr. Roland commented that if the team could make more elaborative on waste management since the place can be future commercial hub. And need to study little more on RAMSA wet land since it is been demarcated under RAMSA and protected as the one of the habitat of black neck crain in the country. Further, the team need to state most significant of the site make a strategic plan how to let think the community with regards on protecting and safe guarding of the two old houses amongst the whole settlement.

Prof. Kono highlighted that the challenge for the site is that people might have less interest in cultivation and keeping as the farm land in future with the commercial enhancement. This issues have to resolved through management.

Session VI: Rinchengang Village

After the presentation was completed, the moderator opened the floor for comments and questions from the Panel members.

Professor Nishumura said that the presentation was very comprehensive and that most of the management proposals were very reasonable. He also pointed out that the team has used a very unique word to describe the value, that is, human perseverance. Professor said that may be the team needs to elaborate little more on the main road, footpaths, slope and communal space and its usage. He believes that this site is slightly different from the other sites because of the land ownership. The team was asked to include maintenance and management of paddy terraces in the management plan as the team has not mentioned how to manage the stone masonry terraces. Professor has said to have seen that the upper part of the rice terraces are not well cultivated, which the team may have to find out why and encourage if possible, that is, if it's not very difficult. He also remarked by saying that he is not sure if the new Rinchengang idea is a good one.

Mr. Ganesh remarked by stating that the presentation was very interesting. He himself being a rice breeder has been to Rinchengang for quite a long time. In fact they(MoA) was the one who introduced double cropping at Rinchengang to Rinchengang for quite a long time. In fact they(MoA) was very interesting. He himself being a rice breeder has been.

Ms. Junko Mukai said that by now the DCHS team must be doing off farm jobs, machineries, carpentry etc. they also work for the paddy cultivation in the fields of neighboring villages. With regard to the upper paddy terraces, not much of it is cultivated due to water shortage, infact even the drinking water is quite limited for the community.

When they were debating the Bajo township, one of the alternative locations was above Rinchengang which is an army firing ground. MoA proposed that site in order to save and protect the Bajo paddy fields, but they were not able to convince the committee.

Dr. Roland raise the question for all the six groups; what’s the next step with the management plans we have prepared? Are we already encouraging too much of the public’s expectations?

Professor Kono said that the site itself is located in a sort of prime location which is very near to the Wangduephodrang Dzong and also near the highway plying to East, Central and Southern parts of the country. And therefore, Professor stressed fear that tourists may not stop to see Rinchengang while they pass through when they have a huge magnificent Wangduephodrang Dzong demanding their attention. The challenge would be how to attract tourists to stop at Rinchengang village.

Ms. Junko Mukai said that by now the DCHS team must be having a clear idea what to do next. Although some sites have similar values and some sites have different values. She also said that this time everyone is of the understanding that this is an exercise and not for real implementation which is why not much of the public expectations have been triggered on the working groups. In case of Nabji The reason why we have kind of restrictions to maintain the traditional
buildings here is not because that the building itself is important but to match. Some incentives can be common to all the sites.

Dasho Dorji Questioned the team if there are any Disaster Management plans apart from waste management and fire hydrant pump as it’s very crucial for such a clustered community. Fire hydrant should be reinstalled and make sure that it is supplied with enough water making it functional. And also, although landslides are of course created by rain waters, but sometimes it is also caused by spill over water from the irrigation channels and from the paddy terraces which seek priority for addressing such issues.

Mr. Ugyen M Tenzin said that Rinchengang may not face migration issues as it's located near the Wangdue town. And also, water supply, footpaths, sewages, drainage systems could be well maintained if organizations like TCB or Gewog Administration could provide some funds. He also raised the issue whether incentives should be uniform across the country or should it be provided case by case.

### Closing Session

With the end of the presentation by all the participants, the panel members were provided with 30 minutes for evaluation of the six (6) CLMT groups, based on five (5) criteria provided to each panel members and also to the CLMT working groups.

