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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU
PATRIMOINE MONDIAL CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**COMITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTAL DE LA PROTECTION
DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**Forty-fifth session
Quarante-cinquième session**

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

**State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire

**État de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial
et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

**Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (666rev)
Lumbini, lieu de naissance du Bouddha (Népal) (666rev)**

21–28 March/Mars 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

The protection and management of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property 'Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha', and especially its authenticity and integrity, have been a source of great concern since 1999.

The Committee last reviewed the state of conservation of the property at its 44th extended session (Fuzhou/online, 2021). The Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation, review the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) and all ongoing studies and proposals, and assist with the development of appropriate and proactive solutions that are consistent with the safeguarding of the property's OUV for the Lumbini World Peace City project and any other possible development projects, including the proposed construction of the Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd., located in the vicinity of Lumbini site.

The State Party did not provide any information on the development project proposals concerning the property before any decision was made that would be difficult to reverse, nor before the implementation of the projects, despite the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Furthermore, the State Party did not respond either to previous requests from the World Heritage Centre, including for information on:

1. the ongoing construction of a temporary Meeting Hall in Lumbini,
2. the construction of a 5,000-person capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the Sacred Garden of Lumbini site.

The Committee urged the State Party to immediately halt any construction work within the property until the potential impacts of these projects have been thoroughly assessed and suitable measures are in place to avoid deterioration of the OUV of the property.

Findings and Conclusions

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission has found that the Government of Nepal and the Site Manager have undertaken a considerable amount of work to improve the state of conservation, protection and management of the property. However, while many of the threats identified in the World Heritage Committee's previous decisions have been addressed and reduced, some threats to the property remain, including:

- The Government has not yet approved the Lumbini Integrated Management Framework (IMF), and a comprehensive conservation policy has not yet been finalized. As a result, there is a lack of clarity regarding conservation measures for 'Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha' and its buffer zone, as well as in the development of facilities to accommodate visitors.
- When the IMF is approved, the LDT and DoA need to have a specific and comprehensive implementation policy and management/monitoring structure in place for conservation projects and adhere to the policy that no development activity will be implemented unless it is examined through an HIA process and found not to have any impact on the OUV of the property.
- The scale of the conservation activities and the specific measures appear to exceed by far the capacity and resources of the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust), which currently employs only one permanent archaeologist/conservation specialist. Capacity

building for the Lumbini Development Trust, as the site management institution, must be emphasized. A specific, comprehensive implementation policy and management/monitoring structure should be put in place for conservation projects, in line with the policy that no development activity will be implemented unless it is examined through an HIA process that confirms that there is no impact on the OUV of the property. It is desirable to redefine the statute and tasks of the Site Manager to refocus on management, monitoring and conservation priorities rather than focusing only on infrastructure and development issues.

- The Lumbini Development Trust Act shall be amended to include provisions for the Lumbini Development Trust to function as the Site Manager of a World Heritage property. These provisions would include strict adherence to conservation principles. It is recommended to consider updating the official title of Site Manager from the current Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) to Lumbini Conservation and Development Council (LCDC).
- The Mayadevi shelter, built in 2002, was intended to provide stable preservation and public access to the ruins and Mayadevi statues inside the building. However, its scale, design, colour, structural form, ventilation and drainage functions represent a negative physical and spiritual impact on the World Heritage site inside and around the shelter structure/building. The archaeological sites outside the Mayadevi temple also lack sufficient maintenance and interpretation for pilgrims and visitors, although their surfaces are protected with conservation bricks.
- The old Lumbini village site in the buffer zone, identified as the most important site on the Archaeological Risk Map, has been damaged by heavy machinery due to the infrastructure project. It should be noted that, in 2010, the State Party proposed to include the entire area of the current buffer zone into the property as part of a minor boundary modification.
- Drainage facility projects, paving of walking paths, etc., are being implemented without enough consideration given to their impact on World Heritage property. The location, number, design, colour, etc., of existing facilities are not sufficiently organized. A large amount of garbage was seen abandoned in the buffer zone. The operation of engine boats in the Central Canal of Lumbini Master Plan Area causes noise and air pollution. The Meditation Hall, which has a capacity of 5,000 people, is almost complete and will be put into service soon. An HIA for the project was conducted after construction began, but it concluded that the impact of the construction on the World Heritage site was considered minimal. The temporary meeting hall had already been removed.
- The Government of Nepal initially approved the Lumbini World Peace City project, but no progress has been made to date. It is desirable that the related authorities conduct a comprehensive HIA, prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties (or the new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released), and that this assessment is provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation. Although the Shree Ram Cement Plant had been stopped and relocated, the State Party of Nepal should continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property. In the Greater Lumbini Area, archaeological investigations have been steadily progressing, and conservation and improvement efforts are underway in line with this progress. In addition, the new Kapilavastu museum has been constructed. Together with stakeholders, the Nepali authorities are preparing the nomination of the sites on the World Heritage List, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama archaeological sites, which have been on the Nepali World Heritage Tentative List since 1997.

The Mission team strongly encourages the State Party to submit the following information and documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:

- Any draft or adopted regulations and guidelines for the development and/or restoration of the property;
- Official HIA procedures adopted by the Government of Nepal;
- Information on the construction process of the Maya Devi Temple shelter structure in 2003 and functional requirements;
- Practical actions taken and planned for the conservation of archaeological remains in Lumbini and to reduce water penetration inside the Mayadevi Temple, as per the Advisor for Conservation's conservation guidelines;
- Interdisciplinary research on how the archaeological remains inside the Mayadevi Temple can be better conserved, leading to an interdisciplinary technical meeting, along with analytical research on the protection of heritage within the shelter;
- Information about the 15-km ban on any new industrial activity or cement plants, as per the decision of the specially formed Commission;
- The LDT organigramme, along with the current number of staff and their profile for each Department.

Recommendations

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommends that:

1. The Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the World Heritage property 'Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha' should be approved by the Government of Nepal as soon as possible. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) should be conducted in line with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (or the new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released) before the implementation of any development project or renovation works, except daily management works within the property area, its buffer zone and the Lumbini Master Plan Area.
2. Practical and effective measures should be implemented to prevent more damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around the Mayadevi shelter. The interdisciplinary surveys and discussions about the Mayadevi shelter should proceed immediately to decide how to ensure the adequate management of the property and how a better shelter could be created as a mid- to long-term goal using the latest surveys and technologies.
3. The State Party should urgently identify the rationale behind the destruction of the important remains at an ancient Lumbini village site within the Buffer Zone. A report on this issue should be submitted to the World Heritage Committee, via its Secretariat, at the State Party's earliest convenience.
4. Utility facilities for pilgrims and visitors in and around the Mayadevi shelter should be improved after a comprehensive investigation and HIA. In addition, the Site Manager should continue regular maintenance efforts and ensure better and safer conservation measures.
5. Concerning the potential impact of the Lumbini World Peace City initiative, the State Party should keep the World Heritage Committee informed about the details of the project and carry out an HIA in line with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (or the new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released) and provide it to the World Heritage Centre for review

by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse or implementing the project.

6. Concerning the Buddhist Meditation Hall, located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, preventive measures should be implemented to reduce any negative impact on the property, its OUV, the surrounding landscape, and the environment.
7. Capacity building for the Site Manager should be reinforced to address the discrepancy between the capacity and resources of the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) and the intended scale of the conservation activities and the specific measures proposed.
8. A specific and comprehensive implementation policy and management/monitoring structure should be put in place for conservation projects, adhering to the policy that no development activity will be implemented unless it is examined through an HIA process that ascertains that there will be no impact on the value of the property.
9. The tasks and priorities for the Site Manager should be reviewed and possibly refocused on the management, monitoring and conservation priorities, rather than focusing on infrastructure and development issues only.
10. The Lumbini Development Trust Act should be amended to include provisions for the Lumbini Development Trust to function as the Site Manager of a World Heritage property. These provisions should include strict adherence to conservation principles. It is also recommended to consider updating the official title of Site Manager from the current Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) to Lumbini Conservation and Development Council (LCDC).
11. The State Party should continue the policy and regulations to protect the Lumbini area from air pollution and other environmental issues. Although the Shree Ram Cement Plant had been stopped and relocated, the State Party of Nepal should continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property.
12. The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommends that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2023, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023, with a view to considering the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in the absence of significant progress with the implementation of the Committee's previous requests, including the recommended mitigation measures to address the ascertained threats to the OUV of the property, or with the implementation of the recommendations of the present Reactive Monitoring mission.

1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

1.1 Inscription history

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 under **criteria (iii) and (iv)**. The original nomination of Lumbini was deferred by the World Heritage Bureau at its 17th session in July 1993 and included a number of separate archaeological sites associated with the life and work of the Lord Buddha. Two of these sites, Tilaurakot, the archaeological remains of ancient Shakya Kingdom and Ramagrama, the relic stupa of Lord Buddha, were placed on the Tentative List in 1996. At the time of inscription, the former President of the World Heritage Committee advised combining the two aforementioned tentative sites as a Serial Nomination with Lumbini. While ICOMOS agreed to the proposal in principle, due to the lack of knowledge, conservation and management of both tentative sites ICOMOS was of the opinion that the nomination of a serial site would require more preparation. ICOMOS suggested that once the required work was completed, the State Party should be invited to include the two sites as extensions in addition to a title change. ICOMOS also suggested that inscription for the Lumbini site should not be delayed.

1.2 Inscription Criteria and World Heritage Values

The ICOMOS evaluation made in 1996 recommended that the site be inscribed on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv), which the Committee adopted.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was prepared by the State Party in the process of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and adopted by the Committee at its 36th session (Decision **36 COM 8E**, St Petersburg, 2012).

1.2.1 Summary of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of ‘Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha’

Lumbini is one of the holiest places of one of the world's great religions, and its remains contain important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centres from as early as the 3rd century BC. The complex of structures within the archaeological conservation area includes the Shakya Tank; the remains within the Maya Devi Temple consisting of brick structures in a cross-wall system dating from the 3rd century BC to the present century and the sandstone Ashoka pillar with its Pali inscription in Brahmi script. Additionally there are the excavated remains of Buddhist viharas (monasteries) of the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD and the remains of Buddhist stupas (memorial shrines) from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD. The site is now being developed as a Buddhist pilgrimage centre, where the archaeological remains associated with the birth of the Lord Buddha form a central feature.

As the birthplace of the Lord Buddha, testified by the inscription on the Asoka pillar, the sacred area in Lumbini is one of the most holy and significant places for one of the world's great religions. The archaeological remains of the Buddhist viharas (monasteries) and stupas (memorial shrines) from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD, provide important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centres from a very early period.

A minor boundary modification was proposed to the committee in 2010 which was not approved. Further information can be found in **Annex V**.

The complete Statement of Outstanding Universal Value can be found in **Annex I**.

1.3 Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau

The protection and management of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Lumbini, Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, and especially its authenticity and integrity, have been a source of concern since 1999, most notably the management activities, management systems/management plan as well as the construction of the structure of the Maya Devi Temple (2002).

More notably, the State of Conservation of Lumbini, Birthplace of the Lord Buddha has been examined by the World Heritage Committee on 17 occasions over the past 20 years.

1.3.1 State of Conservation Synthesis for 1999

The World Heritage Centre undertook a mission in October 1999 for consultations with Nepalese authorities concerning the conservation and presentation of the Maya Devi Temple archaeological remains within the Lumbini World Heritage site.

The mission requested further information from the State Party concerning reports it had obtained in October 1999 of the construction of concrete foundations at the Maya Devi Temple site in December 1998. UNESCO expressed its regret that neither the World Heritage status of the site nor of adherence to international conservation standards were referred to within the agreement.

The authorities however informed the Centre of their intention to submit a technical co-operation request, prepared with the Centre's support to finance the international technical meeting, only after an agreement is reached between the LDT and the JBF (Japan Buddhist Federation), since the latter is to finance the Maya Devi Temple conservation and presentation plan.

1.3.2 State of Conservation Synthesis for 2000

The Centre received an international assistance request from the Nepalese authorities for the organisation of the International Technical Meeting to discuss and initiate alternative draft conceptual designs for rehabilitating the Maya Devi Temple. The Chairperson of the Committee approved the request, and the World Heritage Centre is organising this meeting, scheduled for April 2001, the earliest possible dates for the appropriate international experts to travel together to the site.

1.3.3 State of Conservation Synthesis for 2001

The recommendations of the International Technical Meeting for the Conservation, Presentation and Development of the Maya Devi Temple (5-9 April 2001, Kathmandu & Lumbini, Nepal), and at the request of the Bureau, the Centre organized two technical missions by an international brick expert to examine the state of conservation of the alcove remains of the Maya Devi Temple. During the first mission in July 2001, the international brick expert witnessed the inundation of the Maya Devi Temple archaeological remains and examined the character and structural stability of the alcove remains. During the second mission in September 2001, the expert and the national authorities agreed upon a step-by-step preliminary plan of action to address the main issues which are (a) serious drainage problem, (b) shelter options for protecting the Maya Devi Temple, and (c) long term conservation and presentation of the Maya Devi Temple as both an archaeological property and pilgrimage centre of international significance.

1.3.4 State of Conservation Synthesis for 2002-2006, 2008

Although the state of conservation of this property has been regularly examined by the Bureau and Committee since 1999, the situation called for serious remedial measures in the early 2000's.

The report submitted by the State Party to the Secretariat on 21 January 2004 draws attention to the conflicting recommendations made by successive expert missions on whether the excavated part of the Maya Devi shrine should be covered or left exposed.

The report also highlights the action taken by the State Party who fully implemented the UNESCO recommendations made at the 2001 International Scientific Experts Meeting, using them as guidelines for the restoration work of the Maya Devi shrine.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was undertaken to Lumbini in May 2004 to assess the impact of the newly constructed Maya Devi Temple on the heritage value of the property as a whole. The main findings of the mission were that the newly constructed Maya Devi Temple has substantially affected the integrity and authenticity of the property, including by having a negative aesthetic impact on the archaeological remains that it aims to shelter.

