

AAPRAVASI GHAT

WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY



MANAGEMENT PLAN

2020 - 2025



Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund
MAURITIUS



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Aapravasi Ghat
Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2006



AAPRAVASI GHAT
World Heritage Site

AAPRAVASI GHAT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

2020- 2025



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ACRONYMS

AAP	Action Area Plan
AAP 01	Action Area Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property
AG	Aapravasi Ghat
AGTF	Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund
AGWHP	Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property
AGWHP BZ	Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone
BLUP	Building and Land Use Permit
BRIC	Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre
BZ	Buffer Zone
BZMC	Buffer Zone Management Committee
CBD	Central Business District
CC	Consultative Committee
CCPL	City Council of Port Louis
CHIS	Cultural Heritage Impact Statement
CM	Conservation Manual
CZ	Core Zone
CZMC	Core Zone Management Committee
DP	Development Plan
EDB	Economic Development Board
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GIS	Geographic and Information System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
HIC	High Commission of India
HMG	Heritage Management Guidelines
HUL	Historic Urban Landscape
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage

ICOM	International Council of Museums
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
IILRP	International Indentured Labour Route Project
ILGDI	Indentured Labour Global Database Initiative
ISC	International Scientific Committee
LED	Local Economic Development
LGA	Local Government Act
LMHTF	Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund
MACH	Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage
MAIFS	Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security
METESC	Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
MEL	Metro Express Limited
MESWMCC	Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFEPD	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
MGI	Mahatma Gandhi Institute
MHLUP	Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning
MIDSC	Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
MLGDRM	Ministry of Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management
MLTLR	Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail
MMC	Mauritius Museums Council
MNICD	Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development
MP	Management Plan
MPA	Mauritius Ports Authority
MPC	Management Plan Committee

MT	Ministry of Tourism
MTPA	Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority
MUR	Mauritian Rupee
NDS	National Development Strategy
NHF	National Heritage Fund
NH	National Heritage
OPS	Outline Planning Scheme
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPG 6	Planning Policy Guidance 6: Urban Heritage Area – Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage property (2011)
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
RPP	Risk Preparedness Plan
STAC	Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee
TC	Technical Committee of the City Council of Port Louis
UoM	University of Mauritius
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
VMP	Visitor Management Plan
WCNH	World Cultural and Natural Heritage
WHC	World Heritage Centre (UNESCO)
WHP	World Heritage Property
WHS	World Heritage Site
WHSSC	World Heritage Site Steering Committee

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Aapravasi Ghat, as the first site chosen by the British Government in 1834 for the 'great experiment' in the use of indentured, rather than slave labour, is strongly associated with memories of almost half a million indentured labourers moving from India to Mauritius to work on sugar cane plantations or to be transhipped to other parts of the World.

Decision 30 COM 8B.33

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The concept of World Heritage was developed by UNESCO to define cultural and natural heritage that is irreplaceable, unique and authentic, not only for the nation to which it belongs, but also for humanity as a whole. It is considered that the loss of this heritage through deterioration or disappearance would generate an impoverishment of heritage for all people of the world. As such, the significance of such World Heritage is defined as being of Outstanding Universal Value¹ (OUV).

Outstanding Universal Value determines World Heritage Status and is defined by the *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972) of UNESCO and by the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2019).

Because the Aapravasi Ghat is of Outstanding Universal Value, it was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2006. The Aapravasi Ghat is the symbol of the *Great Experiment* that made Mauritius the site of the first successful large-scale use of *indentured labour*. The *Great Experiment* was initiated by the British colonial government which sought to establish a system of “free” labour after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1834.

Following UNESCO’s World Heritage Convention, a Buffer Zone² (BZ) was delimited around Aapravasi Ghat (AG) World Heritage Property (WHP) to allow the full expression of its outstanding significance. UNESCO explains that the Buffer Zone is important as it represents the context in which the World Heritage Property has evolved through time. As such, it supports the outstanding cultural significance at the national and international level. This is the reason why appropriate measures are enforced in the Buffer Zone to protect, preserve, enhance and promote the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property. The ultimate objective is to create a suitable environment supporting the retention of the heritage in the BZ and to ensure its sustainable development.

The changes brought by the establishment of legal boundaries for the Buffer Zone led to the review of the Management Plan adopted in 2006. **The Management Plan is required by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention³ to ensure the preservation and sustainability of the Outstanding Universal Value of the**

¹ A definition is provided in the glossary.

² The concept of Buffer Zone is explained in the annex 13.

³ *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, UNESCO, WHC.17/01, July 2017, state that “Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented

World Heritage Property. The Management Plan describes the World Heritage Property, its Outstanding Universal Value and related significances, and analyses the issues affecting the conservation and management of the World Heritage Property.

The Management Plan has an essential role: it is a key document that guides all the stakeholders involved in the conservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property. It is directed by a Vision for the World Heritage Property and addresses key principles and objectives that will guide the implementation of this Vision.

2. Preparing the Management Plan

The present Management Plan is an updated version of the one submitted to the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO in 2006 and in 2013⁴. In 2019, the Management Plan was updated to be in line with the requirements following the development that took place between 2013 to 2019 at World Heritage Property.

The Management Plan 2020-2025 takes into consideration the principles and requirements stated in 1998 by ICCROM, ICOMOS and UNESCO as *Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites*. The Plan also takes into account the international guidelines provided by the ICOMOS charters. It also makes provision for the integration of the following:

1. the evolution of the World Heritage Convention framework
 - The Action Plan (2012-2017) for World Heritage in Africa devised as part of the Second Cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting (PR) in the Africa Region in 2011;
 - the requirements following the adoption of the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (2015) guiding the processes of the World Heritage Convention⁵;
 - the integration of the 17 sustainable goals established by the United Nations “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”⁶ in the daily management and long term vision for the World Heritage Site; this includes at the regional level, the African Union’s 2015 “Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want”.
 - The integration of the principles stated in the Ngorongoro Declaration on Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2016.

management system which should specify how the outstanding universal value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means” (Operational Guidelines, Ch.II.F /108, p.27).

⁴ The Present Management Plan was prepared by Dr. Forest, Head Technical Unit in collaboration with the Technical and Research Unit and the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

⁵ “Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention” (2015): see <https://whc.unesco.org/document/139747>

The Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties (2007) and Policy Document on Impacts of Climate Change and World Heritage (2007) are also considered.

⁶ The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development includes the protection and safeguarding of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage as a specific target of one of its 17 « Sustainable Development Goals”, notably No 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

2. The evolution in the management and promotion of the World Heritage Property is as follows:⁷

- The opening of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre in 2014;
- The completion of the landscaping works at World Heritage Site in 2014;
- The adoption of the Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis (2015);
- The completion of the Local Economic Development Plan for the Buffer Zone (2016);
- The completion of the integrated Research Plan (2016);
- The beginning of the Indentured Labour Route project (2017);
- The results of research on indenture in the last 5 years;
- The recommendations of the joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius, 14-18 May 2018)⁸;
- The adoption of the Action Area Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (2019)⁹.

The Management Plan was prepared by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, a parastatal body under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage, entrusted to administer, manage and promote the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property, in consultation and collaboration with stakeholders.

The Management Plan was prepared in regular and comprehensive consultation with stakeholders to address key issues and to better identify the needs to allow for the effective management of the World Heritage Property.

⁷All the documents related to the status and monitoring of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property can be consulted at the following link: <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/1227/documents/>

⁸The WHC/ICOMOS report can be consulted online: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/171739>

⁹ The Action Area Plan for the AGWHP is available on http://housing.govmu.org/English/Documents/Quick%20Links/AAP1%20-%20Urban%20Heritage%20Area%20for%20the%20AGWHP.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1-2lhJrE9xuAICcHPQaEszOPK0vyfdMY6s_JWu_gN9LXym3Zu6k291zc

"A "management plan" may come in different legal and operational forms but is always a coherent instrument that takes into consideration the specific characteristics not only of a site but also of the area around it. The plan, bringing together all the players and instruments involved in a site and the surrounding area should serve as a development coordination tool; (..) in the long term it is meant to be a sustainable development tool integrated into the environment."

(UNESCO about WHP in Syria cited in the Presentation of Christophe Graz on Management of Heritage Sites and Artefacts, Euromed Heritage, Petra, Jordan, 17-19 May 2010)

3. The purpose of the Management Plan

The overarching aim of the Management Plan is:

To describe an approach to the management of Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property that will retain and strengthen the balance between conserving the historic environment, enhancing the local character and amenities of the World Heritage Property and surroundings, with the need to develop the area into a vibrant heritage area serving the vision for the revitalization of the capital city of Mauritius.

All stakeholders can use the Management Plan as a reference to manage the World Heritage Property and its buffer zone and to preserve and enhance its Outstanding Universal Value¹⁰.

4. Why is the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property significant?

Retrospective Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat¹¹

Located on the bay of Trou Fanfaron, in the capital of Port-Louis, the Aapravasi Ghat is the remains of an immigration depot, the site from where modern indentured labour diaspora emerged. The Depot was built in 1849 to receive indentured labourers from India, Eastern Africa, Madagascar, China and Southeast Asia to work on the island's sugar cane estates as part of the 'Great Experiment'. This experiment was initiated by the British Government, after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1834, to demonstrate the superiority of the 'free' over slave labour in its plantation colonies. The success of the 'Great Experiment' in Mauritius led to its adoption by other colonial powers from the 1840s, resulting in a world-wide migration of more than two million indentured labourers, of which Mauritius received almost half a million.

The buildings of Aapravasi Ghat are among the earliest explicit manifestations of what would become a global economic system. The Aapravasi Ghat site stands as a major historic testimony of indenture in the 19th century and is the sole surviving example of this unique modern Diaspora. It represents not only the

¹⁰ The Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat was defined in the Nomination Dossier submitted to UNESCO for its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2005.

¹¹ Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, Decision: 37 COM 8E, 37th session of the World Heritage Committee, Phnom Penh, 16 - 27 June 2013 2013, WHC-13/37.COM/20, Paris, 5 July 2013.

development of the modern system of contractual labour, but also the memories, traditions and values that these men, women and children carried with them when they left their countries of origin to work in foreign lands and subsequently bequeathed to their millions of descendants for whom the site holds great symbolic meaning.

5. Vision for the future

The Vision is firmly grounded in the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHP and was elaborated during a series of workshop in 2013. The Vision is a guiding light of what the WHP aspires to be. It is pursued through the implementation of the Management Plan.

In the Vision for Aapravasi Ghat, the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property will be protected and its authenticity and integrity maintained, while the site will be utilised in a sustainable manner to benefit the nation both spiritually and materially. This will require, *inter alia*, revitalization measures to enhance the unique character of the surroundings of the World Heritage Property located in the heart of the Capital City of Mauritius.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property will be maintained and promoted for future generations.

Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property will be a cultural landmark fostering urban heritage management and conservation in close interaction with the local community to support national unity and identity.

The Management Plan is the main tool for the management and enhancement of the World Heritage Property. From the Vision flows a set of Strategic Objectives, that are linked to a set of actions. These actions collectively address all key issues pertaining to the management and sustainable use of the World Heritage Property.

6. Summary of strategic objectives and actions

Managing the World Heritage Property

Objective 1: Endorse the Management Plan as the overarching document to manage, administer and promote the World Heritage Property in an integrated manner

- 1.1 Adopt the Management Plan
- 1.2 Establish yearly planning with targets

Objective 2: Consolidate the existing management system of the World Heritage Property and its setting to ensure effective and integrated management

- 2.1. To establish AGTF office near AG WHP
- 2.2. Consolidate the managerial framework for the Interpretation Centre
 - 2.2.1. Recruitment of additional staff
 - 2.2.2. Create a policy and a framework for the generation of funds
 - 2.2.3. To set up and retain a technical committee for BRIC
- 2.3. Managing heritage in the Buffer Zone
 - 2.3.1. Consolidate the role of the Technical Committee of the CCPL
 - 2.3.2. Consolidate the role for the Buffer Zone Management Committee
 - 2.3.3. Formalize the technical assistance mechanism for stakeholders
 - 2.3.4. Develop and consolidate capacity in heritage management and conservation
 - 2.3.5. Encourage participative conservation, management and promotion.
 - 2.3.6. Provide a simplified documentation to foster integrated management

Conserving the World Heritage Property (WHP)

Objective 3: Monitor conservation and risk preparedness for the World Heritage Property and its surroundings, and the Interpretation Centre and its collections

- 3.1. Monitor and evaluate conservation at World Heritage Property
- 3.2. Update the Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP)
- 3.3. Continue training for AGTF staff in risk preparedness
- 3.4. Monitor and mitigate the impact of visitors at World Heritage Property
- 3.5. Maintain the Policies for AGTF collections

Conserving and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value in the Buffer Zone

Objective 4: Consolidate the framework for the conservation of the heritage component in the Buffer Zone

4.1. Prepare a long-term Conservation policy and guidelines

- Prepare a conservation policy for heritage in the Buffer Zone
- Conservation guidelines for historic drains, pavements, facades and architectural elements.