The Director General of National Library and Achieves of Bhutan who was the Chair for the two days Cultural Landscape Panel 2017, welcomed all the participants and the panel members for the closing session. He said that the panel members had difficult time whilst evaluating the six CLMT groups and the 30 minutes provided for evaluation was thought-provoking. With the opening remarks of the Chair, Mr. Eric made his remarks and observations on the presentation and congratulated and provided appreciation to all the inputs and hard work of the participants. He conveyed that Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance- Paris, France is overwhelmed with the progress of the works carried out by the Department of Culture in the last four years, for which the Alliance would further financial support the Department for next one year.

The Honorable chair then requested Prof. Nishimura to summarize the discussion of the panel members. Prof. Nishimura commented that the works carried out by all the working members was found impressive and have exceeded than threshold of average. The following were the comments made:

1. The two criteria i.e., criteria 4 “Management planning” and criteria 5 “Consultation with community” was very difficult to evaluate considering the different nature and need of the individual cultural site chosen.
2. All the six groups have been able to carry out intense research towards value assessment, however the team working for NABJI site have been able to clearly define the Cultural Heritage Values.
3. For the comparative analysis, the BULI team was able to exemplify the best case for approach towards comparative analysis and the RINCHENGANG team have been able to showcase compelling community initiatives.
4. The URA and NABJI teams have clearly defined the buffer zones.
5. RAMTOE team have chosen a very challenging site and applauds their efforts in evading the predicament of the sites.
6. GANTEY team have set a good example in preparing a management plan to face challenges imposed by the improvisation of tourists and socio-economic developments, which is perhaps similar to challenges in Japan.

Following which the Chair thanked Prof. Nishimura for explicitly addressing and channeling the views of the panel members.

In continuum, the Chair requested Prof. Kono to announce the winner. Prof Kono announced that all the six teams were awarded WINNER. All the teams have put forth much effort in the development of the management plan for cultural sites with exclusive research works. He announced that all the teams are invited to visit a cultural landscape sites abroad where one can learn heritage conservation and culture landscape perspectives. He indicated that although the site for the study tour was not identified yet, the panel members will assist in chosen the right site for resourceful study tour.

Finally, Head of the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites presented the vote of thanks, wherein she explicitly thanked the international and national panel members for their insightful review and comments. She reiterated the support provided by the international panel members who have reviewed the works put forth by each CLMT team during various phase of evaluation. She thanked Representative (OCHSPA), Kyushu University, Japan Funds in Trust for South-Asia Cultural Landscape Initiatives and UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO New Delhi Office for their continued support and assistance.
Photographs of the session

Panel members (notably Dr Roland Lin/UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Prof. Yuko Nishimura/ Japan, Prof. Toshiyuki Kono/Japan and Mr Eric Dubois/ French NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance) together with participants and observers of the 2017 October meeting.
Preserving nation’s cultural landscapes

Preservation of cultural landscapes is crucial for maintaining the cultural identity and diversity of a nation. In Bhutan, cultural landscapes are defined as areas that have been shaped by human intervention and are characterized by their unique cultural and natural features.

Vehidi Samdrup, a prominent figure in cultural preservation, emphasized the importance of these landscapes, stating that they are not just physical entities but also hold deep cultural and historical significance. He highlighted the need for effective management and protection to preserve these landscapes for future generations.

The Bhutanese government, through the Department of Culture, has been actively working on the preservation of cultural landscapes. The Cultural Heritage Bill, which was enacted in 2012, has been instrumental in protecting and preserving these valuable resources.

In response to concerns raised by the DNT (Department of National Tourism), OAG (Office of the Attorney General) has issued a writ petition to enforce the Cultural Heritage Bill. This action underscores the government’s commitment to preserving and protecting Bhutan’s cultural landscapes.

Bhutan observes significant strides in cultural landscape preservation. The country has made substantial efforts to identify and protect these landscapes, ensuring their continued existence and relevance.

OAG responds to DNT’s writ petition

The Department of Culture has been proactive in enforcing the Cultural Heritage Bill. The petition filed by the DNT has been a catalyst for further action, driving the need for effective management and protection of cultural landscapes.