Another reactive monitoring mission (November 2005) assessed the state of conservation of the World Heritage property, focussing on the issues related to the construction of the Maya Devi Temple and the elaboration of a management plan. The mission determined that the root of most problems is the lack of a conservation policy, based on a full assessment of the heritage values of the property.

The World Heritage Centre received on 30 January 2006 a progress report from the State Party. This report contained information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations included in the report of the mission undertaken in November 2005, as well as on other activities that took place in 2005.

ICOMOS and ICCROM did not believe that the property should be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the time. It is further noted that while the State Party's responses to the many recommendations of the 2005 mission are very positive, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies should co-operate closely in order to monitor the State Party's progress in implementing the mission recommendations. In 2008, the State Party reports progress with regards to the proposed recommendations.

1.3.5 State of Conservation Synthesis for 2011

WHC and AB's note the progress made with respect to the recommendations contained in the Committee's decisions over the last few years. With respect to the IMP, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the good progress made at present, including through the UNESCO Japan Funds-In-Trust project, and the partnership with the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the proposal to enlarge the property to encompass the entire inner sacred garden and to recognize the outer sacred garden as a new buffer zone is to be supported in principle and encourage the State Party to further prepare a new nomination.

The WHC and AB's were concerned about some proposed development projects, including the enlargement of the existing airport; upgrading of tourist infrastructure and the proposed development projects by international investment groups. Information on these proposed developments has been provided by the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu as well as by a group of stakeholders self-named "*Lumbini Institutions*". The WHC and AB's consider that decisions on these proposals should be based on an HIA taking into account the OUV of the property, within the framework of the IMP under preparation, and in line with information supplied by the

State Party concerning such new developments, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

1.3.6 State of Conservation Synthesis for 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018-2019

The process of finalizing the IMP was noted on multiple occasions by the Committee, including the acknowledgement in particular of ongoing dialogue with national stakeholders and international partners, as well as progress made in archaeological research on Buddhism and early settlements, conservation and capacity building undertaken within and around the property. While the State Party made significant progress in awareness-raising for the property, (collaborating with UNESCO and the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance on two publications on Lumbini in 2013, and with UNDP and UNESCO to produce a brochure for fundraising towards the completion of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan), there was early concern that the IMF was still pending Government approval in as early as 2012.

By the 43rd session of the Committee, it was noted that the IMF has yet to be approved by the State Party, despite previous assurances and repeated requests by the Committee. While the State Party reports that certain activities have been carried out within the property and the buffer zone, there is no evidence of any HIA, or that the activities carried out have taken the Archaeological Risk Map of the property into consideration.

The ongoing research to better understand the property, its related sites and larger setting have been welcome. However, the project proposal for the Lumbini World Peace City has been approved, even though the State Party did not provide details on the proposed project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, nor carry out any HIA. Given the scope of this very large new development project, the fragile nature of the property and its use as a place of pilgrimage for over 2,000 years, there are concerns that the Lumbini World Peace City project is likely to have adverse impacts on the OUV of the property. The SoC report suggested that the Committee may wish to reiterate its request that the State Party carry out the necessary HIAs as a matter of urgency, in conformity with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties*. These HIAs should be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any further activity related to this project occurs.

The UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project for the preservation of the property (2014-2021) has made comprehensive progress in the Greater Lumbini Area (GLA) in archaeological research on Buddhism and early settlements, conservation and capacity building as well as heritage awareness-raising activities. However, the state of conservation of the property has not improved and it is therefore recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to ensure sustainable heritage preservation in Lumbini, while stressing the need to pursue community engagement.

Additionally, the World Heritage Centre continues to receive third-party information expressing concerns about the worsening environmental quality and increasing industrial development at or around the property, as well as projects, both proposed or in progress, which may affect the OUV of the property. The State Party has not provided the information requested with respect to particular projects. In light of the potential impacts of development and environmental degradation, the Committee should reiterate its request to the State Party to develop a clear strategy, encompassing specific actions for the protection of the GLA and its setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce further the industrial activity in the vicinity of the property. The State Party should also conduct HIAs for the proposed projects and submit information to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to halt immediately any construction work within the property until the potential impacts of all projects are fully assessed and suitable measures to avoid deterioration of the OUV of the property are in place.

In view of the current situation, and given that no monitoring mission was dispatched to the property for the last 15 years, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was proposed and accepted by the Committee to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, review the IMF, all ongoing studies and development proposals and assist with the appropriate solutions for the Lumbini World Peace City project to identify approaches and solutions that are consistent with the OUV of the property.

1.3.7 State of Conservation Synthesis for 2019-2022

The Integrated Management Framework (IMF) has not been formally adopted by the State Party, and therefore the Committee reiterates its urgent request to the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF as a matter of priority. A range of minor structures have been erected within the property, including a wooden security post, a meditation platform. A walkway has been constructed within the buffer zone. As development activities continue to be undertaken within the property and its buffer zone prior to notification and submission of documentation to the World Heritage Centre, the Centre reiterates its request to the State Party to complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for any proposed project, prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and to submit these HIAs and relevant project documentation to the Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

Work has ceased and is not expected to proceed on the proposed Shree Ram Cement Plant located in the vicinity of the property

The Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) organized an initial discussion for the possible implementation of the Master Plan of the Lumbini World Peace City prior to submission of details and the HIA for the project. In view of the scale of this project, the fragile nature of the property and its use as a place of pilgrimage for over 2,000 years, the previously expressed concerns about potential adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remain.

Some of the activities carried out within the property and its buffer zone without prior HIAs, nor reference the Archaeological Risk Map of the property. The 5,000-person-capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall in the vicinity of the property, is at an advanced stage of construction. An HIA prepared after works had commenced concluded that there would be no significant impact on the property. The temporary meeting hall will be removed once the International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall is completed.

LDT is committed to developing a strategy for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting. A draft conceptual plan has been prepared for the archaeological sites of Kapilavastu District. It should be noted that different phases of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-In-Turst project for the preservation of the property have made progress with archaeological research, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, together with an International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the project.

Though a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and development proposals was warranted by the Committee, the mission has postponed until March 2022 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.3.8 Missions to the property until 2021

- May 2004 and November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions;
- April and September 2008: UNESCO Advisory missions;

- UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2009 in the context of the implementation of specific projects
- 2002 Report on the UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission to Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha, 25 June-2 July 2002
- 2001 Technical Mission Report; Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha; September 2001
- 2001 Technical Mission Report; Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha; July 2001
- 2001 Mission Report: International Technical Meeting for the Conservation, Presentation and Development of Mayadevi Temple
- 2000 Report on the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal), 19-23 June 2000
- 2000 Report on the UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission to Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha, 16-24 April 2000
- 1999 WHC Mission Report; Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha; October 1999

1.3.9 International Assistance: requests for the property until 2021

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2007)

Total amount approved : 70,000 USD

2007	Development of an Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage Property of Lumbini (Revised request) (Approved) 30,000 USD
2002	Emergency Technical-Co-operation for safeguarding measures at Lumbini, Birthplace of the Lord Buddha World Heritage site 0 USD
2001	Brick Conservation of the Alcove Remains of the Maya Devi Temple and Geophysical Survey of the Core Zone of Lumbini World Heritage Site (Approved) 20,000 USD
2000	Support for the Organization of an International Scientific Meeting to assess the Restoration and Conservation Needs of the Maya Devi Temple, Lumbini (Approved) 20,000 USD

1.3.10 UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amounts provided: 2006: USD 7,200 from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; 2008-2020: 49,376 EUR and USD 105,000 from the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance; 2009-2021: USD 2,831,237 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust 4 Phases Project for Lumbini

1.4 Justification of the Mission

At its 44th extended session (Fuzhou, Paris, 2021), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to:

- to assess its overall state of conservation,
- review the IMF and all ongoing studies and proposals,

- assist with the development of appropriate and proactive solutions that are consistent with the safeguarding of the property's OUV for the Lumbini World Peace City project and any other possible development projects;

It can also be noted that no monitoring mission has been dispatched to the property for the last 15 years.

The terms of reference, itinerary, programme and composition of the mission team are provided in the annexes to the present report.

2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1 Protected area/national legislation

The Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 1956 (AMPA, 1956, with the Fifth Amendment in 1996) is the principal legislation for the conservation, preservation and management of cultural property in Nepal, and the Ancient Monument Preservation Rules in 1988. The Ancient Monument Preservation Act gives the Department of Archaeology (DoA), currently under the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, the central responsibility for the conservation of cultural heritage throughout the country.

This Act gives the DoA the legal provisions to declare a monument or area to be a Protected Monument Zone (PMZ). The DoA is subsequently responsible for the protection of the site, including the prescription of building bylaws, approving requests for building permits and for any other construction activities within the zone. The DoA is also given the authority to stop inappropriate and/or illegal building activities and to request for the demolition of unauthorized constructions.

Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha shall be declared PMZs as per the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956.

The DoA is therefore responsible for the preservation of the areas comprising the property inscribed on the World Heritage List.

In addition to the 1956 Act, the following legislation or regulations complement the legal grounds upon which cultural heritage is protected in Nepal:

- Local Self-Governance Act (1999)
- Town Development Act (1988)
- Guthi Corporation Act (1964)
- Lumbini Development Trust Act (1985)
- Building Bylaws (2007)
- National Building Code (prepared in 1994, approved in 2006)

Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956 - Fifth Amendment 1996

The legislation for the conservation, protection and management of cultural property is based on the **Ancient Monument Preservation Act (AMPA) 1956**, its subsequent amendments (the latest having been the fifth amendment in 1996) and the **Ancient Monument Preservation Rules 1988**. The Ancient Monument Preservation Act gives the **Department of Archaeology** the legal provisions to declare a monument or area to be a **Protected Monument Zone (PMZ)**. The Department of Archaeology is subsequently responsible for the protection of the site, including controlling all archaeological excavation works, the prescription of building bylaws, approving requests for building permits and for any other construction activities within the zone.

One of the key achievements has been the process leading to the development of draft Integrated Management Framework (IMF, 2013), which was prepared in close cooperation between the Department of Archaeology and the local authorities and site managers, with international support and expertise. The final document has yet to be updated and to be approved.

2.2 Institutional Framework and Management Structure

As defined by the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956 (Fifth Amendment, gazetted in 1996) and the 2013 draft Lumbini Integrated Management Framework (IMF), the Department of Archaeology (DoA) is the principal authority for the coordination of conservation activities of the World Heritage property. The World Heritage Conservation Section of DoA deals exclusively with cultural World Heritage (Kathmandu Valley and Lumbini).

The World Heritage property shall be declared a PMZ under the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956, providing the highest level of national protection.

Central Government (Focal Point)

The authority within the central government that is responsible for heritage conservation (and the World Heritage Site) is the **Department of Archaeology** (DoA), under the Ministry responsible for Culture. The **Heritage Conservation Section** of the Department of Archaeology deals exclusively with cultural World Heritage (Kathmandu Valley and Lumbini) and coordinates with the Site Managers.

World Heritage Site Management

The responsibility of Site Management has been given to the **Lumbini Development Trust** (LDT). The Lumbini Development Trust has also the responsibility of managing the entire Lumbini Development Area which encompasses archaeological sites stretching out in three districts – Kapilvastu, Rupendehi and Nawalparasi.

The responsibility of managing the World Heritage property shall be specifically taken by the Lumbini Development Trust. The chain of command, the communication system and the reporting procedures shall be identified and documented to ensure the required coordination amongst all offices within Lumbini Development Trust.

Historic Buddhist Region

The governance of the Historic Buddhist Region shall be carried out under special provisions adopted by the Government of Nepal. Development shall take place based on the concept of conserving the heritage sites, particularly the numerous archaeological sites in the region. An appropriate system of governance shall be established to ensure the sustainable development of the regions spanning across the three districts of Kapilvastu, Rupendehi and Nawalparasi.

Local Authorities and Provincial Government

The World Heritage property of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, is located within the Lumbini Cultural Municipality.

The updated IMF (not formally adopted yet) includes: The provincial level government has been established based on the 2015 Constitution of Nepal. The Government of Lumbini Province will be essential to coordinate activities within the Greater Lumbini Area. All provincial government ministries and related departments, will be considered as Associated Authorities.

Associated Authorities

The *Ministry responsible for Urban Development* and the *Ministry responsible for Physical Planning* are responsible for physical planning, infrastructure development and land use as well as the enforcement of laws pertaining to building regulations in the private realm.

Land transactions and registration is dealt with by the *Department of Survey* and the *Department of Land Reform and Management* under the *Ministry responsible for Land Reform and Management*.

Ministry responsible for Law and Justice is the responsible authority to clarify contradictions and overlapping authority found in the legislation. The ministry also needs to clarify the conflict between conservation laws and the rights of the individual house and land owners.

Tourism is one of the main sources of income for heritage properties and tourism is dealt with by the *Ministry responsible for Tourism* and the *Nepal Tourism Board*.

In respect to the conservation of the natural environment, the following government organizations are involved; the *Department of Forests* under the *Ministry responsible for Forests*, and in respect to policies conserving environmental management the *Ministry responsible for Environment*.

Various development and infrastructure projects are carried out by the *Department of Roads*, the *Department of Water Supply and Sewerage* and the *Department of Urban Development and Building Construction* (amongst its functions are: “Conserve and develop the areas having religious, cultural and touristic importance” and “Carry out works related to conservation of urban environment”).

Infrastructure and service projects are also carried out by the line agencies. This would in particular mean the *Nepal Electricity Authority*, the *Nepal Telecommunication Authority* and the *Water Supply Corporation*.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES/THREATS

3.1 Management Effectiveness

3.1.1 Lumbini Development Trust Act 1985 – Third Amendment 1996

The Lumbini Development Trust Act (1985) is a specific act for the implementation of the Lumbini Development Plan and management of all sites directly or indirectly related to the life of Buddha. The principle Act relevant to the conservation of heritage is the Ancient Monument Preservation Act (1956). There are various other Acts that directly or indirectly address heritage conservation issues, which should augment - however often contradict - the principle Act.