4.2. Update, upgrade, and disseminate the heritage inventory

- The formal adoption of the grading system;
- The need to update the inventory on a regular basis;
- The creation of an integrated database to share information among the CCPL, NHF and AGTF.

Objective 5: Establish a suitable environment for the conservation and enhancement of the Buffer Zone that encourages sustainable development and the transformation of the area into a vibrant regenerated heritage district

5.1. Implement the Local Economic Development (LED) plan

5.2. Implement the Action Area Plan for the buffer zone and its extended areas

5.3. Coordinate large scale development projects to implement an integrated vision and sustainable development

5.4. Provide assistance to property owners and users of the buffer zone

- 5.4.1. Publish guidelines on heritage conservation and rehabilitation;
- 5.4.2. Publish an improved user – friendly version on development in the buffer zone;
- 5.4.3. Publish an informative document on heritage economics and existing business models;
- 5.4.4. Conduct a survey and publish results on heritage rehabilitation in Mauritius.

Interpreting the World Heritage Property and managing visitors

Objective 6: Enhance visitor experience and maintain visitor satisfaction

6.1. Evaluate and develop further activities for visitors

6.2. Prepare and implement a yearly Public Programme

6.3. Conduct regular audience surveys

6.4. Review and update pedagogical and academic documentation on a regular basis

6.5. Implement BRIC (phase 2) Project

6.6. Consolidate and promote the heritage trails

- Heritage trails in Port Louis
- Heritage trails in Mauritius

Managing visitors at World Heritage Property

Objective 7: Consolidate the visitor management strategy and optimize visitor management

7.1. Update the Visitor Management plan

7.2. Improve visitor recording system

7.3. Foster collaboration with neighbouring institutions and agencies

Promoting the World Heritage Property and its surroundings

Objective 8: Ensure the implementation of a sustainable strategy for the promotion of the World Heritage Property

8.1. Review and implement the Tourism & Marketing Strategy

8.2. Approve and implement the pricing policy

8.3. Promote heritage in the buffer zone

Conducting research on the scope and extent of indenture

Objective 9: Continue and encourage multidisciplinary research on the scope and extent of indenture by establishing local, regional and international networks

9.1. Regular Review the integrated Research Plan (2016-2021)

9.2. Conduct an archaeological survey at *Parc à Boulets* and adjacent area

9.3. Implement the Indentured Labour Route project

9.4. Consolidate and develop a research strategy for Intangible Cultural Heritage

9.5. Prepare a strategy and policy for consolidating research capacity

9.6. Develop and consolidate networks to foster research on indenture

Objective 10: Improve the management of information and consolidate the documentation centre

10.1. Set up appropriate data management system

10.2. Prepare an ethics and access policy for research

7. Implementing the Plan

Approved by Government, the Management Plan is a document providing guidance and recommendations for the management and the promotion of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.

The Management Plan is a partnership document that provides guidance to all stakeholders involved in the conservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property. The City Council of Port Louis (CCPL), the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF), the National Heritage Fund (NHF) and the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage (MACH) are the institutions involved in the implementation of the Management Plan on a daily basis.

This core group collaborates with the following governmental partners:

- The Ministry of Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management
- The Ministry of Tourism
- The Mauritius Ports Authority
- Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd
- The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
- The Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
- The Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
- The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
- The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security
- The Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning
- The Mauritius Museums Council
- The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority

The conservation, management and promotion of Aapravasi Ghat also require the full support of the local community and the public at large. It is the reason why the Management Plan also includes mechanisms that involve the public.

It is essential to adopt and implement a Management Plan that promotes holistic and integrated management so that it ensures its sustainable implementation.

8. Legal and Institutional framework

The Management Plan meets the requirements of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of UNESCO and also the legislative framework existing in Mauritius, which includes:

1. The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act (2001 amended 2006 and 2011);
2. The National Heritage Fund Act (2003 amended 2017);
3. The Planning Policy Guidance – PPG 6: Urban Heritage Area – Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage property (2011);
4. The Local Government Act (2003- amended 2011);
5. The Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis (2015);
6. The Action Area Plan (AAP 01 – 2019).

The local legislation does not make provision specifically for World Heritage Sites but the principles of the *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* were followed to cater for the specific aspects of heritage management and protection. This led to the amendment of the *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act* in 2011 to include the delimitation of the buffer zone, which has a legal status. The amendment of the *Local Government Act* makes provision for the creation of a Technical Committee to examine applications for development in the buffer zone.

The legal framework related to the World Heritage Property was amended to address the need to preserve and promote the OUV of the WHP. It led to the inclusion of heritage principles and guidance in major planning documents in order to ensure the retention and enhancement of heritage within the capital city of Port Louis. The specific Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 6) was issued in 2011 to provide a framework for the buffer zone of Aapravasi Ghat and establish a vision that promotes the revitalization of the area as a heritage district. Concurrently, this vision was also included in the Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis (2015). In 2019, the Action Area Plan for the AGWHP Buffer Zone (AAP 01) was issued to make provision for integrated development in the buffer zone while ensuring the retention and enhancement of the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHP.

The Management Plan also includes “Planning guidelines for the Buffer Zone”¹² and “Guidelines to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)”¹³ as guiding tools associated with the PPG 6, the Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis and the AAP 01. The Management Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property is a reference document for these planning documents and should be used concurrently.

¹² Annex 4.

¹³ Annex 5.

9. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Management Plan?

The implementation of the Management Plan (MP) is vested in a partnership where each stakeholder brings its part for the effective implementation of the plan. The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF) provides guidance and ultimately oversees the management of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. The Board monitors the preparation and approves the Management Plan before it is examined by the Management Plan Committee chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

The responsibility for the practical implementation of the plan rests with the Director of the AGTF who is supported by the Technical and Research Unit.

The retention, enhancement and promotion of the heritage in the Buffer Zone are the responsibility of the City Council of Port Louis (CCPL) who implements the Management Plan and the Planning Policy Guidance 6 in the area. The CCPL is assisted by the AGTF and the National Heritage Fund (NHF).

The Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage (MACH) is the representative of the State Party to UNESCO. As such, the MACH monitors the implementation of the MP through the Management Plan Committee and reports to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

The Management Plan Committee chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage is also in charge of the implementation of the Action Area Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of the Management Plan will be monitored and evaluated to better address issues or shortcomings that may arise in the course of implementation. Systematic Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) therefore allow for adaptive management as circumstances and details of issues change through time.

To ensure the effective implementation of the MP and to support implementation of particular parts of the plan, committees are established. Each committee must prepare a working plan for the area under their jurisdiction that clearly states:

- Main actions to be undertaken
- Specific steps to be taken
- Deliverables
- Indicators
- Timelines
- Indication of tasks and the person responsible
- Potential obstacles and bottlenecks and possible ways of overcoming them

Work plans should be prepared, approved and adopted by the committees in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the Management Plan. The work plans of the various committees will be taken up into

an overall Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system that serves as a systematic monitoring tool for the Management Plan Committee.

The Management Plan Committee, by using the M&E system, will not only *monitor* the step by step implementation and roll-out of the Management Plan itself but will also *evaluate* the actual impact of the plan on the World Heritage Property and its target beneficiaries. Thus both the level of implementation of the Management Plan and its efficacy are systematically monitored. The MACH, the CCPL, the AGTF and the NHF would be in a position to evaluate the Management Plan and adopt an approach of adaptive management allowing the review of proposed actions to better achieve the goals stated in the management plan.

Introduction

The Aapravasi Ghat was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2006. The inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat recognises the Outstanding Universal Value of the former immigration depot as a symbol of the *Great Experiment* initiated in 1834 by the British Colonial Government to evaluate the viability of *indenture* as a system to recruit "free" labour after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

A Buffer Zone¹⁴ (BZ) was delimited for Aapravasi Ghat (AG) World Heritage Property (WHP) to allow the full expression of the outstanding significance of the World Heritage Property as per UNESCO *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. In its Convention, UNESCO explains that the Buffer Zone is important as it represents the context in which the World Heritage Property has evolved through time. As such, it is a fundamental element supporting its cultural significance at a national and international level.

This is the reason why appropriate measures are enforced in the Buffer Zone to protect, preserve, enhance and promote the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property. The ultimate objective is to foster urban harmony and cohesion while creating an enabling environment for the conservation and enhancement of heritage and sustainable development.

The Management Plan is a key document providing orientation and actions to guide institutions, public and private agencies and the local community in a collective pursuit of the Vision for the World Heritage Property.

The present Management Plan retains the comprehensive revision of the Management Plan made in 2013. The present document sets out principles, issues and objectives, and an Action Plan that takes into consideration the developments that have occurred over the last five years.

The objective of the Management Plan (2020-2025) is to foster the conservation, holistic and integrated management and the promotion of the World Heritage Property, as well as to encourage its full integration into the life of the capital city as an opportunity for urban regeneration.

The Management Plan rests on ICOMOS and UNESCO's vision and resolutions encouraging the sustainable development of World Heritage Properties. In this plan, the focus is on the consolidation of the managerial framework and measures encouraging the establishment of an enabling environment for sustainable development at the World Heritage Property and in its surroundings.

¹⁴ The concept of Buffer Zone is explained in the glossary at Annex 13.

PART 1: THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AAPRAVASI GHAT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

1. FUNCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is a Management Plan?

The Management Plan is a document required to ensure the preservation and sustainability of the Outstanding Universal Value¹⁵ of the World Heritage Property as per the *Convention concerning the protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage* of UNESCO¹⁶. The objective is to ensure that an appropriate managerial system and adequate legal protection are in place for the preservation of the World Heritage Property in the future¹⁷.

Above all, the Management Plan describes the World Heritage Property (WHP), its Outstanding Universal Value and related significance and analyses the issues affecting the conservation and management of the World Heritage Property. The document proposes answers to remedy threats that could affect the World Heritage Property and sets out measures for its sustainable development.

The Management Plan identifies issues and proposes strategic objectives that seek to achieve the Vision for the World Heritage Property in the long term. From the Vision¹⁸, overall objectives are generated for the development of the World Heritage Property in line with the expectations of the local community and public and private agencies. The Management Plan therefore is a document presenting the Vision for the future of the WHP along with key principles and objectives that will guide the implementation of this Vision. The Management Plan is reviewed every five years to integrate changes brought in the contemporary context and offer a proactive and adaptive document speaking to current issues. The Management Plan is therefore needed to ensure that the World Heritage Property is integrated in the lives of the people of Mauritius as a living heritage that receives the support of all.

¹⁵ Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) “means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.”

¹⁶Article 108 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention indicates: “Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means”. UNESCO World Heritage Centre, WHC.17/01, 12 July 2017.

¹⁷ The *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2017) defines the following modules as essential components of Management Plan:

- legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection,
- boundaries for effective protection,
- Buffer Zone,
- management systems,
- sustainable use,
- Capacity building.

¹⁸Vision with a capital ‘V’ refers to the official Vision for the World Heritage Property (WHP) that is the Aapravasi Ghat.

The Management Plan is therefore a key document addressing issues and objectives to respond favourably to the need to preserve, promote and enhance the World Heritage Property. The Plan provides a plan of action that guides the institutions, the local community or any private or public agencies involved with the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone. The aim is to guarantee integrated management at World Heritage Property to optimize and sustain its preservation and enhancement.

“A “management plan” may come in different legal and operational forms but is always a coherent instrument that takes into consideration the specific characteristics not only of a site but also of the area around it. The plan, bringing together all the players and instruments involved in a site and the surrounding area should serve as a development coordination tool; [...] in the long term it is meant to be a sustainable development tool integrated into the environment.”

(UNESCO about WHP in Syria cited in the Presentation of Christophe Graz on Management of Heritage Sites and Artefacts, Euromed Heritage, Petra, Jordan, 17-19 May 2010)

The status of the Plan

In 1995, Mauritius signed the *Convention concerning the protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage* of UNESCO (1972) which states the need for a management plan¹⁹. As a World Heritage Property listed in 2006, the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property has an official Management Plan, in line with the requirements stated in the 1972 Convention, to meet the need to preserve and enhance the World Heritage Properties in a sustainable manner.