The petition, along with the response from OAG, marks a significant step forward in ensuring that Bhutan’s cultural landscapes are preserved for generations to come.
Preserving our cultural sites along with socioeconomic development

Ma’m,
The most visible strength of our country is our unique culture and tradition—it is what holds us together and is important that we preserve it. However, it does not mean that we stay stagnant as the world changes around us or that we go back to our roots. One of the biggest challenges we face in preserving our culture and tradition is how to develop while remaining the same or nearly the same. Usually when we are trying to preserve a site, we focus too much on keeping it the same that, it gets left behind while other places develop. So, it is good to hear that the department of culture is making a move towards management of cultural sites for cultural landscape sustenance. Although in its initial stage, the project I see has the potential not only to save and preserve the unique sites in our country but also help the sites develop to the level of other cities like Thimphu and Phuentsholing.

If the project is researched and implemented properly I believe that, our culture and tradition can grow simultaneously with our socioeconomic development while retaining their true essence and value. It would be a big leap forward only in terms of preservation of culture and tradition but also in terms of the nation’s socio-economic development.

Karma
Challenges while studying possible cultural landscape sites

Rinchen Zangmo

Limited time, distance, and rapid socioeconomic development were some of the challenges while conducting the study of the Nabjii village in Trongsa for cultural landscape site.

Department of Culture’s senior Architect, Yeshi Samdrup, said that the officials couldn’t get to the site frequently because of the distance and limited time. “To study and understand the community, people and their way of living, one needs to stay and spend time.”

Yeshi Samdrup said that change and development was allowed but the plan would guide the change. “The plan is just to guide community as this would impact their lives and they will live through this plan.” He said that if the development is not brought considering landscape, it could tarnish the landscape.

He said that the team would be revising the management plan and incorporating the feedback provided by panel members.

Nabjii was identified due to the land’s connection with the historical past, he said. “In Nabjii, the land use pattern, through irrigation system with the settlement to the upper side, and irrigated land at lower profile, has created a unique perception of landscape.”

Several villages such as Korphu, Shengan, Chubar-Aatsho, Khaling and Rukabji were compared before studying Nabjii.

Panel member Ganesh B Chettiri, said that during winter, it was not known what crops villagers cultivated or if the land was left fallow. “It may be interesting to look at how water is shared among people, and if they have a good management system.”

He said that diversification of crops was important for agriculture to be sustainable and that agriculture should be strengthened and promoted.

Another panel member, Tiyen M Tenzin, said the fact that the village has maintained its unique features despite development was laudable as most land in villages is left fallow.

Yeshi Samdrup said that more consultation with the community was recommended by experts.
Plans to manage change in heritage sites

Pemag Lhamo

To help build capacity of the officials before the Cultural Heritage Bill is enacted, the officials of Department of Culture (DoC) on October 26 presented value assessment of the cultural landscape and rules and regulations developed for the sustenance of the sites.

In the two-day workshop titled ‘Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance’, a panel of international and national experts were present.

Value assessment included religious, historical and architectural features, which required site protection and plans for sustenance.

Architect with DoC, Jampayang Stingy Namgyel, said that Gangtey valley in Wangdue was first developed by the first group of gomchens. “The settlement pattern of the village, the historical landmarks, the traditional drains and the land use pattern has enabled the survival and sustainable functioning of this system for more than 400 years.”

He added that the village also stands distinctively from its surrounding landscape.

Officials providing the management plan for Bumthang stated that Bumthang had a unique oral history about three brothers and the shifting of the existing lake in the village among others, which preceded to the value addition of the village.

The discussion also highlighted the rules and regulations in the management plan to monitor the developmental activities.

Head of Conservation of Heritage Sites Division, Nrogzhoe Dorji, said that although a certain Bhakhung is protected, if the surrounding connotations the Bhakhung, the sense of sacredness would be lost. “Right now, the heritage buildings and other structures are almost the same across the country and it’s nothing surprising.”