The Lumbini Development Trust Act (LDTA) 1985 is an Act made to provide for the **Lumbini Development Trust (LDT)**. The Act has been amended in 1991, 1993 and the third amendment was made in 1996. LDT is a non-profit making institution, an autonomous and corporate body with perpetual succession. The LDTA is a specific act for the implementation of the Lumbini Development Plan which would encompass the Lumbini Development Area which includes places directly or indirectly related to the life of the Lord Buddha, stretching from Kapilavastu, through Rupandehi to Nawalparasi. The Objectives of LDT is to obtain funds, provide funds for implementation and check on the proper utilization of funds. LDT may introduce changes in the work plan if so deemed necessary in the interest of the Plan. LDT may establish committees and subcommittees to implement their work while keeping close relationship with the Government.

The **Lumbini Monastic Zone Bylaws 2002** provides for development controls for the construction of monasteries within the Monastic Zone of the Lumbini Master Plan area.

It is acknowledged that the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) has undertaken a considerable amount of work to improve the State of Conservation, Protection and Management of the property, yet the scale of the conservation activities and the specific measures are considered to exceed by far the capacity and resources of the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) which currently only one permanent archaeologist/ conservation specialist within LDT. Capacity Building for the Site Manager, Lumbini Development Trust must be emphasized, specific and comprehensive implementation policy and management/ monitoring structure in place for conservation projects and adhere to the policy that any development activity will not be implemented unless it is examined by a procedural HIA that there is no impact on the value of the property. It is desirable to look into the Statute of the Site Manager to re-focus on the management/ monitoring and conservation priorities, rather than focusing on infrastructure and development issues only.

3.2 Threats to the Property

The 2019 and 2022 reports on the state of conservation of the property highlights the following as factors affecting the property and its OUV:

- Air pollution
- Commercial development
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Legal framework
- Management activities

- Management systems/ management plan
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses

Previous reports also highlighted the following points:

- Management Systems/Management Plan
- Management activities
- Legal framework
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Commercial Development (Impact of the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple constructed in 2002 on the archaeological remains and the main sight lines of the property)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Air pollution
- Housing
- Industrial areas

3.3 Developments since the last report to the World Heritage Committee

The latest report on the State of Conservation of the property was submitted from the state party Government of Nepal to the World Heritage Committee in February 2022.

3.3.1 The finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property

The Integrated Management Framework has been prepared as recommended by the related authorities of the government, but is still now in the process of approval of the Government of Nepal. It has already taken a few years for submission of the Integrated Management Framework for the approval of the Cabinet of the Government of Nepal.

Since the IMF has not yet been approved by the government and the related comprehensive conservation policy has not yet been finalized, there is a lack of clarity in conservation measures for heritage sites and buffer sites, as well as in the development of facilities to accommodate visitors.

The State Party assured the Mission that the English version of the draft of IMF will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee by the end of May, 2022.

3.3.2 Development Activities within the Property and the buffer zone

Brick conservation around the Marker Stone

Because of high level water table, especially the area in and around the Marker Stone always remain wet and greenish due to fungi. LDT, as the site manager of the property, has conducted removal of fungous from bricks regularly by applying paper pulp. The partial effect was recognized on the spot.

Drainage

For a long time, the drainage of the core and buffer zone of Lumbini World Heritage Property was not systematic, and it has been difficult to reduce the water level in the property area. A system for managing systematic drainage, to drain out rain and underground water is in progress. The regular cleaning of the circular levee encircling the property area is also in progress. The outer canal beyond the circular levee is now under construction. Other projects, such as brick paving road along circular levee are also proceeding.

3.3.3 Lumbini World Peace City Project

The Master Plan of the Lumbini World Peace City, supported by KOICA (Korean International Cooperation) was approved in principle by the Government of Nepal. But it was assured by the related Nepali authorities that the Government of Nepal are not taking any initiatives for its implementation at the moment.

3.3.4 International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall

The First phase of construction of the International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall, which can contain 5,000 persons, has been almost finished. The construction site is located in the New Lumbini Village within the Lumbini Master Plan area. The second phase of construction, which includes the interior decoration, and many other elements is in progress.

Though World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to implement HIA, this was only started after the commencement of construction of the Hall. The HIA was completed in January 2019 and submitted to the Committee. The HIA concluded that there would be no significant impact to the World Heritage Property since it is at a distance from the property area.

The hall may not have direct physical and visual connection to the Property, but is a facility that attracts many people at one time, and it is expected to cause traffic congestion, air pollution, and a temporary increase in the number of visitors to the World Heritage Property, etc. Immediate and appropriate measures are needed. Landscaping to improve the surrounding landscape is also important.

The temporary meeting hall was situated at the site between the International Buddhism Research Center and Lumbini Museum in the New Lumbini Village zone within Lumbini Master Plan area for a particular program. This structure has already been removed.

3.3.5 Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd located in the vicinity of Lumbini site.

Shree Ram Cement industry is a private project planned to be established in north-east of Lumbini World Heritage Property. After a stay order by the Supreme Court the project has been stopped. It was confirmed on site that the cement plant had already been removed.

As per World Heritage Committee SoC 2012, the State Party noted that the Industrial Promotion Board of the Government of Nepal decided to prohibit the establishment of new industrial activities in and around Lumbini World Heritage property. Specifically, the prohibition states, that an area within 15 km from the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the Lumbini Project Area (1 mile x 3 miles as per Prof. Kenzo Tange's Master Plan) and towards the south up to the Indian boarder and 800 meters on both sides of the Lumbini - Bhairahawa corridor will be off limits for the establishment of new industries, except for those which do not emit carbon".

3.3.6 Greater Lumbini Area

LDT and DoA have continued the preliminary study of the protection of Greater Lumbini area (GLA), together with an International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project.

The GLA comprises the three Nepali districts and is centred on the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lumbini. The GLA contains hundreds of archaeological sites, some of which are directly associated with the life of the Buddha. Among them, Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu and Ramagrama are on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage Status.

The archaeological and geological investigations of the sites, their conservation works and preparation for the nomination on the list of the World Heritage are going smoothly.

3.3.7 International Scientific Committee meeting at Lumbini on 23-25 March 2022

The International Scientific Committee meeting was held on 23-25 March 2022 with many experts and the representative from the concern communities.

After many valuable presentations and discussions, Recommendations 2022 were compiled on 24 March. (These are presented in Annex VII).

On the last day, 25 March, participants of the meeting went on a field survey to Tilaurakot and Chatradei.

3.4 Specific Threats to the OUV of the Property

3.4.1 Mayadevi Shelter

After many discussions among many stakeholders including religious groups, experts and others from national and international, the current Mayadevi shelter (Temple) was constructed at 2002 in only four months, without any referral to or approval from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Instead of eager efforts of the State Party to improve the situation, the position, scale, size, proportion, material, colour of the building has adversely affected the Outstanding Universal value of the World Heritage property, not only physically but also spiritually. Especially, the high white outer wall of the building separates the Ashokan Pillar from the rest of archaeological remains within and outside the building. The deep and giant column bases and continuous walls are likely to have damaged the archaeological remains.

As the building has only small windows under a low ceiling, which covers the huge iron mega structure visibly, the inner space suffers from lack of ventilation. The building is not equipped with air conditioners because of the instability of electricity supply. The underground water table is very high in the property area. So, the surfaces of brick remains have been sometimes wet and covered by moss. Under spaces of walkway are also likely to be wet. As a consequence, the atmosphere of the inner space of the building is not good for the conservation of brick remains.

The Nativity Sculpture is situated on the new brick wall which overlays the old brick remains. The inappropriate decorative design around the sculpture makes it look less majestic, and its placement may need to be re-examined in terms of its impact on the remain and people's feelings of reverence. Overall, there is no sense of grandeur as an object of worship.

Though fungus on the bricks around the marker stone was regularly removed by applying paper pulp with water, the conservation condition of the Marker Stone is not safe because it is conglomerate in nature.

The mega steel building structure was installed to support the heavy load of visitors who will access the huge flat roof. Already early on, rooftop access was prohibited due to the difficulty of accessing barefoot on the hot tiled rooftop, making such a heavy structure unnecessary.

The steel building structure and its floorboards already have rust and peeling paint over a wide area. The resilience and the condition of this huge heavy iron structure may not be strong enough to protect pilgrims and visitors inside and the most important archaeological remains at the time of huge earthquake. Therefore, an evaluation of seismic capacity of the building and seismic retrofit are urgently needed, including earthquake countermeasures.

Interdisciplinary surveys and discussions on how to maintain adequate management and the possibility of a better shelter with the latest technology should be commenced. In the mid- to long-term, after careful investigation and consensus building among stakeholders, it will be necessary to consider drastic renovation of the building or rebuilding, such as making it a lighter-weight, reassuring, and non-intrusive solution, in order to more effectively balance the protection of the site and people's worship and safety.

The mission requested LDT to provide the document concerning the construction process such as the decision making of the scale, design, structural system, colour and function requirement, etc. in detail.

3.4.2 Destruction of the important remains within the Buffer Zone-the ruins of ancient Lumbini village

An ancient Lumbini village site in the south-west part of the buffer zone is known as the most important site and is marked red colour in the Archaeological Risk Map. LDT advises that this risk map was developed to mitigate potential threats and also assist in planning for physical infrastructure. Ironically and sadly, without any survey and HIA, this very important site has been totally destroyed by heavy construction machines. The situation is very serious.

3.4.3 Conservation of other archaeological sites within and around the World Heritage Site.

There are many important archaeological sites within and around the property. Promotion of research and conservation of these sites should make the total value of them clear and valued. In addition, the results should be disclosed and explained positively.

Many brick ruins around the Mayadevi Temple within the Sacred Garden are preserved by being covered with 'conservation bricks' and displayed in original positions. The surface of the conservation bricks is wearied and covered with black mould and moss. There are concerns arising from infiltration of rainwater and dust which cause damage to the original ruins. Activities of many pilgrims and visitors may also cause the damage to the ruins.

3.4.4 Inadequate instalment of utility facilities and poor pollution management within Sacred Garden and Lumbini Master Plan Kenzo Tange Project Area

Utility facilities for pilgrims and visitors have been installed in the Sacred Garden area and Lumbini Master Plan Kenzo Tange Project Area. These include a ticket booth, a security checkpoint (an entrance gate), shoe sheds, a foot-washing place, toilets, walking paths, and iron mesh fences around the property. However, the location, quantity, design, colours, materials, the visitors movements flow are not well organized, and the state of their maintenance are not always appropriate, therefore these matters may adversely affect the values of the property, including its atmosphere and the surrounding landscape.

A large amount of litter was observed along a paths in buffer zone, which indicates a lack of enough daily maintenance.

Boat traffic in the central canal of Lumbini Master Plan Kenzo Tange Project Area is useful for pilgrims and visitors to visit the Sacred Garden area, especially for elderly and at hot days. But engine boats are causing noise pollution and air pollution, therefore boat traffic should be restricted to only non-engine boats.

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

4.1 Conservation of the values, Integrity and Authenticity

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring Mission has reconfirmed that there is a great concern about the State of Conservation, and the protection and management of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha.

The Mission has confirmed that the recent development activities have been undertaken within the property and the buffer zone prior to the formal adoption of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) and without conducting the necessary impact assessments or following the Archaeological Risk Map or notifying the World Heritage Centre. These activities have affected several significant attributes of the property, potentially putting the integrity, authenticity and OUV of the property at risk.

It is now extremely urgent that the State Party of Nepal to officially adopt and to begin to implement the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) as a matter of priority and the State Party should carry out a Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) systematically for any proposed project, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance.

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring Mission has been informed by the State Party of Nepal (Department of Archaeology) and by the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) that although the proposed Lumbini World Peace City project has been approved in principle by the Government of Nepal, no progress has been made to date. Apart from the development of preliminary conceptual plan adopted by the Government, there has not been any further work on the project. The Mission has been reassured that the State Party of Nepal, the Site Manager and the Lumbini International Steering Committee Members all concerned about the World Peace City Master Plan for Lumbini and its potential impacts, and requested the related authorities to conduct a comprehensive HIA prepared in conformity with the aforementioned ICOMOS Guidelines, and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before implementation (see Item 29 of the 2022 Lumbini International Steering Committee Recommendations).

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring Mission has confirmed the requirement for the State Party of Nepal to continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property. The Mission has visited the proposed construction of the Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd located in the vicinity of Lumbini site, where work has stopped and evidence of commencement has been removed.

Finally, the Mission has visited the recently constructed development projects in adjacent areas of the property (the already removed temporary Meeting Hall in Lumbini and the on-going construction of a 5,000-person capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the Sacred Garden of Lumbini site) and has discussed suitable measures to avoid deterioration of the OUV of the property with the related stakeholders and confirmed that these are in place.

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha is facing deterioration of its significant attributes, potentially putting the integrity, authenticity and OUV of the property at risk. It is acknowledged that the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) have undertaken a considerable amount of work to improve the State of Conservation, Protection and Management of the property, yet the scale of the conservation activities and the specific measures are considered to exceed by far the capacity and resources of the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) which

currently only one permanent archaeologist/ conservation specialist within LDT. Capacity Building for the Site Manager, Lumbini Development Trust must be a priority, with a specific and comprehensive implementation policy and management/ monitoring structure in place for conservation projects. This policy should be adhere to, and any development activity should not be implemented unless it is examined by a HIA which determines that there is no impact on the attributes which support the OUV of the property. It is desirable to look into the Lumbini Development Trust Act and the Task of the Site Manager to re-focus on the management/ monitoring and conservation priorities, rather than focusing on infrastructure and development issues only. Consideration should be given to updating the official title of the Site Manager from the current Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) to Lumbini Conservation and Development Council (LCDC).