The Management Plan represents the commitment taken by the State Party to UNESCO. The document presents actions that abide by the 1972 Convention principles ensuring the sustainability of the World Heritage Property. As such, the Management Plan is a national and international reference stating how the State Party is proposing to implement the UNESCO’s convention within its territory. Since it is a national commitment, the Management Plan is submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for endorsement and is subsequently used as a national reference by anyone involved in the preservation, management and enhancement of the World Heritage Property.

The Management Plan is submitted to the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO who refers to the Management Plan as the document providing relevant information to monitor the state of conservation of World Heritage Properties.

¹⁹For details, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/mu>

The purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Management Plan is to sustain and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (WHP) and to promote the value and sustainable use of the WHP through all tiers of society. The overarching aim of the Management Plan is:

To describe an approach to the management of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property that will retain and strengthen the balance between conserving the historic environment, enhancing the local character and amenities of the World Heritage Property and surroundings with the need to develop the area into a vibrant heritage area serving the Vision in favour of the revitalization of the capital city of Mauritius.

Implementing the Vision for the future

The Management Plan was elaborated to address key issues with the view to achieve the Vision for the future for the World Heritage Property. The Vision aims at sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property whilst maintaining its authenticity in its original context of evolution that requires revitalization measures to enhance the unique character of the surroundings of the World Heritage Property located in the heart of the Capital City of Mauritius.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property will be maintained and promoted for future generations.

Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property will be a cultural landmark fostering urban heritage management and conservation in close interaction with the local community to support national unity and identity.

The preparation of the Management Plan is guided by key objectives:

- The Management Plan is guided by the Strategic Objectives set out by the World Heritage Convention and summarized as the "Five Cs": Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication, Communities²⁰.
- The need to ensure the effective management of the World Heritage Property by involving stakeholders, conducting consultations and through fostering close partnerships amongst all concerned parties;

²⁰Budapest Declaration (2002), Decision : CONF 202 9; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1217/>
The "fifth C" (2007), Decision : 31 COM 13B; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5197/>

- The Management Plan aims at providing an overarching framework for all plans, policies, projects and decision making for the World Heritage Property;
- The need to undertake actions and make decisions that allow the retention of the OUV as per best international standards;
- The need to develop and implement policies and a framework to better manage the WHP and retain the heritage component in its Buffer Zone so as to provide guidance for the implementation of other related documents; and
- The Management Plan aims at protecting and enhancing the architectural, archaeological, and other landscape attributes and natural assets of the WHP and its surroundings in line with international standards and in the respect of the local community's concerns.

The key aims of the Management Plan are:

- To put in place and sustain a mechanism to preserve the World Heritage Property;
- To address the issues related to the operations of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre (BRIC) at World Heritage Property;
- To establish the managerial system for the monitoring of the heritage component in the Buffer Zone;
- To support the establishment of a framework in the Buffer Zone that will encourage the development of the area into a vibrant heritage district based on ICOMOS Paris Declaration (heritage as a driver of development, 2011) and the recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape adopted on 10 November 2011 at the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference;
- To state the vision for tourism and develop and implement the Tourism Strategy at World Heritage Property and in its Buffer Zone in favour of sustainable tourism and a positive visitor experience;
- To develop a programme of projects so as to implement the key aims while preserving the World Heritage Property;
- To establish general principles and guidelines related to the management and the promotion of the World Heritage Property; and
- To provide policies and strategies of research documenting the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property.

The structure of the Plan

As per the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2017)²¹, the Management Plan addresses issues and objectives on the following main modules:

- *legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection;*
- *boundaries for effective protection;*
- *Buffer Zone;*
- *management systems; and*
- *sustainable use.*

The Plan provides:

1.5.1. A description of the **World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone** and their cultural significance;

This section provides an overview of the reasons why the Aapravasi Ghat is listed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO and describes the WHP and its boundaries.

1.5.2. A description of the **current policy context**;

This part refers to the framework in place for the management and the preservation of heritage in Mauritius, and the existing legal dispositions for the World Heritage Property.

1.5.3. A description of the **current management context**;

This section presents the managerial system in place for the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone.

1.5.4. A presentation of **topics and issues** related to:

- Planning and policy;
- Conservation;
- Risk Preparedness;
- Visitor, tourism and education issues;
- Promotion; and
- Research.

²¹ Ringbeck, Birgitta, *Management Plans for World Heritage Sites: a practical guide*, German Commission for UNESCO, Bonn, Germany (2008:6).

This section identifies the issues that affect the World Heritage Property and for which, actions are proposed in the Management Plan.

1.5.5. A presentation of the **management and monitoring** for the World Heritage Property;

This section describes the improvements made to the managerial and monitoring systems proposed for the World Heritage Property.

1.5.6. The Action Plan to **implement the Management Plan**;

This part summarizes the actions proposed in response to the elements affecting the World Heritage Property and in order to pursue the Vision.

1.5.7. **Appendices** and glossary.

This section contains all the references and information related to the content of this Management Plan.

The process of developing the Management Plan

The Management Plan was developed in close interaction with stakeholders and the local community was consulted through consultative committees. The approach was to integrate the concerns and suggestions of all and absorb comments to produce an adaptive Management Plan for the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone.

This process allowed for the inclusion of valuable comments and suggestions and to make sure that the concerns of all are included in the Management Plan (hereafter sometimes referred to as the Plan). The objective was to produce a Management Plan that receives the support of all to optimise its sustainable implementation.

This process was inspired by the need to ensure ownership of the Plan by all. Therefore, it was imperative that all contribute or/and take part in its compilation.

2. DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

2.1. Location and boundary of the Aapravasi Ghat WHP



Figure 1: A map of the Island of Mauritius locating the Aapravasi Ghat in Port Louis, the capital city

The AGWHP is situated in Port Louis, adjacent to the Port. The World Heritage Property is also designated as the **Core Zone** as opposed to the **Buffer Zone** surrounding the World Heritage Property.

The Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat including the port, customs, harbour front, transport and commercial activities, is situated around the Core Zone, to its east and alongside Trou Fanfaron, the whole being in the heart of the historical centre of the Colonial Era port city of Port Louis.

The BZ has two components:

- **Buffer Zone 1:** the area on state land which surrounds the Core Zone (the compound of the Aapravasi Ghat) to the West;
- **Buffer Zone 2:** the area East of Port Louis Pamplemousses dual Carriage way (Motorway) where most of the land belongs to private owners.

The Buffer Zone 1 and the western part of Buffer Zone 2 are located within the port area as defined in the Ports Act 1998.

As defined in the AGTF Act (2001 amended 2011), the boundaries of the Buffer Zone are:

- to the West and North west of the AGWHP, the Trou Fanfaron harbour area and dry docks;
- to the North, the façades on the northern side of Dr. Sun Yat Sen Street;
- to the East, the façades on the eastern side of Royal Street; and
- to the South, the northern side of Duke of Edinburgh Street.

The buildings and urban places of the Buffer Zone provide a suitable context and setting for the conservation of the Core Zone and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

POINT	NATIONAL GRID COORDINATES		WGS 84 COORDINATES	
	EASTING	NORTHING	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
A	997364.07	1004385.62	20° 9' 30.63"	57° 30' 13.11"
B	997357.87	1004387.67	20° 9' 30.57"	57° 30' 12.90"
C	997347.85	1004389.15	20° 9' 30.52"	57° 30' 12.55"
D	997347.96	1004389.82	20° 9' 30.50"	57° 30' 12.55"
E	997319.38	1004393.96	20° 9' 30.36"	57° 30' 11.57"
F	997317.57	1004388.20	20° 9' 30.55"	57° 30' 11.51"
G	997310.55	1004360.06	20° 9' 31.47"	57° 30' 11.27"
H	997283.00	1004367.37	20° 9' 31.23"	57° 30' 10.32"
I	997279.75	1004354.60	20° 9' 31.64"	57° 30' 10.21"
J	997303.30	1004348.46	20° 9' 31.84"	57° 30' 11.02"
K	997306.99	1004347.47	20° 9' 31.88"	57° 30' 11.14"
L	997314.50	1004347.22	20° 9' 31.88"	57° 30' 11.40"
M	997321.79	1004350.42	20° 9' 31.78"	57° 30' 11.65"
N	997482.64	1004491.15	20° 09' 27.20"	57° 30' 17.19"
O	997437.61	1004532.90	20° 09' 25.85"	57° 30' 15.64"
P	997322.18	1004415.53	20° 09' 29.66"	57° 30' 11.67"
Q	997146.78	1004470.47	20° 09' 27.87"	57° 30' 05.63"
R	997138.10	1004466.22	20° 09' 28.01"	57° 30' 05.33"
S	997131.49	1004457.98	20° 09' 28.28"	57° 30' 05.10"
T	997129.22	1004439.81	20° 09' 28.87"	57° 30' 05.02"
U	997131.50	1004439.57	20° 09' 28.88"	57° 30' 05.10"
V	997128.21	1004426.64	20° 09' 29.30"	57° 30' 04.99"
W	997134.81	1004422.70	20° 09' 29.43"	57° 30' 05.21"
X	997051.93	1004277.73	20° 09' 34.14"	57° 30' 02.36"
Y	997067.69	1004265.84	20° 09' 34.53"	57° 30' 02.90"
Z	997175.05	1004188.24	20° 09' 37.05"	57° 30' 06.60"
ZA	997676.19	1004360.38	20° 09' 31.46"	57° 30' 23.86"
ZB	997587.83	1004449.41	20° 09' 28.56"	57° 30' 20.81"
ZC	997594.12	1004525.12	20° 09' 26.10"	57° 30' 21.03"
ZD	997521.07	1004580.85	20° 09' 24.29"	57° 30' 18.52"
ZE	997530.80	1004660.21	20° 09' 21.71"	57° 30' 18.85"
ZF	997472.86	1004709.20	20° 09' 20.11"	57° 30' 16.86"
ZG	997292.63	1004707.76	20° 09' 20.16"	57° 30' 10.65"
ZH	997254.94	1004686.94	20° 09' 20.84"	57° 30' 09.35"
ZI	997204.63	1004676.99	20° 09' 21.16"	57° 30' 07.62"
ZJ	997121.32	1004626.02	20° 09' 22.82"	57° 30' 04.75"
ZK	997125.64	1004528.93	20° 09' 25.97"	57° 30' 04.90"
ZL	997110.52	1004442.63	20° 09' 28.78"	57° 30' 04.38"
ZM	996990.17	1004254.69	20° 09' 34.89"	57° 30' 00.23"
ZN	997030.95	1004209.05	20° 09' 36.38"	57° 30' 01.64"
ZO	997291.19	1003959.76	20° 09' 44.48"	57° 30' 10.60"

2.2. Description of the World Heritage Property

2.2.1. Brief description

The Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property is located in the capital city called Port Louis, in Port Louis district, Republic of Mauritius. The Former Immigration Depot is composed of a cluster of 3 stone structures dating to the mid-1860s located on the bay of Trou Fanfaron. It covers an area of site is 1,640 sq. meters (excluding the Buffer Zone with an area of 28.9 hectares²²) and is surrounded by a stone wall on two sides, and two other sides by a motorway and a tarred road.

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

The Aapravasi Ghat is a former immigration depot that was composed of the following buildings when the Depot was in operation:

- The Immigration Office;
- The Depot Keeper's house;
- Sheds for immigrants;
- Kitchens;
- A hospital;
- Offices for supervisors (or *Sirdars*);
- Stores; and
- Bathing and lavatory area.

²² Buffer Zone 1 is 2.9 hectares; and Buffer Zone 2 is 26 hectares.