She added that it was the surrounding environment, and the beliefs that are unique and have protected the country and people until today.

For Gangtey, the officials developed a building code under the rules and regulations of the management plan.

Jampayang Stingy Namgyel said that the building codes developed were in accordance to the existing important features of the village such as roof style and alignment of the houses among others. “The building code is divided into rules that are mandatory and a set which are recommendations.”

He added that the rules for restoration and renovation of the old houses are to be implemented strictly as the houses in the village were a heritage.

Nagtshe Dorji said that the need for protection of the landscape heritage was realised while drafting the Bill. “We are not just talking about one or two Bhakhung, but about all the villages and entire landscapes that are a heritage and needs to be sustained. Sustaining would mean providing guidance and managing the change that is needed in the village.”

The two-day workshop ended on October 26 with recommendations from the experts and architects.
viii. Selected evidence of visibility

Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives: A UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust Project, 2016 – 2018

http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/889

Bhutan Cultural Landscape © UNESCO / Roland LIN

The two years 2016-2018 UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project “Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives” was officially approved by the Japanese authorities on 31 May 2016.

The project aims to support the South Asian State Parties, particularly Bhutan, in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of cultural landscapes. Notably, the project is expected to support two annual cultural landscape workshops in Bhutan in collaboration with the Department of Culture of Bhutan. While focusing mainly on Bhutan, this project will also provide valuable experience sharing for Nepal.

This main objective of this project is to attain a holistic protection of the heritage found in the cultural landscapes of Bhutan, comprising not only buildings and natural conditions but also ways of living and values. In order to achieve this, the project will focus on organizing national activities and technical assistance that will raise awareness about and enhance local capacities for the preservation of cultural landscapes in Bhutan.

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The project was officially launched on 3 August 2016, by the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mechtild Rössler, together with the relevant Bhutanese authorities and leading experts from Japan, on the occasion of the first cultural landscape workshop under the project’s framework in Paro & Thimphu, Bhutan.
UNESCO/Japan Funds in Trust for South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives Launched


This project aims to support Bhutan in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of their cultural landscapes. The main aims of the project are to organize and facilitate national activities/workshops in Bhutan on the topic of cultural landscapes; to provide technical assistance in order to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frame works and prepare the documentation necessary for including cultural landscapes on Bhutan’s national Tentative List; and to strengthen local awareness of cultural landscapes. These goals will be achieved through the organization of national activities such as workshops on cultural landscapes in Bhutan, the provision of technical assistance by UNESCO or international experts, and activities raising awareness of cultural landscapes among national experts and stakeholders as well as local communities. Through these activities, the project will also fulfill its development objectives of enhancing the Bhutan’s abilities to balance conservation needs and development pressures, especially those related to rural-urban migrations, and strengthening local capacities, awareness and ownership.

Duration of the project: Two years (2016 and 2017)

- Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites
The Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2016 will be held in Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan, from 12 July to 3 August 2016. The workshop is aiming to assist the development of management frameworks for two selected cultural landscape sites in Paro, Bhutan.

The workshop, co-organized by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, will engage both national stakeholders and international experts in the discussion and deliberation of implementable management schemes for one Cultural Site within the Paro valley as well as the broader Special Area – Cultural Landscape of the Paro valley.

The activities of the working exercises will include the identification of elements/aspects underpinning cultural heritage value, deliberation on the key areas that need to be surveyed, examined, and planned, and finally preparation of proposals on implementable management schemes of the two cultural landscape sites aforementioned. The outcomes of the working exercises will be reviewed and advised by several invited international experts before being submitted to their respective panels for final deliberation. The Department of Culture, Bhutan, may implement the proposed schemes on a trial basis after necessary modification and improvement.