The World Heritage Property of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, is a very special and spiritual place, highly valued by the people of Nepal and the rest of the world, and deserves to be treated well. While recognising that some of the existing threats identified in the report will take more time to address, 2022 Reactive Monitoring Mission considers that the desirable State of Conservation of the property should continue to be monitored, and, where necessary, the international community of experts should be called on to assist the Government of Nepal in providing the necessary care for the property. Moreover, a strategy should be developed to obtain the necessary financial support.

4.2 Follow-Up Measures to Previous Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

Since the property area of Lumbini World Heritage Site is very limited, within a small area of 150 x 130 m, the property area does not allow any further development work except general cleaning and maintenance work. to support the conservation of the site. There has not been any development activity carried out after the construction of Mayadevi shelter to protect the archaeology of the site other than the paving and maintaining some meditation platforms. However, various development works, as per the Lumbini Master Plan, and some general regular maintenance works are being undertaken and are ongoing.

Below are the Follow-Up Measures to Previous Decisions of the World Heritage Committee presently under progress:

4.2.1 Finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property

The Integrated Management Framework document has been finalized under UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in- Trust Project. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, National Planning Commission of Nepal, the Lumbini Development Trust and the Department of Archaeology of Nepal have been adopted and forwarded to the Cabinet for final adoption of the Government of Nepal, but due to the changes of the Government is yet to be ratified. The final Integrated Management Framework has been prepared again as recommended by the related authorities of the government and is in the process of approval. The state party assured to the Mission that the English version of the draft of IMF will submit to the World Heritage Committee until the end of May 2022.

Since the IMF has not yet been approved by the Government and the related comprehensive conservation policy has not yet been finalized, there is a lack of clarity in conservation measures for heritage sites and buffer sites, as well as in the development of facilities to accommodate visitors.

4.2.2 Conservation and Development Activities within the Property and the buffer zone

Brick conservation around the Marker Stone

As study has proved the underground water table is very high in Lumbini World Heritage Property area. Because of high level water table, especially the area in and around the Marker stone always remains wet and greenish due to fungi. Therefore, as suggested by experts, it is being applied paper pulp with spring water to remove fungous from bricks regularly.

Drainage

Over an extended period, the drainage of the core and buffer zone of Lumbini World Heritage Property was not systematic, and it has been difficult to reduce the water level in the property area.

A system for managing systematic drainage, to drain out rain and underground water is in progress. The regular cleaning of the circular levee encircling the property area is also in progress. The outer canal beyond the circular levee is under construction. Other projects, such as brick paving road along circular levee are proceeding.

4.2.3 Heritage Impact Assessment

There is no new planning for the additional construction in the Lumbini Master Plan area except the prescribed components. If something new is proposed, Heritage Impact Assessment, prior to the execution of the project, is a high priority.

4.2.4 Lumbini World Peace City Project

The Master Plan of the Lumbini World Peace City, supported by KOICA (Korean International Cooperation) was principally approved by the Government of Nepal. But it was assured that no progress has been made to date. It is desirable that the related authorities conduct a comprehensive HIA, prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties (or the new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released), and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation.

4.2.5 International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall

The temporary meeting hall has situated at the site between the International Buddhism Research Center and Lumbini Museum in the New Lumbini Village zone within Lumbini Master Plan area for a particular program. The structure has already been removed from the place.

The First phase of construction of the International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall, which can contain 5,000 persons, is almost finished. The construction site is located in the New Lumbini Village within the Lumbini Master Plan area. The second phase of the construction, which includes the interior decoration, are in progress. The construction of the hall is said to be completed before the Buddha Jayanti of this year (around mid May, 2022) and will be in operation subsequently.

Though World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to implement HIA, it started only after the commencement of construction of the Hall. The HIA result completed in January 2019 and submitted to the Committee concluded that no significant impact has not been found to the World Heritage Property since it is at a distance from the property area.

The hall may not have direct physical and visual impact to the Property. But this hall is a facility that attracts many people at one time, and it is expected to cause traffic congestion, air pollution, and a temporary increase in the number of visitors to the World Heritage Property,

etc. Immediate and appropriate measures are needed. Landscaping to improve the surrounding landscape is also important.

The preventive measures of the future operation of this Buddhist Meditation Hall, located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, should be implemented to reduce any negative impact to the property and its OUV, the surrounding landscape and the environment.

4.2.6 Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd located in the vicinity of Lumbini site and Greater Lumbini Area

Shree Ram Cement industry is a private project planned to be established in north-east of Lumbini World Heritage Property. After the stay order by the Supreme Court the project has been stopped. It is confirmed on site that the cement plant had already been removed.

As per World Heritage Committee SoC 2012, the State Party noted that the Industrial Promotion Board of the Government of Nepal decided to prohibit the establishment of new industrial activities in and around Lumbini World Heritage property. Specifically, the prohibition states, that an area within 15 km from the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the Lumbini Project Area (1 mile x 3 miles as per Prof. Kenzo Tange's Master Plan) and towards the south up to the Indian boarder and 800 meters on both sides of the Lumbini - Bhairahawa corridor will be off limits for the establishment of new industries, except for those which do not emit carbon".

LDT and DoA have continued the preliminary study of the protection of Greater Lumbini area (GLA), together with an International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project.

The GLA comprises the three Nepali districts and is centred on the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lumbini. The GLA contains hundreds of archaeological sites, some of which are directly associated with the life of the Buddha. Among them, Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu and Ramagrama are on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage Status.

The archaeological and geological investigations of the sites, their conservation works and preparation for the nomination on the list of the World Heritage are going smoothly. Lumbini Development Trust has initiated the preliminary study of the Greater Lumbini Master Plan.

The State Party should continue the policy and regulations to protect the Lumbini area from air pollution and other environmental issues. Although the Shree Ram Cement Plant had been stopped and relocated, it is desirable that the State Party of Nepal continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property.

4.2.7 International Scientific Committee meeting at Lumbini on 23-25 March 2022

The International Scientific Committee meeting was held on 23-25 March 2022 with many experts and the representative from the concern communities.

After many valuable presentations and discussions, Recommendations 2022 were compiled on 24 March (see Annex VII).

On the last day, 25 March, participants of the meeting went on a field survey to Tilaurakot and Chatradei.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring Mission has found that the Government of Nepal and the Site Manager have undertaken a considerable amount of work to improve the state of conservation, protection and management of the property, and that, although many of the threats identified by previous World Heritage Committee decisions have been addressed and reduced, some threats to the property remain, including:

- The government has not yet approved the Lumbini Integrated Management Framework (IMF), and a comprehensive conservation policy has not yet been finalized. As a result, there is a lack of clarity regarding conservation measures for 'Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha' and its buffer zone, as well as in the development of facilities to accommodate visitors.
- When the IMF is approved, the LDT and DoA need to have a specific and comprehensive implementation policy and management/monitoring structure in place for conservation projects and adhere to the policy that no development activity will be implemented unless it is examined through an HIA process and found not to have any impact on the OUV of the property.
- The scale of the conservation activities and the specific measures appear to exceed by far the capacity and resources of the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust), which currently employs only one permanent archaeologist/conservation specialist. Capacity building for the Lumbini Development Trust, the site management institution, must be emphasized. A specific, comprehensive implementation policy and management/monitoring structure should be put in place for conservation projects, in line with the policy that no development activity will be implemented unless it is examined through an HIA process that confirms that there is no impact on the OUV of the property. It is desirable to redefine the statute and tasks of the Site Manager to refocus on management, monitoring and conservation priorities rather than focusing only on infrastructure and development issues.
- The Lumbini Development Trust Act shall be amended to include provisions for the Lumbini Development Trust to function as the Site Manager of a World Heritage property. These provisions would include strict adherence to conservation principles. It is recommended to consider updating the official title of Site Manager from the current Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) to Lumbini Conservation and Development Council (LCDC).
- The Mayadevi shelter, built in 2002, was intended to provide stable preservation and public access to the ruins and Mayadevi statues inside the building. However, its scale, design, colour, structural form, ventilation and drainage functions represent a negative physical and spiritual impact on the World Heritage site inside and around the shelter structure/building. The archaeological sites outside the Mayadevi temple also lack sufficient maintenance and interpretation for pilgrims and visitors, although their surfaces are protected with conservation bricks.
- The old Lumbini village site in the buffer zone, identified as the most important site on the Archaeological Risk Map, has been damaged by heavy machinery due to the infrastructure project. It should be noted that, in 2010, the State Party proposed to include the entire area of the current buffer zone into the property as part of a minor boundary modification.
- Drainage facility projects, paving of walking paths, etc., are being implemented without enough consideration given to their impact on World Heritage property. The location, number, design, colour, etc., of existing facilities are not sufficiently organized. A large

amount of garbage was seen abandoned in the buffer zone. The operation of engine boats in the Central Canal of Lumbini Master Plan Area causes noise and air pollution. The Meditation Hall, which has a capacity of 5,000 people, is almost complete and will be put into service soon. An HIA for the project was conducted after construction began, but it concluded that the impact of construction on the World Heritage site was considered minimal. The temporary meeting hall had already been removed.

- The Government of Nepal initially approved the Lumbini World Peace City project, but no progress has been made to date. It is desirable that the stakeholders conduct a comprehensive HIA, prepared in conformity with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (or new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released), and that this assessment is provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation. Although the Shree Ram Cement Plant had been stopped and relocated, the State Party of Nepal should continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property. In the Greater Lumbini Area, archaeological investigations have been steadily progressing, and conservation and improvement efforts are underway in line with this progress. In addition, the new Kapilavastu museum has been constructed. Together with stakeholders, the Nepali authorities are preparing the nomination of the sites on the World Heritage List, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama archaeological sites, which have been on the Nepali World Heritage Tentative List since 1997.

5.2 Potential Inscription of the Property on the List of World Heritage in Danger

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission has found that the Government of Nepal and the Site Manager have undertaken a considerable amount of work to improve the state of conservation, protection and management of the property. However, while many of the threats identified in the World Heritage Committee's previous decisions have been addressed and reduced, some threats to the property remain. The 2022 Reactive Monitoring Mission has reconfirmed that there is a great concern about the State of Conservation, and the protection and management of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha. The property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and the potential danger is considered to meet the conditions set out in Paragraph 179 (b) of the Operational Guidelines.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS, and the international community should encourage the State Party to take the necessary steps and support the implementation of the Mission recommendations.

5.3 Request for additional documentation

The Mission team recommends that the State Party should submit the following information and documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:

- Any draft or adopted regulations and guidelines for the development and/or restoration of the property;
- Official HIA procedures adopted by the Government of Nepal;
- Information on the construction process of the Maya Devi Temple shelter structure in 2003 and functional requirements;

- Practical actions taken and planned for the conservation of archaeological remains in Lumbini and to reduce water penetration inside the Mayadevi Temple, as per the Advisor for Conservation's conservation guidelines;
- Interdisciplinary research on how the archaeological remains inside the Mayadevi Temple can be better conserved, leading to an interdisciplinary technical meeting, along with analytical research on the protection of heritage within the shelter;
- Information about the 15-km ban on any new industrial activity or cement plants, as per the decision of the specially formed Commission;
- The LDT organigramme, along with the current number of staff and their profile for each Department.

5.4 Recommendations

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommends that:

1. The Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the World Heritage property 'Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha' should be approved by the Government of Nepal as soon as possible. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) should be conducted in line with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (or the new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released) before the implementation of any development project or renovation works, except daily management works within the property area, its buffer zone and the Lumbini Master Plan Area.
2. Practical and effective measures should be implemented to prevent more damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around the Mayadevi shelter. The interdisciplinary surveys and discussions about the Mayadevi shelter should proceed immediately to decide how to ensure the adequate management of the property and how a better shelter could be created as a mid- to long-term goal using the latest surveys and technologies.
3. The State Party should urgently identify the rationale behind the destruction of the important remains at an ancient Lumbini village site within the Buffer Zone. A report on this issue should be submitted to the World Heritage Committee, via its Secretariat, at the State Party's earliest convenience.
4. Utility facilities for pilgrims and visitors in and around the Mayadevi shelter should be improved after a comprehensive investigation and HIA. In addition, the Site Manager should continue regular maintenance efforts and ensure better and safer conservation measures.
5. Concerning the potential impact of the Lumbini World Peace City initiative, the State Party should keep the World Heritage Committee informed about the details of the project and carry out an HIA in line with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (or the new *Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*, as soon as it is released) and provide it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementing the project or making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.
6. Concerning the Buddhist Meditation Hall, located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, preventive measures should be implemented to reduce any negative impact on the property, its OUV, the surrounding landscape, and the environment.
7. Capacity building for the Site Manager should be reinforced to address the discrepancy between the capacity and resources of the Site Manager (Lumbini Development Trust) and the intended scale of the conservation activities and the specific measures proposed.

8. A specific and comprehensive implementation policy and management/monitoring structure should be put in place for conservation projects, adhering to the policy that no development activity will be implemented unless it is examined through an HIA process that ascertains that there will be no impact on the value of the property.
9. The tasks and priorities for the Site Manager should be reviewed and possibly refocused on the management, monitoring and conservation priorities, rather than focusing on infrastructure and development issues only.
10. The Lumbini Development Trust Act should be amended to include provisions for the Lumbini Development Trust to function as the Site Manager of a World Heritage property. These provisions should include strict adherence to conservation principles. It is also recommended to consider updating the official title of Site Manager from the current Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) to Lumbini Conservation and Development Council (LCDC).
11. The State Party should continue the policy and regulations to protect the Lumbini area from air pollution and other environmental issues. Although the Shree Ram Cement Plant had been stopped and relocated, the State Party of Nepal should continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property.
12. The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommends that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2023, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023, with a view to considering the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in the absence of significant progress with the implementation of the Committee's previous requests, including the recommended mitigation measures to address the ascertained threats to the OUV of the property, or with the implementation of the recommendations of the present Reactive Monitoring mission.