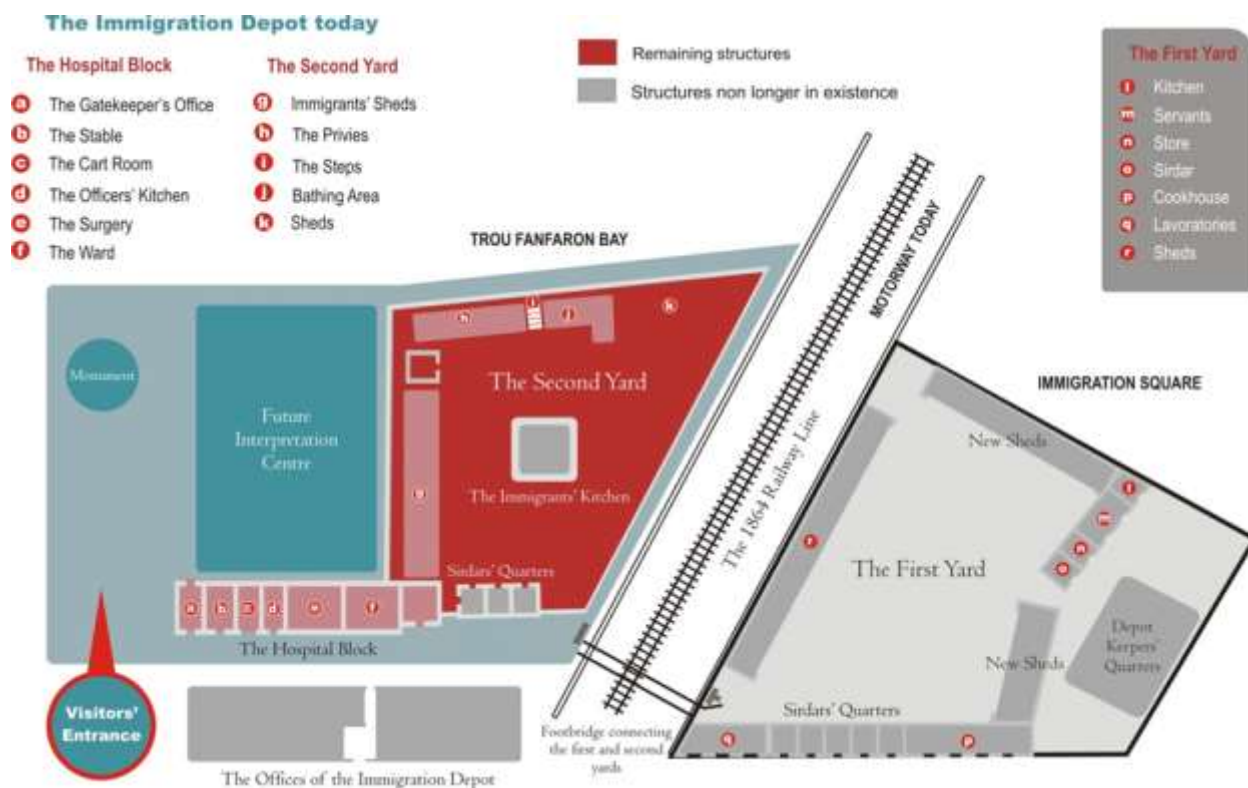


Figure 3: Map showing the Immigration Depot in 1864

The structures that existed originally on the site of the Aapravasi Ghat were the Protector of Immigrants' office, sheds for immigrants, kitchens, lavatories and other facilities. The layout that we see today is the culmination of a construction sequence that began in 1849. Although less than half of the Immigration Depot remains as it was in 1865, the Depot's key components are still there. These components reveal much about the history of the indenture immigration system.

Today, the site's existing components are:

1. Entrance gateway;
2. Hospital block comprising of:
 - a. Gate Keeper's Room;
 - b. Stable;
 - c. Cart House;
 - d. Kitchen;
 - e. Surgery and Ward Room; and
 - f. Staff privies.

3. Immigrants' Sheds;
4. Immigrants' Kitchen;
5. Sirdars' Quarters;
6. Immigrant Privies;
7. Bathing Area;
8. Steps; and
9. Outer wall at wharf level.

The Site evolved in five phases:

- The period between **1849 and 1858** marks the construction of Depot;
- **1858-1859** correspond to the second phase consisting in the completion of the first depot extension;

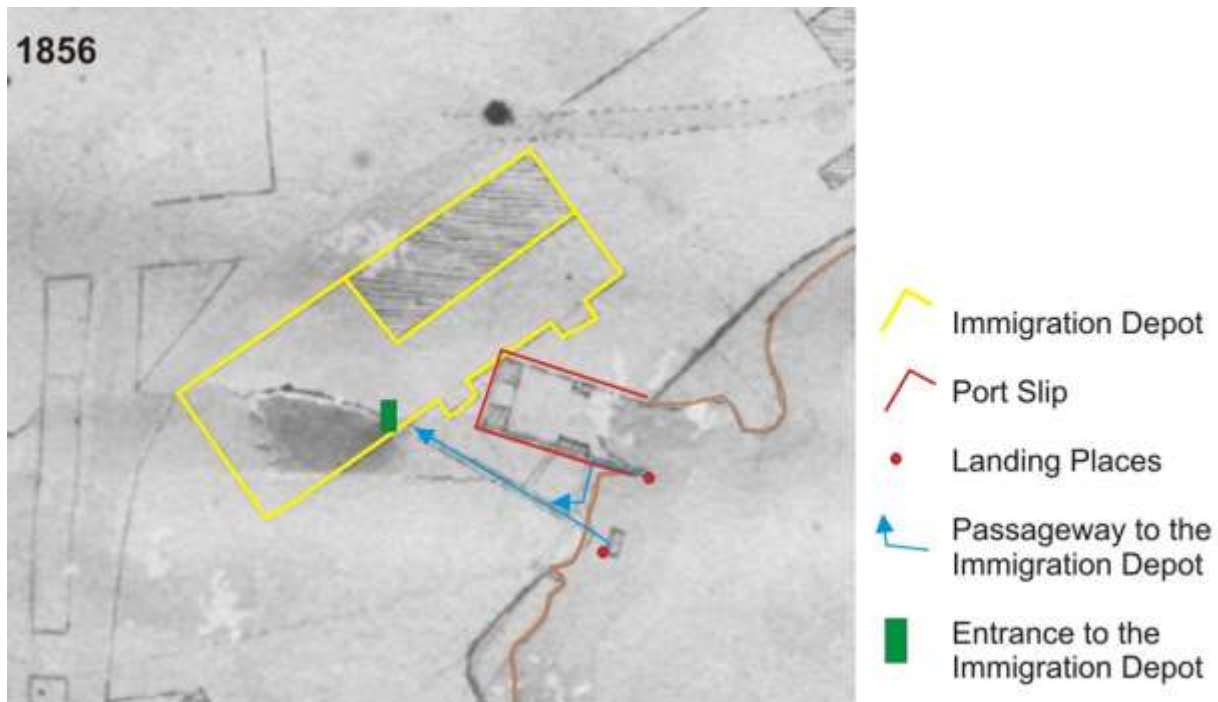


Figure 4: Immigration Depot in 1856

- **1860-1866** are the years during which the largest extension of the Depot takes place;

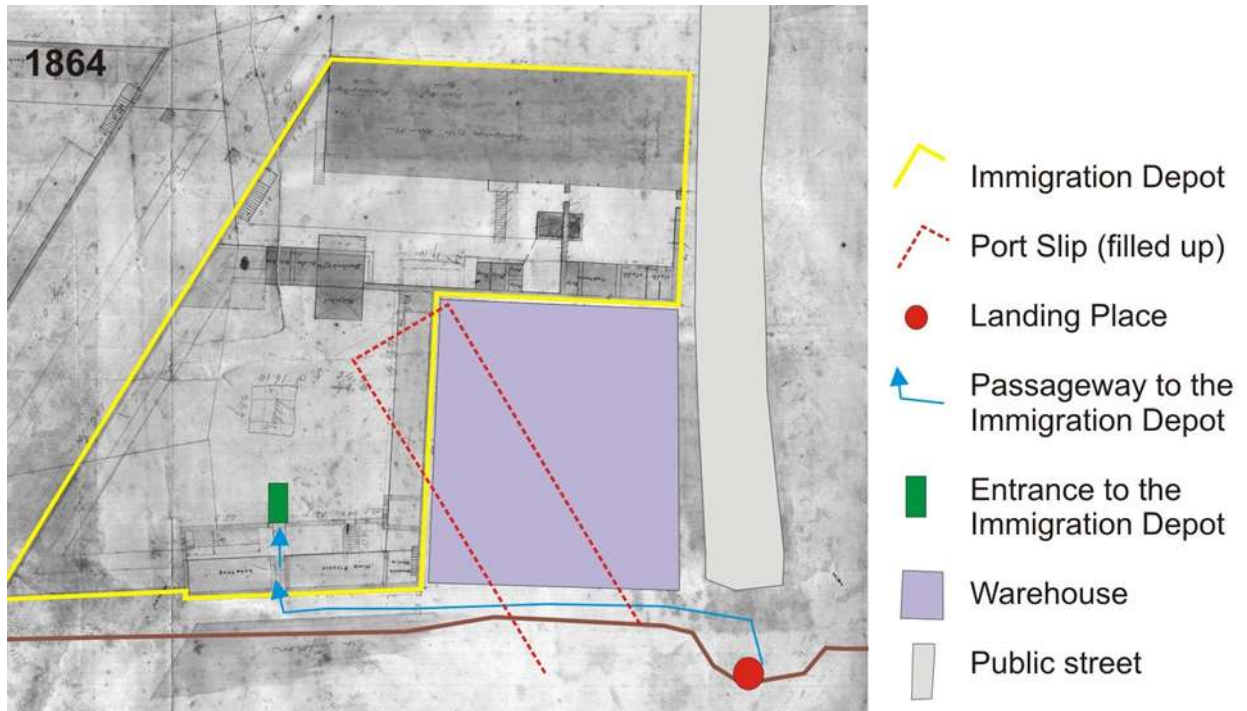


Figure 5: Immigration Depot in 1864

- **1867-1988** mark the gradual disappearance of key architectural elements of the Depot with, finally, the construction of the motorway in 1988 that led to the destruction of 1/3 of the former Depot;



Figure 6: Location of the Immigration Depot in 1864 superimposed on contemporary urban context in Port Louis - 1989-2010 correspond to the conservation and preservation phase.

2.2.2. The character of the WHP and its regional context

The Aapravasi Ghat (or Core Zone) is flanked by some of the oldest buildings on the island and some of the oldest communities established in the Trou Fanfaron hinterland. Among these surviving structures are the Military Hospital built in 1740, the Post Office in 1868, the Central Market dating to 1848 and several old warehouses associated with the sugar industry. All represent the French and British colonial legacy of the island.

The Core Zone of every World Heritage Property has a statutory Buffer Zone. The Buffer Zone is declared as a legal entity in the Schedule of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act 2001, amended in 2006 and 2011. The Buffer Zone around Aapravasi Ghat is not only the statutory buffer or curtilage for the Core Zone containing the Immigration Depot; it is also an important historic urban landscape where the origins and memories of the evolution of the oldest portion of the city are recorded, alongside its port of Trou Fanfaron. As such, the remaining tangible and intangible heritage that is contained in the Buffer Zone must be protected and managed in its own right, as well as to provide a context for the Core Zone. The Statement of Significance provided for the Buffer Zone guides the type of development controls and guidelines attached to it²³.

²³ All details regarding the statement of significance and guidelines in the buffer zone are available in the Planning Policy Guidance 6: Urban Heritage Area – Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (2011). The document can be downloaded from the following link:



Figure 7: Map indicating the location of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zones

2.3. Significance of the World Heritage Property

2.3.1. Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The following retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was approved by the World Heritage Committee and the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):

“Located on the bay of Trou Fanfaron, in the capital of Port-Louis, the Aapravasi Ghat is the remains of an immigration depot, the site from where modern indentured labour Diaspora emerged. The Depot was built in 1849 to receive indentured labourers from India, Eastern Africa, Madagascar, China and Southeast Asia to work on the island’s sugar estates as part of the ‘Great Experiment’. This experiment was initiated by the British Government, after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1834, to demonstrate the superiority of ‘free’ over slave labour in its plantation colonies. The success of the ‘Great Experiment’ in Mauritius led to its adoption by other colonial powers from the 1840s, resulting in a world-wide migration of more than two million indentured labourers, of which Mauritius received almost half a million.

The buildings of Aapravasi Ghat are among the earliest explicit manifestations of what would become a global economic system. The Aapravasi Ghat site stands as a major historic testimony of indenture in the 19th century and is the sole surviving example of this unique modern Diaspora. It represents not only the development of the modern system of contractual labour, but also the memories, traditions and values that these men, women and children carried with them when they left their countries of origin to work in foreign lands and subsequently bequeathed to their millions of descendants for whom the site holds great symbolic meaning”.²⁴

2.3.2. Criterion

The Aapravasi Ghat was inscribed under criterion (vi):

“Aapravasi Ghat, as the first site chosen by the British Government in 1834 for the ‘great experiment’ in the use of indentured, rather than slave labour, is strongly associated with memories of almost half a million indentured labourers moving from India to Mauritius to work on sugar cane plantations or to be transhipped to other parts of the World”.²⁵

²⁴Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, Decision: 37 COM 8E, 37th session of the World Heritage Committee, Phnom Penh, 16 - 27 June 2013 2013, WHC-13/37.COM/20, Paris, 5 July 2013.