The organization of this workshop has benefited from the continuous collaboration between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and has been supported financially by the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust Project "South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives", the NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France), and Kyushu University (Japan).
2016 Workshop Results of the first Cultural Landscape workshop published on the Bhutanese National Kuensel Newspaper

https://www.kuenselonline.com/saving-cultural-landscape-a-race-against-time/
Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan (22–27 October 2017, Bhutan)

Press Clips

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HOME

Preserving nation’s cultural landscapes

Phurpa Lhazun

At the panel session for management of cultural sites for cultural landscape assessment in Thimphu yesterday, management plans for three identified cultural landscapes were presented.

Management plans for six cultural landscapes—Donki, Namtso, Trongsa, Gangteng, and Lhunchhunga—were discussed before a plan was developed.

However, these identified sites are not confirmed as cultural landscape heritage.

Senior architect with Department of Culture, Yeshi Samdrup, said that the crucial part of the management plan is the assessment of the values of the sites.

He added that through interviews, assessments, and history of the sites, values and worthiness of the site is recognized. “We also carry out a comparative analysis, why the village should be protected or holds more value than others. These will be analyzed and will define the value.”

“Management plan will also include value of the site, incentives, rules and regulations for development, and activities of the identified sites.”

Yeshi Samdrup said that the cultural landscape is defined as an area with human intervention holding tangible or intangible heritage.

He added that if people understand the importance of cultural landscapes, individuals would be more aware and cautious of the developmental activities taking place in the country. “Through this, we get to protect the site and also influence the planning process.”

The importance and need to sustain cultural landscapes was highlighted while drafting the Cultural Heritage Bill. It was introduced in 2012.

Department of Culture stated that the bill was to protect not only heritage buildings, but also cultural sites including rural settlements with its surrounding settings. “The present juncture we are in, where the changes to the landscape is paramount, there is utmost need to manage the change.”

In 2014, a competition to provide management plan for the village was conducted to preserve and benefit from the cultural landscape.

A workshop for cultural landscape and sustaining its significance was conducted in 2016, workshop to develop management plan for two sites in Thimphu, which increased to six this year, was conducted.

Yeshi Samdrup said that the idea of cultural landscape is new to the officials and working on the management plan would help prepare for the bill’s enactment.

Director General of National Library and Archives of Bhutan, Druk Norbu, said that the officials worked on the management plan of the sites. “The approach they have taken in preparation of the plan was very systematic and this helped them build capacity in management of cultural sites, which is a new approach in the offices.”

Of the six management plans, plans for Raktsham, Trongsa, and Taka were presented yesterday. The rest will be presented today at the panel session.

OAG responds to DNT’s writ petition

From Pj 1

“We will take a decision keeping in mind our responsibility to the King, country and people,” he said.

Attorney General Shwait Lhendup argued the matter was not just an issue of the government had submitted a petition to the Druk Gyalpo and on August 16 for consideration to invoke Article 31 of the Constitution for the Supreme Court’s interpretation on the legality of the fiscal incentives granted to the private enterprises until May 2017.

A competition to provide management plan for the village was conducted to preserve and benefit from the cultural landscape. A workshop for cultural landscape and sustaining its significance was conducted in 2016.

Arguing that DNT had no locus standi to file the "improper suit," OAG cited Article 20(16) of the Constitution, which states that it is every person’s right to approach the court in matters affecting their rights established under the law.

Shwait Lhendup argued that the fiscal incentives granted to boost economic growth by Incurring investments, breaking technological gaps, generating employment opportunities and securing investment in economic interests of the nation. He said that the government had addressed the public’s concern by passing the Fiscal Incentive Act 2017 as Money Bill and was planning to amend relevant laws in the ongoing 15th session of the Parliament.

From Pj 2

Bhutan observes
Preserving our cultural sites along with socioeconomic development

Ma’m,
The most visible strength of our country is our unique culture and tradition– it is what holds us together and is important that we preserve it. However, it does not mean that we stay stagnant as the world changes around us or that we go back to our roots. One of the biggest challenges we face in preserving our culture and tradition is how to develop while remaining the same or nearly the same. Usually when we are trying to preserve a site, we focus too much on keeping it the same that, it gets left behind while other places develop. So, it is good to hear that the department of culture is making a move towards management of cultural sites for cultural landscape sustenance. Although in its initial stage, the project I see has the potential not only to save and preserve the unique sites in our country but also help the sites develop to the level of other cities like Thimphu and Phuentsholing.