ANNEXES

- Annex I: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the World Heritage property ‘Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha’**
- Annex II: Terms of reference**
- Annex III: Mission Programme**
- Annex IV: Mission Team**
- Annex V: List of People met**
- Annex VI: Decisions of the World Heritage Committee**
- Annex VII: Maps**
- Annex VIII: Photos**
- Annex IX: The recommendations of International Scientific Committee Meeting Held in Lumbini from 23 to 25 March 2022**

ANNEX I: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the World Heritage property ‘Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha’

Brief synthesis

The Lord Buddha was born in 623 BC in the sacred area of Lumbini located in the Terai plains of southern Nepal, testified by the inscription on the pillar erected by the Mauryan Emperor Asoka in 249 BC. Lumbini is one of the holiest places of one of the world's great religions, and its remains contain important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centres from as early as the 3rd century BC.

The complex of structures within the archaeological conservation area includes the Shakya Tank; the remains within the Maya Devi Temple consisting of brick structures in a cross-wall system dating from the 3rd century BC to the present century and the sandstone Ashoka pillar with its Pali inscription in Brahmi script. Additionally there are the excavated remains of Buddhist viharas (monasteries) of the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD and the remains of Buddhist stupas (memorial shrines) from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD. The site is now being developed as a Buddhist pilgrimage centre, where the archaeological remains associated with the birth of the Lord Buddha form a central feature.

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

Criterion (vi): The archaeological remains of the Buddhist viharas (monasteries) and stupas (memorial shrines) from the 3rd century BC to the 15th century AD, provide important evidence about the nature of Buddhist pilgrimage centres from a very early period.

Integrity

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

Authenticity

The authenticity of the archaeological remains within the boundaries has been confirmed through a series of excavations since the discovery of the Asoka pillar in 1896. The remains of viharas, stupas and numerous layers of brick structures from the 3rd century BC to the present century at the site of the Maya Devi Temple are proof of Lumbini having been a centre of pilgrimage from early times. The archaeological remains require active conservation and monitoring to ensure that the impact of natural degradation, influence of humidity and the impact of the visitors are kept under control. The property continues to express its Outstanding Universal Value through its archaeological remains. The delicate balance must be maintained

between conserving the archaeological vestiges of the property while providing for the pilgrims.

Protection and management requirements

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

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

ANNEX II: Terms of Reference of the Mission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha

(22-28 March 2022, Nepal)

Background

At its 43rd and 44th sessions, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Nepal to invite a joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Decisions **43 COM 7B.71** and **44 COM 7B.148**, see **Annex 1**). The objectives of the mission are to assess its overall state of conservation, review the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) of the World Heritage property and all ongoing studies and proposals, and assist with the development of appropriate and proactive solutions that are consistent with the safeguarding of the property's Outstanding Universal Value for the Lumbini World Peace City project and any other possible development projects.

Terms of Reference

The joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission should carry out the following tasks:

General

1. Assess the overall state of conservation of the property, in relation to all criteria for which the property was inscribed;
2. Examine progress made by the State Party to implement previous Decisions of the Committee, in particular Decisions **29 COM 7B.55**, **30 COM 7B.69**, **38 COM 7B.18**, **40 COM 7B.42**, **42 COM 7B.13**, **43 COM 7B.71** and **44 COM 7B.148**;
3. In line with Paragraph 173 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention*, assess any relevant conservation issue(s) that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and protection and management;
4. Assess whether any ongoing conservation and rehabilitation operations/activities and/or development projects planned or being carried out by the State Party constitute, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 177-179 of the *Operational Guidelines*, potential or ascertained danger to the property and its OUV;

Development Projects

In line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* with regard to development projects, the mission will:

5. Assess the Lumbini World Peace City project and all other current and possible development projects, and assist with the preparation of appropriate and proactive solutions, particularly the need to prepare Heritage Impact Assessment documents and/or to halt any works in progress in order to safeguard the property's OUV. Considering the full scope and details of planned development project proposals concerning the property, the mission should also inspect and review information on:
 - the ongoing construction of a temporary Meeting Hall in Lumbini,

- the proposed construction of the Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd located in the vicinity of Lumbini site,
 - the construction of a 5,000-person capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the Sacred Garden of Lumbini, and
 - recent brickwork, drainage and site conservation works within the property and its buffer zone.
6. Review and assess the potential impact of the proposed projects on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage Cultural Properties*, before undertaking any new work within the property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;
 7. Review and consider the broader environment of the Greater Lumbini Area (including, but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and areas of industrial activity in the vicinity of the property), and advise on any changes or other actions that may be necessary to safeguard the property's OUV;
 8. Consider what conservation policy and other tools and legal instruments have been put in place might be needed to protect the OUV of the property in relation to the development projects, including the Lumbini World Peace City project.

Master Plan & Integrated Management Framework (IMF)

9. Review the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) and all ongoing studies and management documents for the property, and assist with the development of appropriate and proactive solutions that are consistent with the safeguarding of the property's OUV, including particularly the process and timeframe for the final approval of the IMF by the national government of the State Party;
10. Advise regarding conditions which should be met before construction projects proceed, and notably which management systems, policies and protocols for conservation, Heritage Impact Assessments and development must be in place and proven operational.

Participation in Meetings

The mission will also participate in the 2022 Lumbini International Steering Committee Meeting to be held in Lumbini, 23-25 March 2022;

The mission should consult with the Nepali authorities at the national and local levels, in particular the Ministry of Culture and the Department of Archaeology (DoA). In addition, the mission should consult with a range of stakeholders, especially representatives of any relevant NGOs, civil society representatives and local communities. Consultations with the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu should also be scheduled as part of the mission.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessments and the discussions with State Party representatives and other stakeholders, the mission will develop recommendations to the Government of Nepal and the World Heritage Committee. These will aim to provide guidance for actions to address potential and ascertained threats to the property and to improve the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value.

The mission will prepare a concise report on its findings and provide recommendations within six weeks following the site visit, in line with the standard Reactive Monitoring mission report format (see **Annex 3**).

Recommendations will be provided within the mission report; no recommendation or statement shall be made during the mission itself.

Responsibilities of the State Party

The State Party is requested to facilitate necessary consultations with stakeholders and to organise and facilitate field visits to key locations within the World Heritage property.

In order to enable the adequate preparation of the mission, and as requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decisions **43 COM 7B.71** and **44 COM 7B.148**, the following should be provided to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (with ICOMOS International in copy) at the State Party's earliest convenience, and no later than **15 March 2022**:

- a) Details of the proposed development projects mentioned in the State Party's 2021 or 2022 state of conservation reports or otherwise planned in the next three years, including their precise location, and any Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) carried out in accordance with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidelines* (notably project documents for the Lumbini World Peace City project, the temporary Meeting Hall in Lumbini, the Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd.),
- b) The Integrated Management Framework, and
- c) Any draft or adopted regulations and guidelines for the development and/or restoration of the property.

The State Party will be responsible for organising all meetings, site visits and the required transportation for all mission members. Representatives of the State Party should accompany the mission team for the duration of the mission.

Budget

All expenses including Daily Subsistence Allowances, international travel, expert fees, and desk review/coordination fees will be covered by UNESCO and ICOMOS.

Annex 1: World Heritage Committee Decisions

Decision : 44 COM 7B.148

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property, but regrets that, despite multiple requests, the IMF has not been formally adopted by the State Party, and therefore reiterates its urgent request to the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF as a matter of priority;
4. Notes with concern that development activities continue to be undertaken within the property and its buffer zone prior to notification and submission of documentation to the World Heritage Centre, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for any proposed project, following the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and to submit these HIAs and relevant project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
5. Expresses its continuing concern about the Lumbini World Peace City initiative and its potential impacts on the property, the Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, and the ongoing need for a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
6. Takes note of different phases of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-In-Trust project for the preservation of the property particularly progress made in archaeological research, capacity-building and awareness raising activities, together with an International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the project, strongly encourages the State Party and other partners to take a holistic approach to focus efforts on the protection and management of the sacred site as a priority and to mitigate the potential or ascertained danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the wider setting;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as requested in Decision **43 COM 7B.71** to assess its overall state of conservation, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and development proposals, and consider both the strategic approach to the Greater Lumbini Area, and the implications of the Lumbini World Peace City, in line with the protection of OUV of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session.

Decision : 43 COM 7B.71

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Notes the progress made with the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF), but regrets further delays encountered with its adoption by the State Party;
4. Notes with concern that development activities have been undertaken within the property and the buffer zone prior to the formal adoption of the IMF and without conducting the necessary impact assessments or following the Archaeological Risk Map or notifying the World Heritage Centre, as required by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore reiterates its urgent request to the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF as a matter of priority and to systematically carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for any proposed project, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;
5. Expressing concern about the Lumbini World Peace City project and its potential impacts on the property, also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details on the proposed project, including a comprehensive HIA prepared in conformity with the aforementioned ICOMOS Guidelines, and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any activity is implemented or any irreversible decision is made;
6. Also regrets that the State Party did not provide any information on the development project proposals concerning the property, as required by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, nor a response to previous requests from the World Heritage Centre, including:
 - a. the ongoing construction of a temporary Meeting Hall in Lumbini,
 - b. the proposed construction of the Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd located in the vicinity of Lumbini site, and
 - c. the construction of a 5,000-person capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the Sacred Garden of Lumbini site;and urges the State Party to immediately halt any construction work within the property until the potential impacts of these projects are fully assessed and suitable measures to avoid deterioration of the OUV of the property are in place;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and proposals, and assist with the development of appropriate and proactive solutions that are consistent with the safeguarding of the property's OUV for the Lumbini World Peace City project and any other possible development projects;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

Annex 3

REPORT ON THE MISSION TO (World Heritage property), (Country) FROM ... TO (Year)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS (1-2 Pages max)

(Please note: This section should be written for use as the official State of Conservation working document to the World Heritage Committee.)

Report length 10-15 pages plus annexes

1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

- Inscription history
- Inscription criteria and World Heritage values
- Integrity/authenticity issues raised in the IUCN/ICOMOS evaluation report at time of inscription
- Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (refer to previous State of Conservation reports etc.)
- Justification of the mission (terms of reference, itinerary, programme and composition of mission team provided in Annex)

2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

- Protected area/national legislation
- Institutional framework
- Management structure
- Response to the recognition of values under international treaties and programmes (World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, Biosphere Reserve, Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage etc.)

3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

- Management effectiveness
- Nature and extent of threats to the property, taking into consideration the natural values for which the property was inscribed and specific issues outlined by the World Heritage Committee
- Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee
- Information on any specific threat or damage to or loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity for which the property was inscribed

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

- Review whether the values, on the basis of which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and the conditions of integrity are being maintained
- Review any follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property and measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the outstanding universal value of the property

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations for any additional action to be taken by the State Party, including draft recommendations to the World Heritage Committee
- Whenever further action is needed, clear benchmarks (to achieve the desired state of conservation) indicating the corrective measures to be taken in order to achieve significant improvement of the state of conservation and a timeframe within which these will have to be met
- Recommendation as to whether the level of threats to the property warrants the property being placed on or removed of the List of World Heritage in Danger

6 ANNEXES

- Terms of Reference
- Itinerary and programme
- Composition of mission team
- List and contact details of people met
- Maps (most recent maps of the boundaries of the property)
- Photographs and other graphical material (showing issues of integrity and authenticity)

ANNEX III: Mission Programme

Mission Programme for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, Nepal

Mission Schedule - 21 to 29 March 2022

Monday, March 21, 2022	
Time	Programme
A.M.	Arrival of the Mission Team (Received by Department of Archaeology Officials)
	Courtesy Meeting in DoA with Director General, Head of World Heritage
2:00-3:00	Section and related officials of DoA and UNESCO
Tuesday, March 22, 2022	
PM	Departure from Kathmandu to Lumbini
Wednesday, March 23 & Thursday 24, 2022	
9:00-17:00	Participation in the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the Conservation and Management of Lumbini Meeting from 23 March to 25 March 2022
Friday, March 25, 2022	
8:00-2:00PM	Site Visit to Tilaurakot and Chatradei
3:00-3:45	Meeting with Lumbini Development Trust Officials
4:00-4:45	Meeting with Mayor and Officials of Lumbini Municipality
Saturday, March 26, 2022	
9:30	Site Visit in Lumbini and the Greater Lumbini Area
Sunday, March 27, 2022	
8:00-14:00	Site Visit in Lumbini and the Greater Lumbini Area
16:00-16:45	Departure to Kathmandu
Monday, March 28, 2022	
10:30 to 12:00	Debriefing of the Mission (Participations: Mission Team, DoA, LDT, UNESCO)
12:15 to 1:30	Lunch (Hosted by Department of Archaeology)
Tuesday, March 29, 2022	
PM	Departure from Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu

ANNEX IV: Mission Team

The mission team is comprised of the following individuals:

- Prof. Roland Chih-Hung LIN, Project Officer, Asia and the Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre, representing UNESCO and mission leader;
- Dr. Yuga KARIYA (Japanese National), ICOMOS International expert.

