

# WHV – Empowering Youth to Enrich Our Commitment to Save Heritage

## Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur, Bangladesh

Cultural property inscribed on the  
World Heritage List in 1985

01/12/2019 – 10/12/2019



Evidence of the rise of Mahayana Buddhism in Bengal from the seventh century onwards, Somapura Mahavira, or the Great Monastery, was a renowned intellectual centre until the twelfth century. With its layout perfectly adapted to its religious function, this monastery-city represents a unique artistic achievement.

### Project objectives:

Implemented for a second year following the successful experience in 2018, the project aims to raise awareness among visitors and the local community about the preservation of this World Heritage property, and aims at involving young people to develop their capacity to lead a campaign for sustainable conservation.

### Project activities:

The volunteers will organize workshops on heritage conservation and will provide direct advice on how to create awareness among visitors, schools, colleges and the local community. In order to improve the project's outreach and participation, volunteers will perform dances, street drama and art competitions stimulating local engagement and ownership. Hands-on activities include clearing dead leaves, walls and monuments at the site, planting trees and restoring damaged artwork.

### Partners:

Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, iEARN BD, Provat Ferry, Volunteer for Bangladesh.

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