

WHV – Mindfulness practice in Heritage conservation

Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur , Bangladesh

Cultural property inscribed on the World
Heritage List since 1985

19/09/2022 – 28/09/2022



Evidence of the rise of Mahayana Buddhism in Bengal from the 7th century onwards, Somapura Mahavira, or the Great Monastery, was a renowned intellectual centre until the 12th century. Its layout perfectly adapted to its religious function; this monastery-city represents a unique artistic achievement. With its simple, harmonious lines and its profusion of carved decoration, it influenced Buddhist architecture as far away as Cambodia.

Project objectives:

Being implemented for the first time, the project aims at strengthening collaboration between local and international partners to protect the site and at ensuring the establishment of community-led heritage management programs.

Project activities:

The volunteers will conduct literature review and field research to prepare awareness raising activities on key heritage topics such as conservation skills development, community engagement, gender equality. They will work to propose improvements to the site's management plan and will try to apply the teachings of Buddhist mindfulness and rights-based methods and approaches to heritage conservation.

Partners:

Department of Archeology, ICOMOS, National Commission for UNESCO, Institute of Architects Bangladesh, Faculty of Fine Arts University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, New Earth UK, Simple Action for Environment (SAFE), *Thengamara Mohila Sabaj Sangha* (TMSS), One Culture Foundation, Bangladesh Youth Forum, *Paharpur Adibashi* High School.

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