ANNEX V: List of People Met

List of Key Persons Met during the Mission:

- Dr. Suresh Suras Shrestha-Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Nepal

- Mr. Damodar Gautam-Director General, Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal

Mr. Ram Bahadur Kunwar, Chief, Heritage Conservation and Planning Sections, Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal

Mr. Ramesh Raj Paudel, Chief, World Heritage Conservation Section, Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal

Mr. Debendra Bhattarai, Archaeological Officer, Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal

Mr. Man Mohan Chaudhary-Mayor, Lumbini Cultural Municipality

- Mr. Venerable Metteya-Vice Chair, Lumbini Development Trust

- Mr. Gyanin Rai-Chief Administrative Officer, Lumbini Development Trust

- Mr. Chudamani Bhatarai-Administrative Officer, Lumbini Development Trust

- Mr. Sanurja Shakya-Member Secretary, Lumbini Development Trust

Mr Saroj Bhattarai, Project Chief, Lumbini Development Trust

Mr Himal Uprety, Archaeological Officer, Lumbini Development Trust

- Mr. Michael Croft-UNESCO Representative to Nepal

- Ms. Nabha Basnyat Thapa-Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Office in Kathmandu

Ms Nipuna Shrestha-Programme Officer, UNESCO Office in Kathmandu

Ms Neerana Shakya, -Programme Assistant, UNESCO Office in Kathmandu

- Mr. Eric Dubois-Board Member, Oriental Cultural Heritage Protection Alliance (Paris, France)

- Prof./Dr. Robin Coningham-Professor, Durham University, UK

- Prof./Dr. Takefumi KUROSE-Professor, Kyushu University, Japan

- Dr. Tomoko MORI-Associate Pro., Sapporo City University, Japan

- Mr. Kai Weise-Expert of Heritage Management, ICOMOS Nepal

- Prof. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya-Lumbini Buddhist University

- Mr. Umesh Regmi-Assistant Pro., Trihuvan University

- Dr. Christoph Cueppers-Lumbini International Research Institute

- Mr. Lila Mani Sharma-Holiday Pilgrims Care

Taking the opportunity of the presence of a wide range of stakeholders for the 2022 Lumbini International Steering Committee Meeting, the mission team also consulted with a range of stakeholders, listed below:

2022 Lumbini International Scientific Committee
Buddhamaya Garden Hotel, Lumbini, Nepal, 23-25 March 2022

List of Participants

SN	Name	Title	Organization
Government of Nepal			
1	Dr Suresh Suras Shrestha	Joint Secretary (Culture Division)	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
2	Mr Damodar Gautam	Director General	Department of Archaeology
3	Mr Ram Bahadur Kunwar	Chief, Heritage Conservation and Planning Sections	Department of Archaeology
4	Debendra Bhattarai	Archaeological Officer	Department of Archaeology
5	Subhadra Bhattarai		Department of Archaeology
6	Ramesh Raj Paudel	Chief, World Heritage Conservation Section	Department of Archaeology
7	Dr Babu Ram Adhikari	Deputy Secretary General	National Commission for UNESCO
8	Mr Umesh Regmi	Member, Culture Committee	National Commission for UNESCO
9	Hon'ble Mr Dilli Bahadur Chowdhari	Minister	Ministry of Tourism, Rural and Urban Development, Lumbini Province, Butwal
10	Ram Joshi	Provincial Training Academy	
11	Mr Kiran Singh	Mayor	Kapilvastu Municipality
Lumbini Development Trust			
12	Venerable Metteya	Vice Chair	Lumbini Development Trust
13	Mr Sanuraja Shakya	Member Secretary	Lumbini Development Trust
14	Dhundiraj (Siddhi) Bhattarai	Treasurer	Lumbini Development Trust
15	Mr Gyanin Rai	Senior Administrative Officer	Lumbini Development Trust
16	Mr Saroj Bhattarai	Project Chief	Lumbini Development Trust
17	Mr Himel Uprety	Archaeological Officer	Lumbini Development Trust
18	Ram Hare Shatkoher	Board Member	Lumbini Development Trust
19	Netra Bahadur Shahi		Lumbini Development Trust

Donors			
20	H.E. Mr Kikuta Yutaka	Ambassador	Embassy of Japan, Kathmandu (online)
21	Ms Mayuko Sato	First Secretary and (Information Culture)	Embassy of Japan, Kathmandu (online)
22	Mr Eric Dubois	Board Member	Oriental Cultural Heritage Protection Alliance (Paris, France)
International Advisors & International Experts			
23	Prof Yukio Nishimura	Advisor for Planning	Japan (online)
24	Prof Robin Coningham	Advisor for Archaeology	Durham University, UK
25	Dr Tomoko Mori	Saporo City University	Japan
26	Prof Takefumi Kurose	Kyushu University	Japan
Embassies and International Agencies			
27	Dr. Chaikorn Kiatpongsan	Counsellor	Embassy of Thailand, Kathmandu (not sure)
28	Ms B. Nilusha Dilmini	Counsellor	Embassy of Sri Lanka, Kathmandu,
29	Mr Naveen Kumar	First Secretary (Press, Information and Culture), Secretary (BPKF) & CPIO	Embassy of India, Kathmandu
30	Rajendra N. Suwal	Deputy Director-Partnership Development	WWF Nepal
31	Ms Laura Djuragic	Regional Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer	U.S. Embassy Kathmandu
32	Ms Anu Kumari Lama	Tourism Specialist	ICOMOD
33	Katherine Demsky		
Monasteries and Buddhist Community			
34	Venerable Vevekananda	Panditarama Meditation Centre	Lumbini Meditation Centre
35	Venerable Bhaddamanika	Panditarama	Lumbini Meditation Centre
36	Ven. Phrabodhivides Mahasupot	Chief Abbot	Royal Thai Monastery, Lumbini
Other experts and invitees			
37	Ms Sahina Shrestha	Nepali Times	Nepali Times

38	Mr Sudeep Shrestha	Editor, Setopati	Setopati Sanchar, Jhamsikhel
39	Mr Noritada Morita	Honorary Senior Advisor to Lumbini Development Trust	
40	Mr Duncan Marshall	Heritage Consultant, Australia	(online)
41	Mr Kosh Prasad Acharya	Senior National Archaeologist	
42	Mr Basanta Bidari	Senior National Archaeologist	Advisor at Lumbini Development Trust
43	Prof Dr Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya	Vice Chancellor	Lumbini Buddhist University
44	Manoj Paudel	Journalist, taulihawa	
45	Purushottam Aryal	Lumbini	
46	Dipendra Baduwal	Bhairahawa	
47	Shatrughan Kharbind	Journalist	Radio Kapilvastu
48	Mr Maheshpati Mishra	Secretary	Lumbini Tour Guide Association
49	Shambhu Malla	Asian Vision Institute	
50	Prof Dr Gita Giri	Research Director	Lumbini Buddhist University
51	Dr Christoph Cuppers	Director	Lumbini International Research Institute
52	Mr Govinda Gyawali	Preseident	Lumbini Hotel Association
53	MS Shuvawoti Pal	Local Handicraft Entrepreneur	Lumbini
54	Radheshyam Pal		
55	Chandra Prakash Pathak		
56	Purnima Devi Pathak		
57	Bisnu Raj Paudel		
58	Pralhad Yadav		
59	Bhola Prasad Gupta		
60	Ms Laxmi Tharu	Local Food and Homestay Entrepreneur	
61	Mr Pintu Chaudhary		Local Tour Guide (Youth Representation)
62	Ramesh Karki	Bodhi TV	
63	Rojina Shakya	Bodhi TV	
64	Jyoti Marasini	Bodhi TV	
65	Gokarna Adhikari	ISS	

66	Pulrs Peark		
67	Nagonadao Yadav	LSN	
68	Sindhu Kewat	Kapipvastu	
69	Upendra Adhikari	Buddhanagar, Lumbini	
70	Santosh Bhattarai		
71	Akash Neupane		
72	Sushila Bhattarai		
73	Aditya Singh		
74	Suhan Shakyaaq	ISS	
Team of UNESCO-WHC/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Lumbini			
75	Prof Roland Lin Chih-Hung	Team Leader Project Officer	UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris
76	Dr Yuga Kariya	Vice President, ICOMOS, Japan	ICOMOS International
UNESCO			
77	Mr Michael Croft	UNESCO Representative to Nepal	UNESCO Kathmandu Office
78	Ms Nipuna Shrestha	Programme Officer	UNESCO Kathmandu Office
79	Ms Nabha Basnyat Thapa	Project Coordinator	UNESCO Kathmandu Office
80	Ms Neerana Shakya	Programme Assistant	UNESCO Kathmandu Office
81	Ms Sophia Pande	The Next 50 Coordinator	UNESCO Kathmandu Office
82	Samit Kayastha		
83	Kai Weise		
Thai Peun Thai Foundation (online)			
84	Mr Maris Sangiampongsa	Advisor	Thai Peung Thai Foundation
85	Dr Khaisri Paksukcharern	Architect	Thai Peung Thai Foundation
86	Ms Jing Rakpanya	Project Head	Thai Peung Thai Foundation
87	Mr Albert Liew	Project Manager	Thai Peung Thai Foundation
88	Mr Amila Eranga Kakulawela Weerakoon	Assistant project Manager	Thai Peung Thai Foundation

ANNEX VI: Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 under **criteria (iii) and (iv)**. The original nomination of Lumbini was deferred by the World Heritage Bureau at its 17th session in July 1993 and included a number of separate archaeological sites associated with the life and work of the Lord Buddha. Two of these sites, Tilaurakot, the archaeological remains of ancient Shakya Kingdom and Ramagrama, the relic stupa of Lord Buddha, were placed on the Tentative List in 1996. At the time of inscription, the former President of the World Heritage Committee advised combining the two aforementioned tentative sites as a Serial Nomination with Lumbini. While ICOMOS agreed to the proposal in principle, due to the lack of knowledge, conservation and management of both tentative sites ICOMOS was of the opinion that the nomination of a serial site would require more preparation. ICOMOS suggested that once the required work was completed, the State Party should be invited to include the two sites as extensions in addition to a title change. ICOMOS also suggested that inscription for the Lumbini site should not be delayed.

2002

Decision: **CONF 202 21B.62**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the report on the state of conservation of the property and new information provided by the Centre, the State Party and ICOMOS;
2. Recognizes the need for presenting this pilgrimage centre in an appropriate manner;
3. Expresses grave concern over the intrusive and heavy construction of the new Maya Devi Temple recently built over the archaeological remains within the core zone of Lumbini in spite of the existence of archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity of the already exposed archaeological remains of the Maya Devi Temple;
4. Considering that a UNESCO reactive monitoring mission, originally organized to assist the authorities in finalizing the design of the Maya Devi Temple shelter, was undertaken between 25 June - 2 July 2002;
5. Decides to examine further information and recommendations of this mission at its 27th session;
6. Requests the State Party in the interim period to provide information concerning the existing conservation codes applicable to this property and management mechanisms that ensure the protection of the World Heritage values of the property;
7. Requests that a report on the state of conservation of the property be submitted by 1 February 2003 for examination at its 27th session in June/July 2003.

2003

Decision: **27 COM 7B.53**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling decision **26 COM 21(b) 62** taken by the Committee at its 26th session in 2002,;
2. Notes with regret that the report on the state of conservation requested by the Committee from the State Party was not received in time for the examination by the Committee at its 27th session in 2003;
3. Regrets that the construction of the new Maya Devi Temple has been completed in spite of the grave concerns expressed by the Committee at its 26th session;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information concerning the management mechanisms which ensure the protection of the World Heritage value of the property;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to organize a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to assess the impact of the newly constructed Maya Devi Temple on the World Heritage value of the property as a whole;
6. Decides to examine the findings of this assessment mission at its 28th session in 2004;
7. Requests that a report on the state of conservation of the property be submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2004 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 28th session in 2004.

2004

Decision: **28 COM 15B.66**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Expresses its grave concern over the fact that the newly-constructed Maya Devi Temple affects the authenticity and integrity of the property;
2. Urges the State Party to review, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, the existing management protocols and elaborate a revised comprehensive conservation and management plan which ensures the longterm safeguarding of the authenticity and integrity of the property;
3. Expresses its great disappointment that the project plans were not submitted to the Committee before construction began;
4. Requests the State Party to determine, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, the best measures to reverse the negative impact of the structure affecting the World Heritage value of the property and the appropriate management mechanisms to prevent such situations in the future;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to investigate the procedure which allowed the authorization of the construction of such a building without the knowledge of the World Heritage Committee;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2005**, a report on the measures proposed to be taken to reverse the threats posed to the property;
7. Decides to examine the state of conservation of this property at its 29th session in 2005.

2005

Decision: **29 COM 7B.55**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.66**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Reiterating its serious concern about the lack of significant progress in addressing the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission of 2004 to reverse the negative impact of the new Maya Devi Temple on the integrity and authenticity of the property,
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a new joint mission to the property to define, in close consultation with the responsible authorities, definite solutions and concrete actions to address the above concerns, including a clear timetable for implementation, and report to the Committee on the outcome of the mission at its 30th Session (Vilnius, 2006);
5. Also requests the State Party of Nepal to take urgent action, possibly through assistance from the World Heritage Fund, towards the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan for the property, built around its outstanding universal value and in line with the principles set out in the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraphs 96-119);
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, including the recommendations of the joint mission World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS of 2004, and the follow up to the recommendations of the new joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the property on the issue of the Maya Devi Temple, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).
7. Decides to consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger if the above mentioned measures are not implemented by **1 February 2006**

2006

Decision: **30 COM 7B.58**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-06/30.COM/7B**,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM7B.55**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Endorses the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of November 2005 jointly undertaken by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre;
4. Commends the State Party for its thorough and action-oriented response to the mission's recommendations as well as for the consultative measures being undertaken;
5. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the reactive monitoring mission and particularly to:
 - a) Develop an effective management plan;
 - b) Avoid carrying out any development pending completion of the management plan;
 - c) Implement corrective measures on the Maya Devi Temple as indicated in the mission report;

- d) Survey and monitor the ground water levels and movements, under and adjacent to the Maya Devi Temple, to ensure the long-term protection of the significant archaeological remains as well as the Marker Stone maintained in situ under the temple;
- e) Develop non-destructive archaeological strategies to ensure long-term conservation of the vast excavated and unexcavated areas of archaeological significance in and around the property, through adequate documentation and monitoring;
- 6. Invites the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the State Party in these activities;
- 7. Requests the State Party to continue its full commitment to establishing a management plan based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for possible completion by the end of 2008;
- 8. Encourages the State Party to consider requesting assistance through the World Heritage Fund to support the elaboration of the management plan for the property;
- 9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the progress made on the above points, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

2008

Decision: **32 COM 7B.75**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7B*,
- 2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
- 3. Notes the action taken by the State Party and its commitment to comply with the requests of the World Heritage Committee;
- 4. Requests the State Party to continue its work on the development of the integrated management plan, and particularly to:
 - a) draft, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, an updated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity;
 - b) avoid carrying out any development project pending completion of the integrated management plan;
 - c) develop a strategy to ensure the long-term protection of the significant archaeological remains of the property and continue with surveying and monitoring the ground water levels and movements, under and adjacent to the Maya Devi Temple;
 - d) develop a strategy for the rehabilitation of the Maya Devi temple incorporating the recommendations and the implementation of the corrective measures proposed by the 2005 mission;
 - e) submit a programme of activities with time frame for c) and d) to the World Heritage Centre;
- 5. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the State Party in these activities;
- 6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, the updated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and a report on the progress made on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

2009

Decision: **33 COM 7B.79**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Notes the efforts and commitment of the State Party for the safeguarding of this property;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to draft, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, an updated Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its work on the development of the integrated management plan (IMP), based on the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and avoid carrying out any development project within the property and the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, pending completion of the IMP;
6. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the State Party in the development of the IMP and in particular in identifying and implementing the appropriate conservation measures for the archaeological remains contained within the Maya Devi Temple;
7. Requests the State Party to submit detailed information to the World Heritage Centre on any proposed developments in the vicinity of the property which might have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value, and particularly on the proposed ring road surrounding Lumbini, in line with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011** a report on the progress made on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.