²⁵Decision 30 COM 8B.33, UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its 30th session of the World Heritage Committee, 12-16 July 2006, Vilnius Lithuania.

2.3.3. Integrity

The setting of the property was altered by the construction of a road that cuts across it. At present, less than half of the Immigration Depot area as it existed in 1865, survives. However, original structural key components pertaining to the arrival of indentured labourers still stand. These include the remains of the sheds for the housing of the immigrants, kitchens, lavatories, a building used as a hospital block and highly symbolical flight of 16 steps upon which all immigrants had to lay foot before entering the immigration depot. However, the property is under the pressure of development in the Buffer Zone and the enforcement of the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 6 curbs unregulated initiatives²⁶.

2.3.4. Authenticity

The property represents the place where indentured immigrants first arrived in Mauritius. Archival and architectural drawings of the complex at the time of its alteration in 1864-1865 give evidence of its purpose as an immigration depot. The surviving buildings reveal significant aspects of the history of the indentured labour system and the functioning of the immigration depot.

While there was little detailed documentation of works undertaken prior to 2003²⁷, the conservation project (2004-2010) including the removal of the undesirable additions of the 1990s, was based on archaeological investigation and detailed archival documentation, including the complete set of drawings of the Immigration Depot at the time of the complex's remodelling in 1864-1865.

Prior to the launching of the recent conservation work and restoration work two technical reports for conservation were prepared respectively in December 2003 and May 2004 by members of ICOMOS-India. Complete photographic documentation as well as architectural documentation of the site were undertaken before initiating the conservation works, and during the conservation process, all compiled as part of the periodic conservation reports of the property.

²⁶ The Action Area Plan (AAP 01) issued in 2019 under the sections 14 and 15 of the Planning and Development Act (PDA) 2004 also provides for a vision for the sustainable development of the area and its related actions.

²⁷Reference is made to the governmental project of 'Promenade' inaugurated in 1996 that led to the conversion of the former immigration depot into a 'lieu de memoire'. The works undertaken as part of this project was considered to affect the significance of the World Heritage Site. The conservation project initiated in 2004 led to the removal of the modifications and alterations made to the site as part of the Promenade Project.

2.4. Other cultural heritage and historic environment values

The Buffer Zone is located in the Bay of Trou Fanfaron which can be described as a key historical landmark. This is where immigrants landed in their new country: slaves, indentured labourers and the ancestors of the many other groups that forged present day Mauritian society. As the country's prime harbour it is easy to understand why the City of Port Louis has developed with Trou Fanfaron as the physical core from where the city expanded through the centuries. The heart of Trou Fanfaron is Aapravasi Ghat and one that together with the harbour defines the essence of Port Louis.



Figure 8: Map indicating the heritage buildings in the surroundings of the World Heritage Property

The Buffer Zone of the AGWHP covers an area of cultural significance for the history of the Immigration Depot as nearly 70% of the Depot was located in this area before its destruction in the 20th century.

The archaeological excavations conducted as part of the development of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre between 2009 and 2012 led to a better understanding of the harbour area's development in the age of indenture. The research revealed that as from the end of the 1840s, the British colonial authorities undertook actions to set up facilities in the area where the immigration depot is located, dedicated to the sugar industry. This side of the Trou Fanfaron basin is reorganised to accommodate the Immigration Depot (1849) bringing workforce to work in the sugar plantations and to store sugar for exportation in warehouses constructed next to the Depot in the late 1850s and 1860s.

Today, the visual and historical links are preserved between the Core Zone (CZ) and the BZs of the AG as evidence of common historical evolution. As from late 1840s, the increasing immigration to Mauritius and expansion of port activities resulted in the development of commercial activities in the area, providing materials and goods for the daily running of the Immigration Depot. As such, the surroundings of the CZ have been a centre of trade, commerce and other cultural expressions for more than two centuries, making it a place of strong interaction between people of various cultural backgrounds.

These traditions and practices have survived up to now: merchant property owners have continued to operate in the BZs from the indenture period to date. The continuity in land use is also coupled with the continuity in the nature of commercial activities in the BZs, stressing the existence of long commercial and ownership tradition evocative of the port activities and of the indenture period, together with cultural activities or intangible heritage that accompany this land use.

The intangible heritage is associated with several monuments listed as National Heritage, relating to the French (1715-1810) and British (1810-1968) periods, the remaining significant historic architectural examples of administrative and port buildings, shops, residences and religious places, as well as significant historic urban streetscapes, nodes and places. As such, the BZs present significant examples of the evolution of Mauritian colonial architecture and urbanism which stand as the legacy of the colonial past and as places of shared history erected by slaves, convicts and indentured labourers during the colonial periods.

2.5. Attributes of the World Heritage Property

Attributes are physical elements, and tangible or intangible aspects or processes of the property that make manifest the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)²⁸. The objective is to ensure the protection and enhancement of the attributes of the World Heritage Property when they support the expression of the Outstanding Universal Value as defined in the Convention concerning the safeguarding of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of UNESCO (1972) that Mauritius ratified in 1995.

As stated in UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention²⁹, attributes are expressed through:

- form and design;
- materials and substance;
- use and function;
- traditions, techniques and management systems;
- location and setting;
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage;
- spirit and feeling; and
- other internal and external factors.

The OUV of the World Heritage Property resides in the Aapravasi Ghat Immigration Depot being the symbol of the modern indenture system experimented in Mauritius and adopted throughout the world's colonies and countries after its successful implementation in Mauritius.

As the setting in which the World Heritage Property has evolved through time, the buffer zones of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AGWHP) were delimited to preserve the OUV of the AGWHP taking into account the historic setting of the urban landscape and activities around this harbour area.

The Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property's Buffer Zone is a discreet heritage rich area with a specific urban character that has to be protected, managed and controlled differently from other sectors and precincts of the city of Port Louis. A well-protected and managed heritage site will benefit the city and country as a whole.

²⁸ The Outstanding universal value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.

²⁹ See Section II.E entitled 'Integrity and/or authenticity', Article 82, page 27, 2017.

The attributes expressing the OUV are the following:

1. The Core Zone of the World Heritage Property and parts of it that were destroyed through time;
2. The colonial harbour of Port Louis;
3. Port Louis as a city of migration;
4. Port Louis's typical architecture;
5. The heritage of the sugar industry;
6. The legacy of indenture.

Values	Attributes	Physical elements and spaces	Intangible elements, memory and the sense of place
The immigration depot as the symbol of 19 th international indenture migration	1. Core Zone of the World Heritage Property and parts of it that were destroyed through time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preserved remains of the Immigration Depot; - The remains of the former wharf and associated infrastructures; - Immigration square; - Parc à boulets; - Part of the ex-Military Hospital (STC Building or future Galerie d'Art national); - Section of the motorway along the hospital block (former immigration office); - The spaces connecting the Depot to the city and to the port; - The area covered by the sea; - The view corridors between the immigration square and the AG WHP. 	Transitory space between the country of origin and the future places of settlement
The successful development of infrastructures allowing the migration of indentured labourers on a large scale	2. The colonial harbour of Port Louis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trou Fanfaron Basin; - Access infrastructure and connections to ships and dinghies; - The remains of the colonial harbour including dry docks, delimitation and retention walls, drains, wharfs, the granary; - Connecting access to the city centre; - Quay Street and Pasteur Street as connection between harbour and city; - Urban landscape and the city's topography around the harbour including circulation patterns; - Urban landscape resulting from colonial organisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigration landscape: the area as a connecting node between Port Louis and the plantations; - Port viewsapes.

Values	Attributes	Physical elements and spaces	Intangible elements, memory and the sense of place
The qualities of the colonial harbour located on international commercial routes allowing the full expression of the indentured migration	3. Port Louis as a city of migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship with the sea as an interface with the city; - View corridors between the city and the harbour; - Urban access connecting the harbour to the city centre; - Customs area; - Port Louis Waterfront; - Ex-Military hospital; - Jummah mosque; - Central market; - Trou Fanfaron Police Station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whole Port Louis as a Colonial port city (beyond its physical harbour) conceived as the unique port of call for arrivals and departures; - Trou Fanfaron Basin as the cradle of Mauritian society.
Port Louis as a node of migration resulting in diverse cultural influences inherited from the constant cultural interactions with the wider world including the indenture migration contributing significantly as the most important migration in number	4. Port Louis's typical architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graded buildings in the buffer zone; - Landmarks (ref. PPG6); - National Heritage sites; - Creole townhouses; - Old basalt and stone warehouses; - Traditional shops; - Farquhar Street; - China Town; - Historic pavements and drains; - Connecting green spaces and gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration of Indentured labourers' influence in a multicultural city; - The daily life of a market city as a binding social element.
The needs of the sugar industry have triggered the experiment of a new system of recruitment after slavery was abolished	5. The heritage of the sugar industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban network: connecting the harbour with the city and the immigration depot; - Cerné Docks; - BRIC 1; - Rail tracks, rail network and its operational facilities (Train Stations including Victoria Station; trains' depot at Caudan). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Port's perception as the landmark ensuring the economic viability of the colony; - The port as the connection point with the outside world; - Railway service and harbour's workforce memory.

Values	Attributes	Physical elements and spaces	Intangible elements, memory and the sense of place
The nature of the indentured migration in Mauritius as the sole explicit expression of the large scale recruitment system replicated around the world	6. The legacy of indenture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures and elements related to Street food sale; - Craft workshops; - Street shops; - Religious places; - Continuity in land use and cityscape use; - Remaining infrastructures serving the functioning of the indentured system including, but not limited to, the Quarantine station at Flat Island, the Vagrant Depot at GRNW and associated local depots; - Heritage associated with indenture on former sugar estates including, but not limited to, the Old Labourers' quarters at Trianon, vestiges at Forbach, Barlow (Antoinette). - Tangible and intangible Heritage associated with the culture and traditions of indentured labourers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memories of sugar plantations and camps; - All marks of integration in the Mauritian society; - Street food variety as the expression of multicultural migrants' influence and; - Religious and cultural traditions; - Hawkers' tradition; - Traditional practises such as craftsmanship; - Traditional dress; - Languages; - Oral traditions; - Toponymy.

Assessment of the vulnerability of the attributes

Attributes	Socio-economic stresses	Impact of climate change
1.The Core Zone of the World Heritage Property and parts of it that were destroyed through time	High	Medium
2. The colonial harbour of Port Louis	High	Medium
3. Port Louis as a city of migration	High	Medium
4. Port Louis's typical architecture	High	Medium
5. The heritage of the sugar industry	High	Medium
6. The legacy of indenture	High	Medium

3. PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND ITS SETTING

3.1. Management of the WHP and its BZ

The managerial system in place for the World Heritage Property was established in 2006 and developed further in the Management Plan 2013-2018. This system – depicted in part 1 - is maintained in the present Management Plan. It includes a Consultative Committee to ensure broad-based involvement in the management of the WHP.

This section addresses objectives and actions to further consolidate the managerial system in place. The developments in the last fifteen years have shown that committees may not meet on a regular basis but rather when the need arise considering that their responsibilities and scope may be covered within another mechanism (ad hoc meetings, formal meetings etc.) while meeting the objectives and mandate of the Management Plan Committee. This can be explained by the structure and procedures existing within the Ministries or governmental departments involved in the implementation of the Management Plan. The role of the committees in charge of the WHP and the BZ was defined as part of the Management Plan 2013-2018 and are maintained³⁰.

3.2. Management bodies in the Management Plan

The Management Plan 2006 established a managerial system for the World Heritage Property.

The **World Heritage Site Steering Committee (WHSSC)** chaired by the Prime Minister is the committee that heads the overall management system.

³⁰ Details are available in the Annex 2.

The **Management Plan Committee**(MPC) chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage is the committee overarching the preparation, the monitoring and the implementation of the Management Plan and of the Action Area Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

The MPC receives the recommendations of the **Core Zone Management Committee** (CZMC) and the **Buffer Zone Management Committee** (BZMC) for consideration. The CZMC is responsible for all activities within the CZ and is mandated to ensure effective management of the WHP.