If the project is researched and implemented properly I believe that, our culture and tradition can grow simultaneously with our socioeconomic development while retaining their true essence and value. It would be a big leap forward only in terms of preservation of culture and tradition but also in terms of the nation’s socio-economic development.

Karma
Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan
(22 – 27 October 2017, Bhutan)

Challenges while studying possible cultural landscape sites

Rinchen Zangmo

Limited time, distance, and rapid socioeconomic development were some of the challenges while conducting the study of the Nabji village in Trongsa for cultural landscape site.

Department of Culture’s senior Architecture, Yeshi Samdrup, said that the officials couldn’t get to the site frequently because of the distance and limited time. “To study and understand the community, people and their way of living, one needs to stay and spend time.”

Yeshi Samdrup said that change and development was allowed but the plan would guide the change. “The plan is just to guide community as this would impact their lives and they will live through this plan.” He said that if the development is not brought considering landscape, it could tamish the landscape.

He said that the team would be revising the management plan and incorporating the feedback provided by panel members.

Nabji was identified due to the land’s connection with the historical past, he said. “In Nabji, the land use pattern, through irrigation system with the settlement to the upper side, and irrigated land at lower profile, has created a unique perception of landscape.”

Several villages such as Korpuh, Shengana, Chubar-Aatsho, Khaling and Rukubji were compared before studying Nabji.

Panel member Ganesh B Chetri, said that during winter, it was not known what crops villagers cultivated or if the land was left fallow. “It may be interesting to look at how water is shared among people, and if they have a good management system.”

He said that diversification of crops was important for agriculture to be sustainable and that agriculture should be strengthened and promoted.

Another panel member, Ugyen M Tenzin, said the fact that the village has maintained its unique features despite development was laudable as most land in villages is left fallow.

Yeshi Samdrup said that more consultation with the community was recommended by experts.
Plans to manage change in heritage sites

Phueng Loser

To help build capacity of the officials before the Cultural Heritage Bill is enacted, the officials of Department of Culture (DoC) on October 23 presented value assessment of the cultural landscape and rules and regulations developed for the conservation of the sites.

In the two-day workshop titled ‘Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance’, a period of international and national experts were present.

Value assessment included religious, historical and architectural features, which required site protection and plans for sustainability.

Architect with DoC, Jampayang Singye Namgyel, said that Gangtey valley in Wangdue was first developed by the last group of gompa. “The settlement pattern of the village, the historical landmarks, the traditional drums and the land use pattern has enabled the survival and sustainable functioning of the system for more than 400 years.”

He added that the village also stands distinctively from surrounding landscapes.

Officials providing the management plan for the valley stated that there had a unique history about three brothers and the shifting of their small lake in the village among others, which provided the value addition of the village.

The discussion also highlighted the roles and regulations in the management plan to monitor the developmental activities.

Head of Conservation of Heritage Sites Division, Ngawang Choejig said that although a number of buildings is protected, if the surrounding materials of the building, the sense of sacredness would be lost. “Right now, the heritage buildings with old structures are almost the same across the country and nothing surprising.”

She added that it was the surrounding, environment, and the belief that are values that have preserved the country and people until today.

For Gangtey, the officials developed a building code under the rules and regulations of the management plan.

Jampayang Singye, Namgyel said that the building code developed was in accordance to the existing important features of the village such as old style and alignment of the houses among others. “The building code is divided into rules that are mandatory and a set which are recommendations.

He added that the rules for renovation and reconstruction of the old house were to be implemented strictly as the houses in the village were heritage.

Ngawang Dradj said that the need for protection of the landscape heritage was realised while drafting the Bill. “We are not just talking about one or two buildings, but about all the villages and entire landscapes that are a heritage and needs to be maintained. Staying would mean preserving guidance and managing the change that is needed in the village.”