2010

Decision: **34 COM 8B.54**

Cultural Properties - Examination of minor boundary modifications - Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-10/34.COM/8B and WHC-10/34.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Does not approve the proposed minor modification to the boundary of **Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, Nepal**;

3. Considers that the proposal to enlarge the property to encompass the entire inner sacred garden and to enclose the outer sacred garden by a new buffer zone is to be supported in principle. However, in order to approve the considerable extension to the property, the Committee considers that more details are needed of the area to be included in terms of descriptions, plans, photographs, and more detailed maps are needed that comply with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines* for the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. Furthermore details also need to be provided of the management and protection arrangements for the enlarged area;
4. Requests the State Party to reference some of the statements referred to at the time of inscription, such as the statements made at the time that various administration buildings were to be demolished;
5. Considers also that a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value needs to be provided by the State Party identifying how the Outstanding Universal Value is reflected by the considerably extended attributes of the enlarged area;
6. Further considers that a mission will be needed to understand the rationale for the boundaries and the adequacy of the management and protection arrangements. And, as the request from the State Party refers to the development of a Management Plan, recommends to complete, approve and implement this Plan before the boundary is enlarged;
7. Further considers that the requirements outlined above mean that this request cannot be considered as a minor modification. The request needs to be re-formulated with the extra material suggested, and submitted as a major modification;
8. Also recommends that the State Party submit a fuller nomination that will be considered as a significant modification and evaluated with a mission to the property.

2011

Decision: **35 COM 7B.74**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.79** and **34 COM 8B.54**, adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009) and 34th (Brasilia, 2010) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the efforts and commitment of the State Party for the safeguarding of this property, in particular in undertaking the process of preparation and development of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP);
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its work on the development of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), based on the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and to avoid carrying out any development project within the property and the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, pending completion of the IMP;

5. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the State Party in the development of the IMP and in implementing the appropriate conservation measures for the archaeological remains contained within the Maya Devi Temple;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on any proposed developments in the vicinity of the property, including a Heritage Impact Assessment on any project that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2012**, a report on the progress made on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

2012

Decision: **36 COM 7B.65**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Notes the progress in developing the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) as well as the conservation measures taken for the property;
4. Requests the State Party to continue its work on the finalization of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), and to continue its commitment to not approving any development project within the property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance before the completion of the IMP and before conducting Heritage Impact Assessments, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue to develop also strategies to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property; and requests that for any future proposals an Heritage Impact Assessment should be undertaken to consider the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its setting, as part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on any proposed major restoration or new construction in the vicinity of the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014.

Decision: **36 COM 8E**

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was prepared by the State Party in the process of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and adopted by the Committee at its 36th session (Decision **36 COM 8E**, St Petersburg, 2012).

2014

Decision: **38 COM 7B.18**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Notes the progress made in developing the Integrated Management Framework document and its Management Plan, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), as well as conservation measures taken for the property;
4. Also notes the awareness raising efforts undertaken by the State Party, notably in the publication of two books on Lumbini and the development of the UNDP/UNESCO brochure to raise funds for the completion of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan;
5. Urges the State Party to adopt the Integrated Management Framework document and to continue its work on the finalization of the Integrated Management Plan/Process (IMP), and also urges the State Party to not approve any development project within the property, or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, before the completion of the IMP and before conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) that are in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties;
6. Notes with concern the proposed development of the Lumbini World Peace City in the Greater Lumbini Area, and requests the State Party to submit detailed information on this development, and to submit information about any other proposed major restoration or new construction in the vicinity of the property, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
7. Encourages the State Party to develop a strategy for the protection of the larger Greater Lumbini Area and its setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

2016

Decision: **40 COM 7B.42**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Notes the progress made in finalizing the Integrated Management framework document, but regrets the delay in its adoption;
4. Also notes that development activities have been undertaken before the adoption of the management plan and without conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
5. Urges the State Party to adopt and implement the Integrated Management framework document as a matter of priority, and to carry out HIAs, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, for the proposed projects, before undertaking any new work within the property or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;
6. Takes note of the State Party' strategy with the international community to utilize the property to develop a Lumbini World Peace City, but expresses its concern with the project's potential impact on the property and its current use and therefore, requests the State Party to provide details on the proposed project and to carry out a HIA, with a specific section focusing on its potential impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, before the project proposal is approved;
7. Encourages the State Party to develop a strategy for the protection of the larger Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

2018

Decision: **42 COM 7B.13**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.42** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes the progress made with the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) document, but regrets the delays encountered with its adoption by the State Party;

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

2019

Decision: **43 COM 7B.71**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Notes the progress made with the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF), but regrets further delays encountered with its adoption by the State Party;
4. Notes with concern that development activities have been undertaken within the property and the buffer zone prior to the formal adoption of the IMF and without conducting the necessary impact assessments or following the Archaeological Risk Map or notifying the World Heritage Centre, as required by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and therefore reiterates its urgent request to the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF as a matter of priority and to systematically carry out

Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for any proposed project, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage Cultural Properties, prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance;

5. Expressing concern about the Lumbini World Peace City project and its potential impacts on the property, also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details on the proposed project, including a comprehensive HIA prepared in conformity with the aforementioned ICOMOS Guidelines, and that this assessment be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any activity is implemented or any irreversible decision is made;
6. Also regrets that the State Party did not provide any information on the development project proposals concerning the property, as required by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, nor a response to previous requests from the World Heritage Centre, including:
 1. the ongoing construction of a temporary Meeting Hall in Lumbini,
 2. the proposed construction of the Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd located in the vicinity of Lumbini site, and
 3. the construction of a 5,000-person capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the Sacred Garden of Lumbini site;

and urges the State Party to immediately halt any construction work within the property until the potential impacts of these projects are fully assessed and suitable measures to avoid deterioration of the OUV of the property are in place;

7. Encourages the State Party to continue developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and proposals, and assist with the development of appropriate and proactive solutions that are consistent with the safeguarding of the property's OUV for the Lumbini World Peace City project and any other possible development projects;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

2021

Decision : 44 COM 7B.148

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

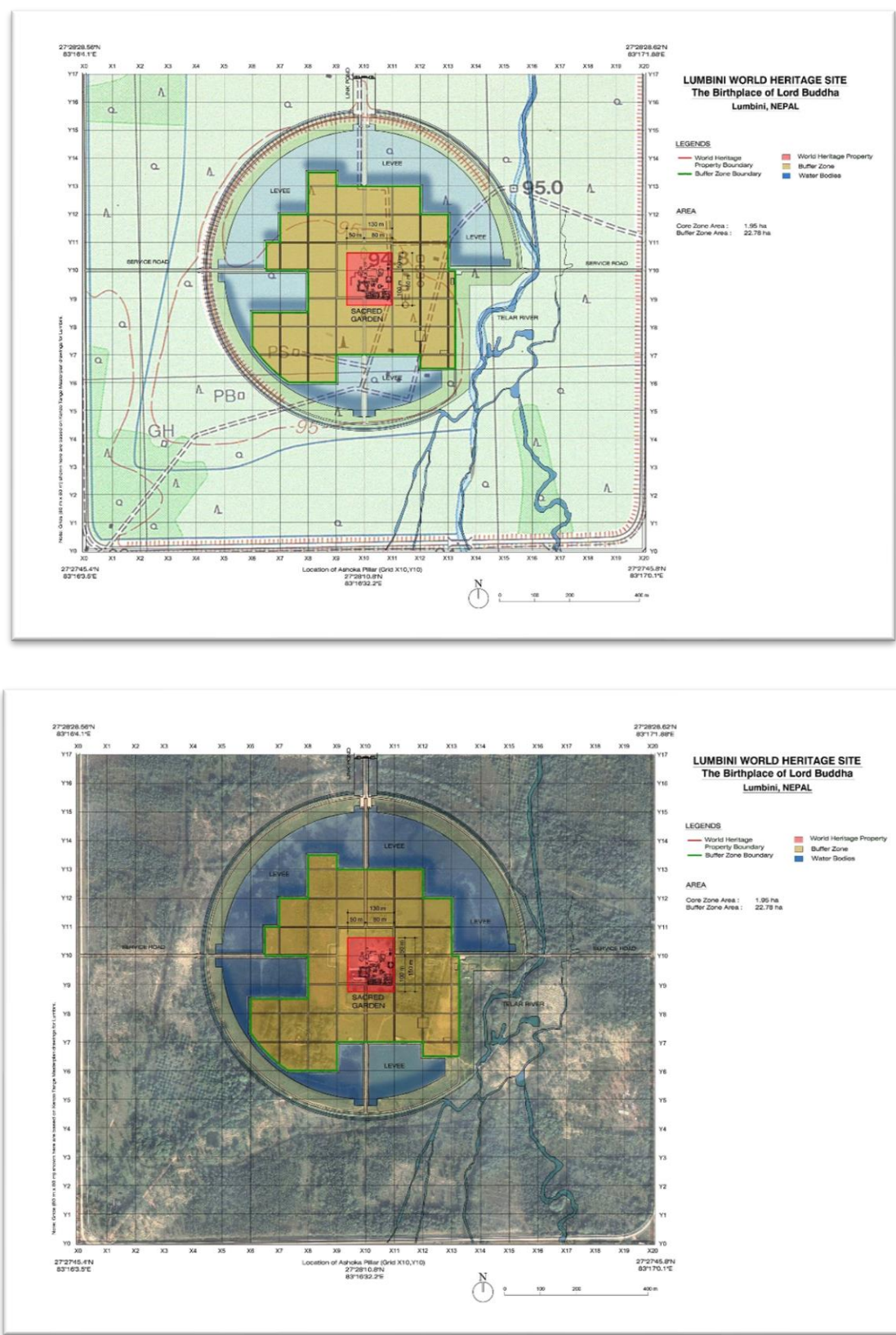
The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property, but regrets that, despite multiple requests, the IMF has not been formally adopted by the State Party, and therefore reiterates its urgent request to the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF as a matter of priority;
4. Notes with concern that development activities continue to be undertaken within the property and its buffer zone prior to notification and submission of documentation to the World Heritage Centre, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for any proposed project, following the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and to submit these HIAs and relevant project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
5. Expresses its continuing concern about the Lumbini World Peace City initiative and its potential impacts on the property, the Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, and the ongoing need for a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
6. Takes note of different phases of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-In-Trust project for the preservation of the property particularly progress made in archaeological research, capacity-building and awareness raising activities, together with an International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the project, strongly encourages the State Party and other partners to take a holistic approach to focus efforts on the protection and management of the sacred site as a priority and to mitigate the potential or ascertained danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the wider setting;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as requested in Decision **43 COM 7B.71** to assess its overall state of conservation, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and development proposals, and consider both the strategic approach to the Greater Lumbini Area, and the implications of the Lumbini World Peace City, in line with the protection of OUV of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and

the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session.

ANNEX VII: Maps

Most recent maps of the boundaries of the property



Source : UNESCO

ANNEX VIII: Photos



Mayadevi Temple built in 2002. The Asoka Pillar (far right)

The height, proportions, and colors of that building are not in harmony with the ambiance of the Sacred Garden.



The Sakya Pond



The pillar's head is placed in an inconspicuous location.

The Maya Devi Temple is higher, larger and towers over the Ashoka Pillar. The pillar is isolated from the Maya Devi Temple



The big foundation of the Maya devi temple is set on top of an archaeological site, with stupas and other ruins in the extreme vicinity.



The conservation bricks of the ruins are somewhat tired and dirty. There is little explanation of the ruins.



Archeological sites spread around the Maya devi temple. The surfaces of the sites are not always properly maintained.





The roof structure of the Mayadevi temple is a huge and heavy steel structure, assuming a large load to the roof top. Extensive rusting has occurred in the first 20 years of construction.



Interior of the Maya devi Temple, with exposed brick remains spread out under the low ceiling. Mold is growing on the surface of the remains due to the humid interior climate.



Drainage ditches around the exterior perimeter of the Maya devi Temple.



The Nativity sculpture placed on top of brick wall remains. The cheap-looking decorative design makes it look less majestic.



Though fungous on the bricks around the Marker Stone is removed regularly by applying paper pulp with water, the conservation condition of the Marker Stone is not safe because it is conglomerate in nature.



entrance gate



ticket booth

entrance gate



Temporary live TV station in the Sacred Garden

None of these are sophisticated,
appropriate designs, colors, or materials



shoe shed



foot-washing place

The entrance gate to the Sacred Garden, footwear removal area, and foot washing place are not well placed. Their design is temporary and shabby.