The BZMC was established to implement the Management Plan in the Buffer Zone. Proposal was made in the part 2 of the Management Plan (2013-2018) to consolidate the role and leadership of the BZMC in line with the managerial framework established for the Buffer Zone in 2011. The present document opted for the retention of the framework proposed in the Management Plan 2013-2018 while proposing to reinforce the BZMC with a meeting on a quarterly basis (instead of once a year) given development projects taking place in BZ.

Provision is made through the **Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee** (STAC) to constitute groups of experts to provide advice and assistance on specific issues. STACs are constituted to address specific assignments: the STAC is dissolved when the assignment is completed. The various STACs produce recommendations to advise the CZMC, the BZMC, the MPC and the WHSSC.

The community is consulted through the **Consultative Committee** (CC). The objective is to inform and consult the community on the conservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone.

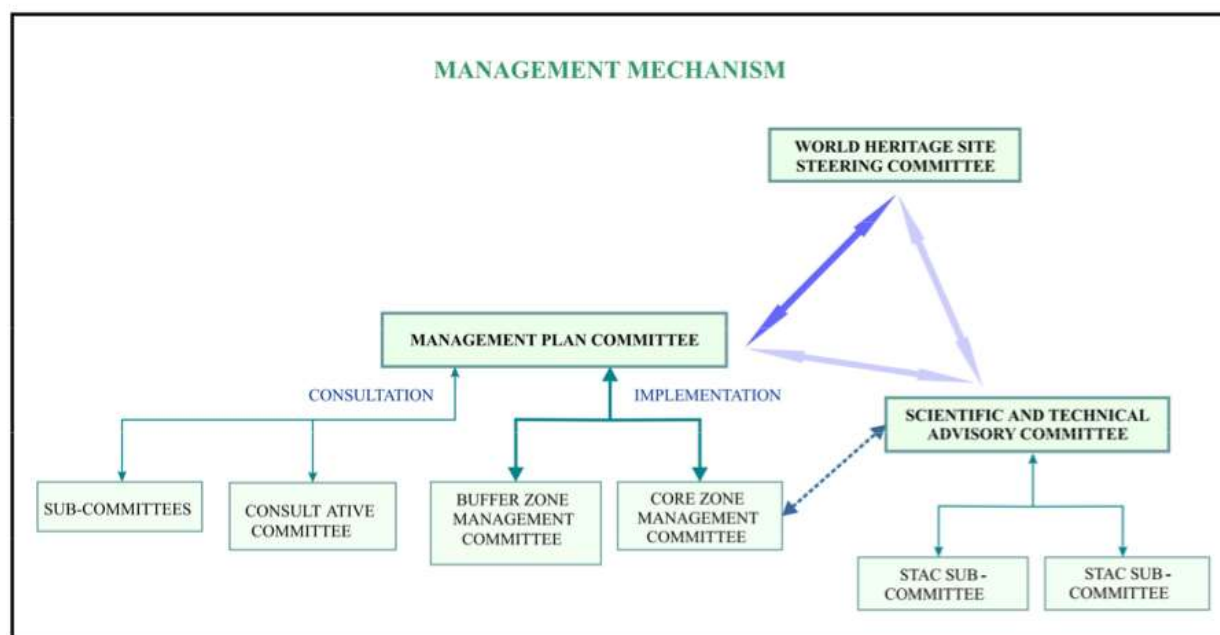


Figure 9: Managerial mechanism established by the Management Plan 2006

The diagram below presents the managerial system in place.

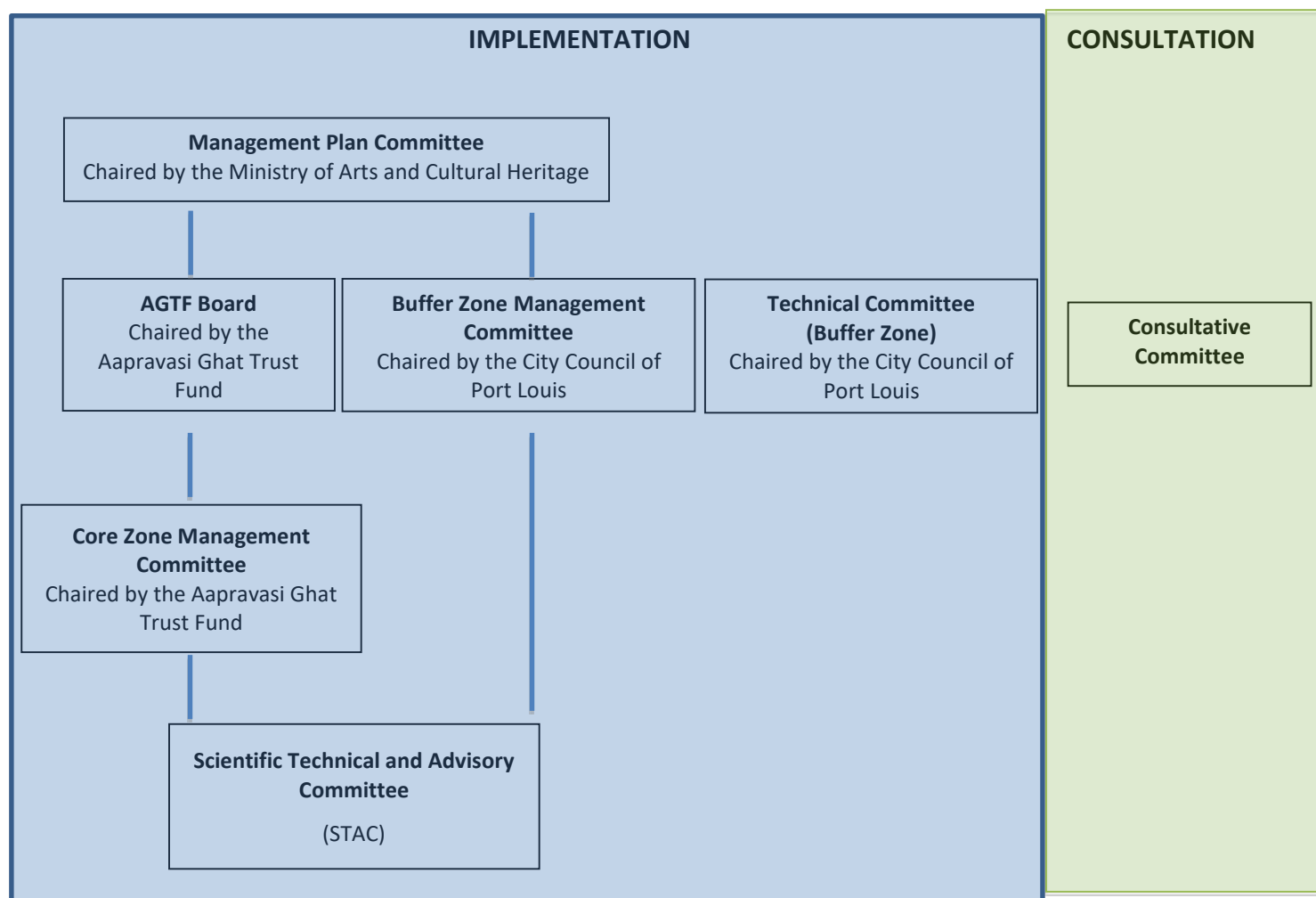


Figure 10: Diagram showing the management mechanism for the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone

3.3. The role of the Management Plan Committee (MPC)

Provision was made in the Management Plan 2006 for the creation of a **Management Plan Committee**. The Management Plan Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage, also representative of the State Party to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. Ultimately, the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage refers matters to the Cabinet of Ministers if they require the endorsement of the Government of Mauritius.

As chair of the MPC, the parent Ministry is responsible for:

- reporting to government;
- reporting to the World Heritage Centre;

- the allocation and monitoring of funds; and
- monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the Management Plan.

The prime role of the Management Plan Committee - as defined by the Management Plan 2006 - is to 'monitor the implementation of the Management Plan'. The MPC is also in charge of its review in accordance with the World Heritage framework. Both implementation and review of the MP imply that the decisions taken by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee on Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property be considered and addressed³¹.

When required, the UNESCO may make recommendations to the State Party regarding the World Heritage Property. It is therefore required to measure the impact that the decisions of UNESCO may have on the role of stakeholders and propose actions addressing these recommendations. The decisions of the WHC would need to be discussed at the level of the Management Plan Committee. The MPC would therefore need to meet at least twice a year and especially when the recommendations of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee are issued.

The mandate of the MPC was defined as follows as part of the Management Plan (2013-2018):

- Monitor, review and reformulate (if necessary) critical management policies for the AG WHS Management Plan and its implementation;
- Take decisions regarding the implementation of the Management Plan and the management of the World Heritage Property based on the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and other international and local sub-committees;
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Management Plan;
- Monitor the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property and discuss any threats that may affect the World Heritage Property;
- Consolidate or elaborate further policies and guidance to ensure the retention of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property;
- Monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and of the World Heritage Committee's decisions;
- Discuss management issues and promote integrated management;
- Direct the review the Management Plan and update the plan regularly in accordance with the international principles and guidelines of UNESCO and ICOMOS;
- Provide a forum for debating the key issues and management priorities addressed in the plan; and
- Guide government bodies in their respective projects in the Buffer Zone.

³¹ The Decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee regarding the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property are enclosed at Annex 3.

In addition to these key tasks, the Management Plan Committee is entrusted to act as a steering and coordination agency to implement the Action Area Plan for the buffer zone as follows pending the setting up of a dedicated agency to execute and monitor the Action Area Plan (AAP 01):

- Monitor the implementation of the AAP 01;
- Assess and make recommendations regarding large scale development projects;
- Examine and assess Cultural Heritage Impact Statement /Heritage Impact Assessment / Visual Impact Assessment;
- Coordinate large scale development projects within the precinct of the World Heritage Property and make recommendations thereon; and
- Advise on the development in the Buffer Zones of the World Heritage Property.

The MPC has a crucial role: it monitors, evaluates and reports on the implementation of the Management Plan and of the AAP 01. The MPC should establish a yearly plan of meetings that could also include the nature of the issues to be discussed. In addition, the MPC should encourage the committees to develop tools helping the monitoring of their actions and results.

3.4. Managing the World Heritage Property

The Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property is the property of the Government of Mauritius. It is protected as a National Heritage³² under the National Heritage Fund Act 2003 and the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act 2001 (amended 2006³³ and 2011). In 2006, the Aapravasi Ghat was granted the World Heritage Status established by the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972)³⁴. As such, the World Heritage Property is managed within a managerial framework requiring the respect of heritage principles addressed in the charters and other texts of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

In 2001, the Mauritian Government set up a dedicated institution, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF), to document, manage and promote the Aapravasi Ghat as a national and international heritage site. The AGTF is a parastatal body that operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

³²The Aapravasi Ghat was declared a National Heritage in 1987 with the publication of the notice No. 31 in the Government Gazette of Mauritius No.22 of 11th April 1987. The notice indicates the addition of the 'Coolie Ghat and the remaining part of the structure comprising it' in the schedule of the National Monuments Act of 1985, amended in 1997 and 2003 to become the National Heritage Fund Act. The 'Coolie Ghat' became the 'Aapravasi Ghat' in 1989 as per the decision of the government to better reflect the significance of the site and remove the term 'Coolie' considered as derogatory. A definition of the term 'National Heritage' is available in the glossary.

³³ AGTF Act was amended in 2006 "to establish, administer, manage, promote and maintain the Aapravasi Ghat as a national, regional and international heritage site".

³⁴All the documents and reports related to the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property can be consulted online: <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/1227/documents/>

The administrative and technical units of the AGTF act upon the decisions taken by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Board. The Board meets once a month to consider the recommendations of the committees for the management, administration and promotion of the World Heritage Property. The Board takes the decisions while the committees advise the Board.

The Trust Fund was mandated to:

- “(a) to establish, administer, manage, promote and maintain the Aapravasi Ghat as a national, regional and international heritage site;
- (b) to preserve, restore and manage the Aapravasi Ghat and related sites;
- (c) to set up a museum and create public awareness of the history of indentured labour;
- (d) to promote the social and cultural aspects of the Aapravasi Ghat and related sites;
- (e) to encourage and support projects and publications related to the indentured labour;
- (f) to establish links with appropriate national, regional and international organisations in line with the objects of the Act;
- (g) to identify and acquire sites, buildings and structures associated with indentured labour;
- (h) to encourage and support interdisciplinary scientific research related to indentured labour and to the Aapravasi Ghat and related sites”.³⁵

The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund is responsible for the day-to-day management of the World Heritage Property. The Board of the Trust Fund is composed of 16 members as follows:

- “a Chairperson, to be appointed by the Minister;
- a Vice-Chairperson, to be appointed by the Minister;
- a representative of the Prime Minister’s Office;
- a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of finance;
- a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of arts and cultural heritage;
- a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of education;
- a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of tourism;
- a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture of the Republic of India;
- a representative of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute;
- a representative of the National Heritage Fund; and

³⁵Extract of section 4 entitled ‘Objects of Fund’, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act (2001, amended 2006 and 2011).