The two-day workshop ended on October 25 where recommendations from the experts and architects.
Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan (22 – 27 October 2017, Bhutan)

http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1412/

Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017 22-27 October 2017

The "Workshop for Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017" will be held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from 22 to 27 October 2017. The 2017 workshop aims to assist the staff of the Department of Culture of Bhutan with reviewing the development of management plans for six selected cultural sites located in five of the twenty Dzongkhags/Districts of Bhutan (Bumthang, Samtse, Trongsa, Wangduephodrang and Zhemgang). This event is part of an ongoing series of workshops on cultural landscapes in Bhutan and follows three previous annual workshops: in 2014, for the International Competition of Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, post-degree university teams from Japan, Thailand and UK were invited to work with Bhutanese experts. In 2015, young professionals from Bhutan, China, Cyprus, France, India, Japan and Serbia were invited to conduct a study of a village in the Haa District of Bhutan, in order to identify and analyse various elements that constitute the cultural landscape of the village (e.g. architecture, settlements, natural environment, community and peoples’ lifestyle), while the 2016 Workshop for Cultural Landscape of Bhutan assisted with the development of management frameworks for two selected cultural landscape sites in Paro, Bhutan.

Since 2011, Bhutan has embarked upon the development of a national strategy and capacity-building towards the holistic protection of its cultural heritage and cultural landscape, in close association with UNESCO. In 2017, as part of ongoing activities to reach this goal, the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCSH) of the Department of Culture at the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre are organising this fourth edition of the Workshop on ‘Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017’. The expected outcomes of the workshop are: improved capacity for the DCHS; the development of management plans for potentially important cultural sites in Bhutan; and an improved understanding by the Bhutanese authorities of the methodology used for the management of cultural landscapes. More specifically, the Final Panel Review Session, scheduled for 25–26 October 2017, will engage both national stakeholders and international experts in a discussion about the revision of implementable management schemes for six selected cultural sites/cultural landscape located in five different Dzongkhags/Districts of Bhutan.

This workshop is organised thanks to the continuous collaboration between the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and is being supported financially by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project “Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives”, the NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France), and Kyushu University (Japan).
Outline of the Final Technical Report covering the previous years of activities on cultural landscapes in Bhutan, under final preparation by the Department of Culture, Bhutan and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (foreseen to be published in Winter 2018)

Support South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives; Experience in Bhutan

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Part II: Experience of Cultural Landscape Initiatives in Bhutan
- Yeshi Samdrup and Junko Mukai

Part III: Lessons Learnt, Recommendations, Ways Forward
- Roland Lin, Junko Mukai and Yeshi Samdrup
Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives

Final Narrative Report • July 2018

Since 2014, UNESCO has made several efforts to support the Government of Bhutan in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of its cultural landscapes. On 7–18 August 2014, UNESCO (World Heritage Centre and Office in New Delhi), with a financial contribution from the Paris-based NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance, supported the Department of Culture of Bhutan in hosting an international competition titled “Cultural Landscape – its interpretation and ways to enhance the safeguarding of cultural landscape in Bhutan”. On 19 August 2014, an international forum, supported by UNESCO, was organized in Bhutan to collect expert advice and raise awareness of cultural landscapes. In 2015, Kyushu University (Japan) joined the above-mentioned partners to support Bhutan in hosting the 2015 Workshop on Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, from 21 July to 9 August 2015.

The current UNESCO-Japanese Funds-In-Trust two-year duration project built on previous achievements and aimed to further enhance the understanding, conservation and awareness-raising of cultural landscapes in Bhutan through a variety of activities. The specific objectives of this project were to create and facilitate national activities/workshops in Bhutan on the topic of cultural landscapes; to provide technical assistance to improve documentation, enhance capacities, update legal frameworks, and prepare national cultural landscape World Heritage tentative list submissions of Bhutan; and to strengthen awareness of cultural landscapes in Bhutan. This final narrative report summarizes the activities undertaken from 31 May 2016 to 31 May 2018.

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