Guard Post

VISITOR CENTER of LDT



Archaeology Office of LDT



Iron net fencing and paved walking paths surround The Sacred Garden. The fence should be replaced with one that gives a softer impression.

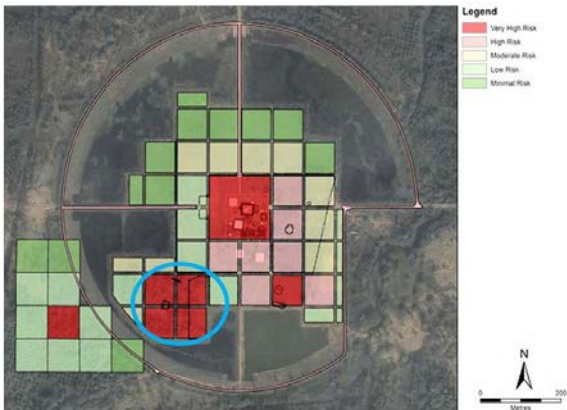


A large amount of litter was observed along a paths.



Engine boats on the Central Canal. They cause loud noise and air pollution that disturbs the tranquility of the monastery area.

Destruction of the important remains within the Buffer Zone-the ruins of ancient Lumbini village



Archaeological Risk Map
2017 Conservation Report

Nearby archaeological site-**the ruins of ancient Lumbini village**- circled in blue on the risk map above were destroyed.

Drainage projects within and around the World Heritage Site.



the circular levee encircling the property area



the circular levee and the outer drainage canal



The outer drainage canal under construction



Drainage canal under construction just outside the Sacred Garden

The International Buddhist Conference and Meditation Hall



Recent aerial photographs
source; Google Earth



View from the north road



Appearance. Final construction in progress.
26 March 2022



Inner view of the hall. The hall can accommodate 5,000 people.

The former temporary Meeting Hall site.



Red roof indicates the former temporary Meeting Hall.

source: Google Earth



The site after removal of the temporary Meeting Hall



Shree Ram Cement Plant Ind. Pvt. Ltd
located in the vicinity of Lumbini site.



The plant was already removed.



Even today, many cement factories are located around the
Lumbini site, causing air pollution and other problems.

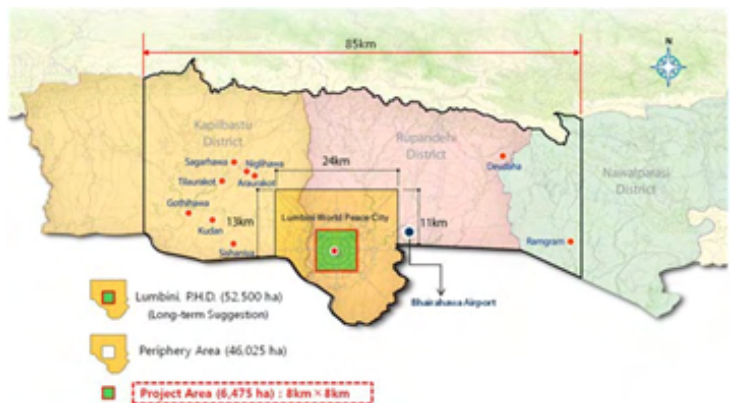
Lumbini World Peace City Project



Bird's-eye view of “Lumbini World Peace City” project

“World Peace City” Regional Planning Area

source: 2015 Conservation Report



Except the development of preliminary conceptual plan adopted by the Government of Nepal, there has not been any further work on it.

Greater Lumbini Area

Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu



Greater Lumbini Area

Chatradei



Greater Lumbini Area

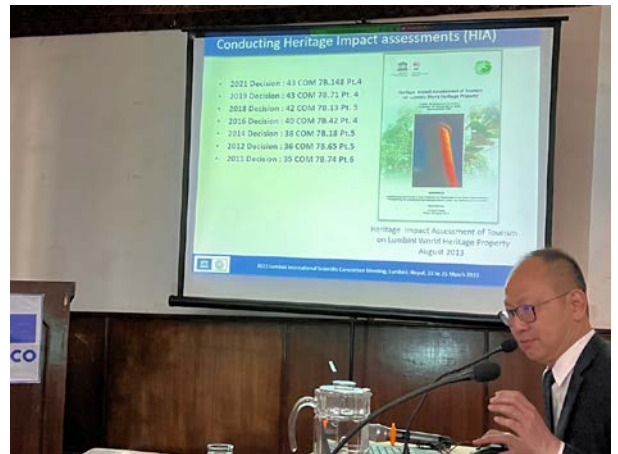
Ramagrama



Greater Lumbini Area

Kapiavastu Museum





International Scientific Committee Meeting,
23-24 March 2022, Lumbini



Group photo during meeting with Mayor Lumbini



Debriefing of the Mission (Mission team, DoA, LDT, UNESCO). 28 March 2022. DoA office, Kathmandu



ANNEX IX: Recommendations of International Scientific Committee Meeting Held in Lumbini from 23 to 25 March 2022.

Recommendations of the Lumbini International Scientific Committee, 24 March 2022

UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

1. Archaeological and geological investigations must be carried out to understand heritage and archaeological areas before any infrastructure work occurs within the Greater Lumbini Area (GLA), and continue to prepare risk mapping for all heritage and archaeological areas.

Ownership for implementation: The ISC recommends Department of Archaeology (DoA) in association with the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) and other willing universities.

2. The ISC welcomes the proposal by the Planning Team of a new property area and buffer zone of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu (the most recent version of the map), and recommends its adoption.
3. The current parking at the Eastern Gate and Western Gate should be closed and new facilities developed close to the Kapilavastu Museum. In addition recommended circulation route should be confirmed.

Ownership for implementation: LDT

Timeline: As soon as possible, before nomination of Tilaurakot.

4. It is critical to continue to monitor the state of conservation of the archaeological remains, and the level of water underneath the Maya Devi Temple in relation to the level of rain.

Ownership for implementation: LDT (capacity of LDT to be strengthened).

Timeline: every day

5. ISC recommends carrying out practical actions for the conservation of archaeological remains in Lumbini and to reduce water penetration inside the Mayadevi Temple, as per the Advisor for Conservation's conservation guidelines, and welcomes the Lumbini Development Trust's proposal to continue interdisciplinary research on how the archaeological remains inside the Mayadevi Temple can be better conserved and to convene an interdisciplinary technical meeting and undertake research and analysis to focus on the protection of the heritage within the shelter.

Ownership for implementation: LDT/DOA/UNESCO/ISC.

Timeline: To be held within 2022

6. The ISC strongly encourages the Department of Archaeology and the Lumbini Development Trust to accelerate the removal of infrastructure which impacts negatively on heritage and archaeological areas, such as roads, power lines, buildings in the vicinity of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu, and the two story Lumbini Development Trust Office which lies on the moat besides the Western Gate of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu should be removed and relocated. Such mistakes should not be repeated.

Ownership for implementation: LDT & Local/Provincial/Central Government.

Timeline: As soon as possible, before nomination

7. No intrusive activities to be undertaken within property area and buffer zone without first completing a heritage impact assessment. If approved by the Department of Archaeology, it is to be accompanied by joint archaeological watching brief comprising staff from both the department of archaeology and the Lumbini Development Trust.

Ownership for implementation: LDT & DOA.

Timeline: Immediately - 24/03/2022

8. The relocation of farming from the archaeological site of Chatradei, within the proposed buffer zone of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu, is welcomed by the members and the concerned authority is encouraged to develop a programme of investigation and protection in parallel with that of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu.

Ownership for implementation: DOA

Timeline: Currently in progress from 01/03/2022.

9. Land acquisition by the Government of Nepal is very welcomed by the ISC members.

Ownership for implementation: DOA

Timeline: Ongoing

10. The Department of Archaeology's plans to upgrade the Kapilavastu Museum at Tilaurakot into a Provincial Directorate of Archaeology with a wider heritage and archaeological site protection jurisdiction are welcomed.

Ownership for implementation: DOA

Timeline: In progress

11. ISC recommends to Lumbini Development Trust to strengthen its Archaeology section, which will be responsible for all matters related to conservation and management of the Lumbini World Heritage property, with the support of the Department of Archaeology.

Ownership for implementation: LDT & DOA

Timeline: Within 2023

12. The Department of Archaeology seeks technical assistance from Durham's UNESCO chair for the preparation of archaeological risk maps of selected sites and monuments using geophysical survey within the Greater Lumbini Area.
13. The ISC encourages the Lumbini Buddhist University to establish a centre/institute of archaeology within the Greater Lumbini Area with the LDT, DoA and partners.
14. The ISC requests for each owner to prepare an action plan and resource allocation linked to each action with an explicit timeline for delivery.

MANAGEMENT

15. The ISC urges the Government of Nepal to update, particularly in respect to the changes in the government structure, the Integrated Management Framework for the Lumbini World Heritage Site, latest by end of May 2022, and officially adopt the document as being of highest priority.
16. The ISC urges the Government of Nepal to declare the Lumbini World Heritage Site as a Protected Monument Zone in accordance with the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956.
17. The ISC notes with satisfaction the declaration of the Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu heritage property as a Protected Monument Zone by the Government of Nepal and urges the Government of Nepal to declare the Tentative World Heritage Site of Ramagrama as a

Protected Monument Zone in accordance with the Ancient Monument Preservation Act 1956.

18. The ISC welcomes with satisfaction the team members of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Lumbini World Heritage Property and their active participation in the 2022 ISC Meeting.
19. Integrated Management Frameworks should be separately generated for the sites of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu and Ramagrama.
20. The Government of Nepal's progress on the preparation of the nomination of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu is positively noted by the ISC.
21. The ISC welcomes with satisfaction the adoption of the official HIA procedures by the Government of Nepal.
22. In line with the official HIA procedures that has been adopted by the Government of Nepal, Heritage Impact Assessments should be conducted by LDT and Department of Archaeology before every new development project. In heritage risk zones, including the entire Sacred Garden area, Heritage Impact Assessments should be conducted by LDT and DoA, before every new development project (including construction of roads, drains, walls, gardens/parks and carparks, etc.). In other heritage zones, such as the remaining Kenzo Tange Project Area, a simple impact assessment shall be carried out jointly by DOA and LDT. Impact assessments shall be done prior to approval and issuing of tender.
23. If machinery must be used at the sites protected as heritage areas and archaeological sites within the Greater Lumbini Area, it should be preceded by a Heritage Impact assessment and subsequently accompanied by joint archaeological watching briefs by the DOA and LDT.
24. The Government of Nepal is encouraged to design a proactive plan for the management of newly acquired land of Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu, which may include the potential of traditional farming techniques and livestock grazing in areas designated 'low risk'.
25. In view of the successful coordination role played by the ISC, members encourage UNESCO Kathmandu to investigate ways for the meetings to be continued and ensure participation of local governments.

Sustainable Development and Tourism

26. Better information flow and communication should be ensured between the Lumbini Development Trust, the Department of Archaeology, UNESCO, Provincial Government, Local Government and concern tourism stakeholders.
27. The ISC welcomes the on-going effort of the Government of Nepal in developing a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, including the preparation of a heritage led Master Plan for Greater Lumbini Area.
28. Any new master plan for Lumbini or the surrounding area should consider the Government of Nepal approved Lumbini Master Plan.
29. The ISC expresses concern about the World Peace City Master Plan for Lumbini and its potential impacts, and requests to conduct a comprehensive HIA before implementation.
30. The ISC welcomes the on-going effort of the Government of Nepal's promoting the Buddhist Circuits of Nepal and Nepal's collaboration with the World Bank's on-going programme of Buddhist Circuit in South Asia.

31. The sustained community engagement, museum development and the championing of local crafts at Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu is acknowledged and encouraged to continue at the Greater Lumbini Area.
32. The ISC encourages a greater mobilization of educational institutions, such as the Lumbini Buddhist University, Tribhuvan University and other schools and universities offering relevant courses including vocational programs.
33. Support development of additional tourism activities surrounding Lumbini such as cultural and natural heritage to increase length of stay and revenue generation with attention to enhance spiritual atmosphere.
34. Develop Visitor and Information Management Plan informed by market study, recreational/site planning and management.
35. Technical support to establish Lumbini village model to promote ancient local civilization.

Environment

36. The natural surroundings of the Lumbini area should be protected – against the threats of encroachment, space, noise, air, river and soil pollution, sand and gravel mining, large infrastructure developments, uncontrolled urbanization. Define and identify areas of importance and the authorities.

Ownership for implementation: DoA, LDT, Divisional Forest Office, Municipalities and Wards, Community Forest Users Group, Lake or Water Users Group, River Conservation Groups

Timeline: 1- 5 years

37. The natural landscapes within the Greater Lumbini Area should be considered for community stewardship approach. [Provincial Government and Municipalities, President Chure Conservation Committee]

Ownership of implementation: DoA, LDT, Province Government, Municipalities) to have a way forward including Department of Environment and National Lake Development and Conservation Committee, Department of Irrigations.

Timeline: One to five years

38. Sources of air, noise and groundwater pollution should be monitored and controlled and existing regulations enforced by the government, and industries that do not follow environmental guidelines should be relocated. No new industrial factories should be approved by the government nor existing ones expanded within the Lumbini Protected Zone. Sharing environmental data among the stakeholders is a priority [Department of Environment].

Ownership for implementation: LDT, DoA, Province Government, Municipalities (Environment Friendly Local Governance), Department of Environment, Chief District Office, Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal Tourism Board, Ministry of Education

39. Specific bylaws and planning regulations, including those on environmental protection, should be prepared and implemented at heritage and archaeological sites within the Greater Lumbini Area. Identify the ownership of the property and see ways of the protection, management and restoration.

Ownership for implementation: Department of Archaeology, Lumbini Development Trust, Municipalities, Provincial Government and Department of Environment]

Timeline: One to five years