- 6 representatives of non-governmental organisations having wide experience in the social and cultural life of Mauritius, to be appointed by the Minister”.³⁶

A Technical and Research Unit elaborates, manages, implements and monitors the projects related to the protection, conservation, documentation and promotion of the World Heritage Property with the support of international experts on specific projects.

The administrative unit provides support in the implementation process of the projects. The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund now regroups a total of 47 staff members in 2019.

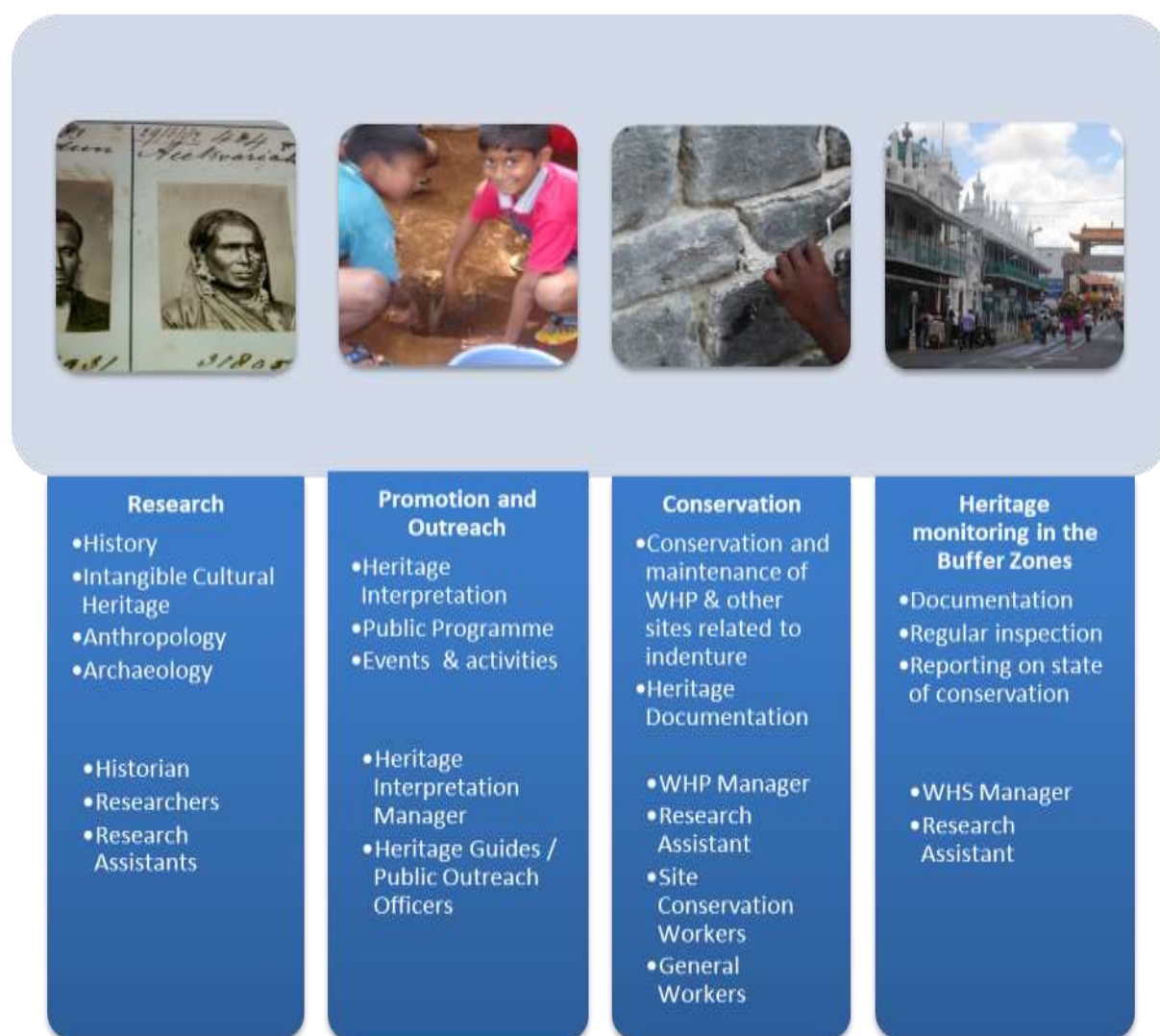


Figure 11: Diagram showing the scope and composition of the Research and Technical Unit per sub-department

³⁶Extract of section 5 entitled 'Board', Ibid.

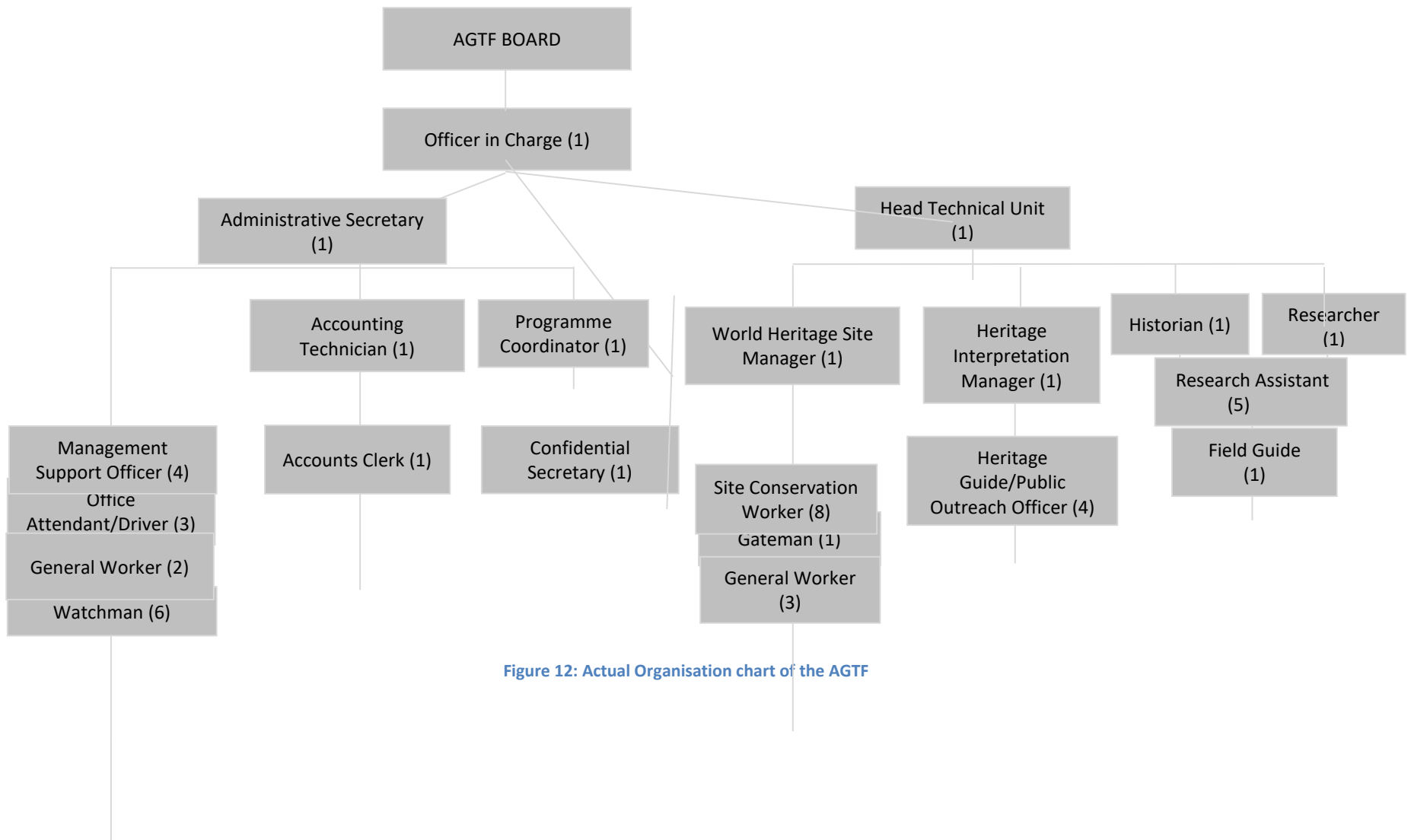


Figure 12: Actual Organisation chart of the AGTF

3.5. Conservation of the World Heritage Property

3.5.1. Conservation and maintenance policy

A Conservation Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2006, which has largely been implemented and is now superseded by the current Management Plan. The document states the conservation strategy and policy adopted for the conservation of the World Heritage Property. The conservation, safeguard and maintenance of the World Heritage Property follow the principles and guidelines addressed in the charters and other documents of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

Regarding the maintenance of the World Heritage Property, the Conservation Plan states that the maintenance policy should abide by the following principles:

“It is indispensable to have an effective detailed structure wide system for planning, approving and undertaking maintenance and repair work. One team, in consultation with ICOMOS consultants, is responsible for – and ensures that – all work is undertaken to an agreed standard of the Burra Charter and ICOMOS Charter for conservation, that is commensurate with the importance of the building.

The Aapravasi Ghat immigration depot is recognized as being of international significance because of its uniqueness. Hence, a complete change in the approach to safeguarding the Aapravasi Ghat is essential. The historic fabric must be retained and any work undertaken on any element of the building must identify and be sympathetic with the nature, materials and workmanship of the original construction of the building.”

(Conservation Plan, 2006: 71)

3.5.2. The conservation and maintenance of the Core Zone

The Conservation Project of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund was initiated in 2004 and ended in 2010 with the view to restore the integrity of the site and conserve the features for future generations. The Conservation Project process followed the stages stated below:

- (i) Conservation and consolidation of the archaeological features;
- (ii) Removal of all modern and incompatible materials which were used during the renovation carried out in the late 1990's;
- (iii) Use of original and genuine materials;
- (iv) Revival and use of traditional construction techniques based on archival records; and
- (v) Restoring and conserving the significant features of the property.

Detailed information on the Conservation Project is available in the Conservation reports³⁷.

Since the completion of the Conservation Project, a maintenance plan is implemented and monitored by a World Heritage Site Manager, Site Conservation Workers and General Workers. Their role is to document, implement and monitor operations conducted for the preservation and conservation of the World Heritage Property. The operations at World Heritage Property respond to the standards defined by ICOMOS charters and are monitored by external consultants to benefit from the expertise of a Conservation Architect and Conservation Engineer. The consultants work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Site Manager. The planning, implementation and monitoring are the responsibility of the World Heritage Site Manager who reports to the Head Technical Unit.

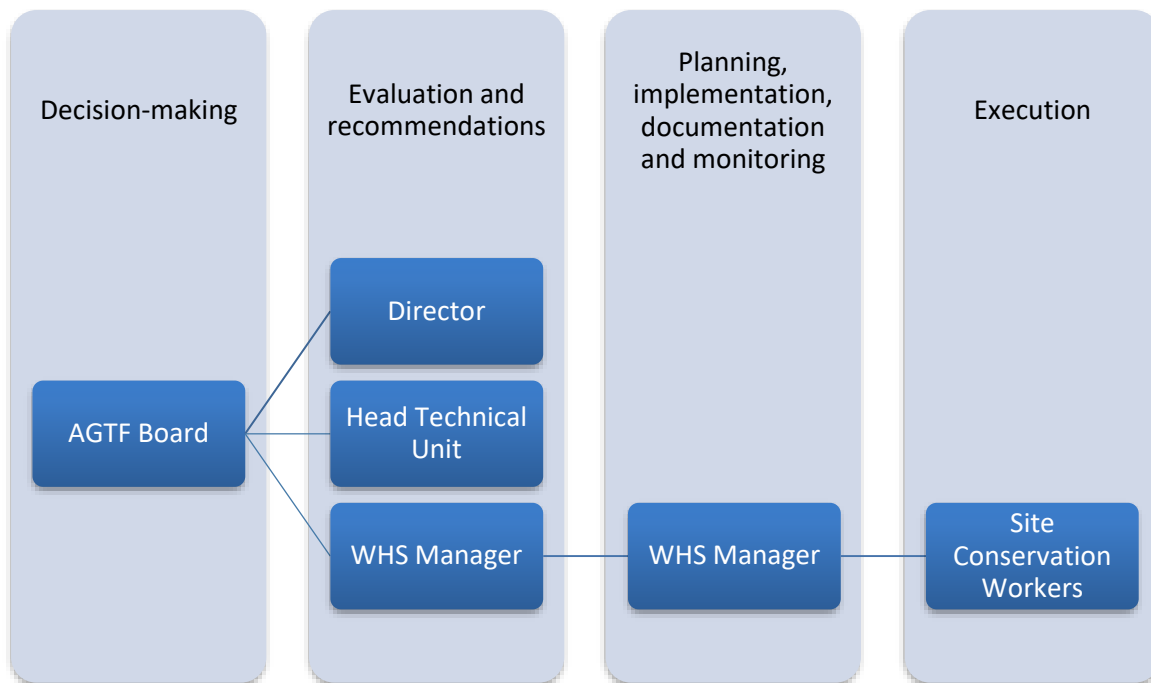


Figure 13: Diagram showing the managerial system in place at AGTF for the conservation of the Core Zone

3.5.3. The Core Zone Management Committee

Technical issues are discussed during the AGTF Core Zone Management Committee (or Technical Committee) which addresses its recommendations to the Board for consideration. The Board of the AGTF and the Director are designated for decision-making based upon the reports of the Head Technical Unit and the World Heritage Site Manager.

³⁷The Conservation Reports can be consulted at the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, 1 Quay Street, Port Louis.

For the management of the Aapravasi Ghat, the Core Zone Management Committee was established in 2006 to take the responsibility of ‘all the activities within the Core Zone’. This committee chaired by the AGTF meets on average once a month.

The opening of the Interpretation Centre changed the way the World Heritage Property was managed until 2014. The **Core Zone Management Committee** is composed of the Director³⁸, the Head Technical Unit, the World Heritage Site Manager, the Heritage Interpretation Manager and other members of staff involved in the daily management, seat on the committee with the responsibility to manage the World Heritage Property on a daily basis.

The role of the Core Zone Management Committee is to:

- implement the yearly objectives set by the Board for the preservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its interpretation centre;
- make recommendations to improve the daily monitoring and management of the World Heritage Property and the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre; and
- report on the daily management and monitoring of the World Heritage Property and its interpretation centre.

The Core Zone Management Committee establishes a plan of work and yearly objectives for every financial year that are approved by the Board.

Their undertakings may be supported by Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) for specific technical issues. Any person may be co-opted to assist the CZMC in its daily undertakings.

3.5.4. Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre

The setting up of an interpretation centre was defined as an object of the fund in the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act (2001; amended version 2006 and 2011) under section 4 (c): *“To set up a museum and create public awareness of the history of indentured labour.”*

It was also identified as objective 16 of the 2006 Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site Management Plan in the light of the *Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites* of UNESCO encouraging awareness raising and the enhancement of the *“function of World Heritage in the life of the community”* (Op. Guidelines, VI.A. 211; VI.C.).

The Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre (sometimes referred to here-in as the ‘Interpretation Centre’ or BRIC) was set up in 2014. It integrates all activities related to the promotion and visitor experience at the World Heritage Property.

³⁸ In absence of an appointed Director, the AGTF is managed by an Officer in Charge.

The Interpretation Centre is managed by a Heritage Interpretation Manager (HIM). The HIM reports to the Head Technical Unit. Heritage Guides / Public Outreach Officer receive visitors, conduct guided visits and educational activities.

3.6. Management and protection of the Buffer Zone

As defined by the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO, the World Heritage Property is surrounded by two Buffer Zones³⁹ managed by the City Council of Port Louis under the Local Government Act 2003 (amended 2011).

3.6.1. Legal framework

When the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2006, the Buffer Zone had no legal protection⁴⁰. The Buffer Zone was proclaimed a legal entity in June 2011 with the legal protection provided by:

1. The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act (amended 2006 and 2011) defining the boundaries of the Buffer Zones;
2. The Local Government Act 2003 (amended 2011) making provision for the creation of a system to monitor development in the Buffer Zones; and
3. The Planning Policy Guidance 6 - *Urban heritage area: Buffer Zone of Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property* (PPG 6) provides a set of planning guidelines in the Buffer Zone to orientate development towards the improvement and revitalization of the area which holds attributes associated to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property⁴¹.

Following the recommendations of the joint Advisory Mission to Mauritius in May 2018, an Action Area Plan (AAP 01)⁴² was prepared under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning to provide for integrated development in the buffer zone following the forthcoming implementation of several large scale projects. This document was approved by the Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning pursuant to section 19(2) of the Planning and Development Act (2004) and took effect as

³⁹ To ease general understanding, we refer to the “Buffer Zone” as a singular entity. However, the term “Buffer Zone” refers to the two Buffer Zones of the Aapravasi Ghat WHP as defined in the section no.2 entitled ‘Description and significance of the World Heritage Property’ in Part 1.

⁴⁰ Reference is made to Decisions of the World Heritage Committee at Annex 3.

⁴¹ The document is available online: <http://www.aapravasighat.org/English/Buffer%20Zone/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴² The document is entitled “Action Area Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property” (2019). The AAP 01 precedes over the Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis (2015). The document is available online:

http://housing.govmu.org/English/Documents/Quick%20Links/AAP1%20-%20Urban%20Heritage%20Area%20for%20the%20AGWHP.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1-2lhIJE9xuAICcHPQaEszOPK0vyfdMY6s_JWu_gN9LXym3Zu6k291zc

from the date of the publication of the notice⁴³ of its approval in the Government Gazette on 28 December 2019.

3.6.2. Managerial framework

Since 2011, four institutions are directly involved in the management, the protection and the promotion of the Buffer Zones namely⁴⁴:

1. Mauritius Ports Authority;
2. City Council of Port Louis;
3. Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund;
4. National Heritage Fund.

Managing the Port

Most of the Buffer Zones lying west of the Motorway, that is, Buffer Zone 1, the sea and the dry docks fall under the purview of the **Mauritius Ports Authority**, the body responsible for managing the Port and its surrounding area. This zone is also classified as a high security area.

Managing the City

The Buffer Zone 2 composed mainly of private owners and operators is managed by the **City Council of Port Louis**, the local authority responsible for monitoring development, maintenance and upkeep of the city of Port Louis, within which are found the Buffer Zones 1 and 2 of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.

The City Council of Port Louis is in charge of implementing the Planning Policy Guidance for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone. In addition, the Local Government Act 2011 was amended to set up a **Technical Committee** under the City Council of Port Louis. The Technical Committee is chaired by the City Council of Port Louis and also comprises representatives from:

- Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage;
- Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development;
- Ministry of Tourism;
- Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning;
- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change;
- Mauritius Ports Authority;
- National Heritage Fund; and
- Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund.

⁴³ It refers to the General Notice No.2086 of 2019 published in the Government Gazette of 28 December 2019.

⁴⁴ Contact details are available in the contact list at Annex 1.

The role of the Technical Committee⁴⁵ is to ensure the implementation of the Planning Policy Guidance for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone. This task is achieved through the assessment of all applications for Building and Land Use Permits in the Buffer Zone.

The Building and Land Use Permit was also made mandatory not only for the erection of new buildings but also for any demolition and change to any building or structure in the Buffer Zone when amending the Local Government Act 2011, as was the submission of a Cultural Heritage Impact Statement (CHIS) when applying for a Building and Land Use Permit. The application for development is processed by the City Council of Port Louis.

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) may also be requested by the Technical Committee in case the project goes beyond the guidelines of PPG 6. The Technical Committee has the mandate to examine the Cultural Heritage Impact Statement, Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment.

The Action Area Plan (AAP 01) also requires that a HIA and VIA be prepared for any development that would potentially have an impact on the attributes of the World Heritage Property⁴⁶.

The Management Plan includes “Planning guidelines for the Buffer Zone”⁴⁷ and “Guidelines to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)”⁴⁸ as guiding tools associated with the PPG 6 and the Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis. The Management Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property is a reference document for these planning documents and should be used concurrently.

⁴⁵The Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee is available in the annex 6.

⁴⁶ Refer to section 2.3 page 11 of the AAP 01.

⁴⁷ Please refer to Annex 4. These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the PPG 6, the OPS for Port Louis and the Action Area Plan adopted in 2019.

⁴⁸ Please refer to Annex 5. Further information is available on the website of the AGTF: www.aapravasighat.org

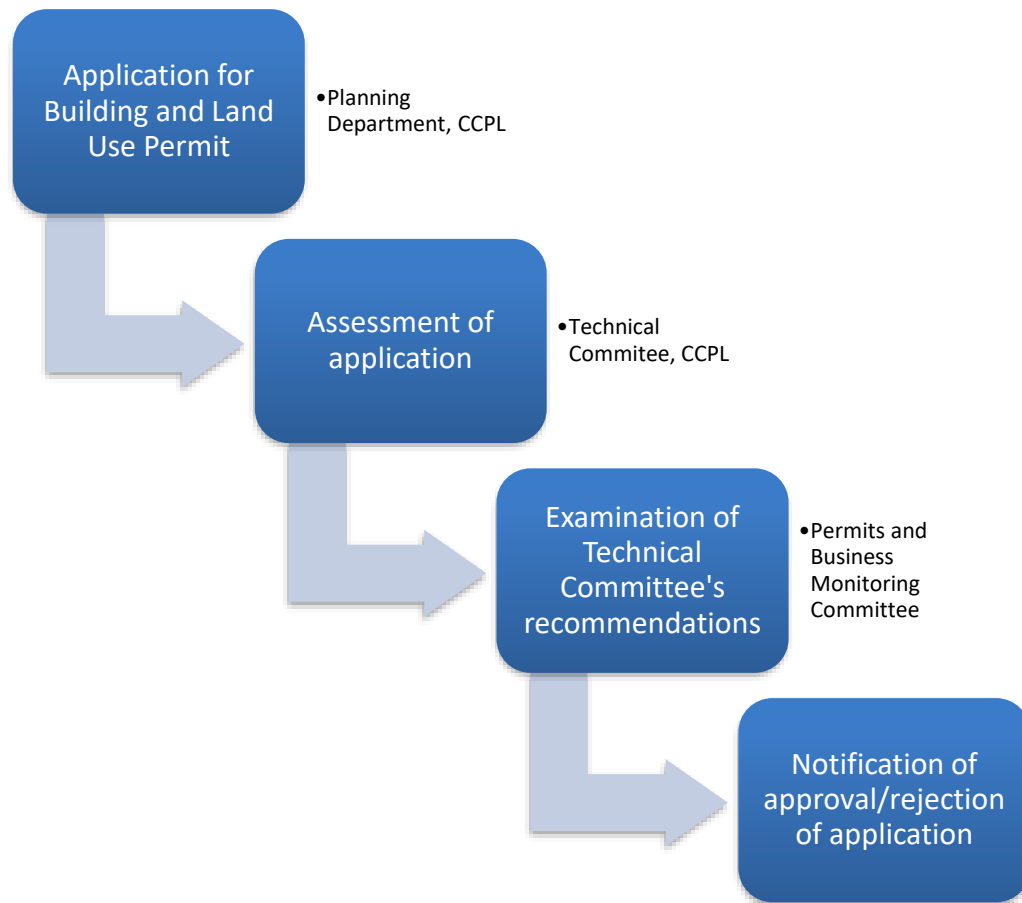


Figure 14: Diagram showing the process for applications for development in the Buffer Zone at the City Council of Port Louis.

Managing heritage

The buildings and monuments listed as National Heritage are protected under the National Heritage Fund Act 2003. In addition to National Heritage, several graded buildings must be added to the comprehensive inventory of heritage in the Buffer Zones.

The buildings, structures and places in the BZ are Graded to show their relative significance⁴⁹:

- Grade I resources are of exceptional significance (and include all National Monuments);
- Grade II resources are particularly important resources of more than special interest; and
- Grade III resources are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.

⁴⁹ Reference is made to Annex 8 regarding the criteria used to grade historic buildings and structures in the buffer zone.

In total, the Buffer Zone counts:

- 7 National Heritage (equivalent to Grade 1 building);
- 255 graded buildings catalogued⁵⁰, among which:
 - 63 were listed as Grade 1 buildings,
 - 38 as Grade 2 buildings; and
 - 34 as Grade 3 buildings
 - 113 as No Grade buildings.

The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and the National Heritage Fund are the two bodies responsible for the documentation and the monitoring of the heritage component in the Buffer Zone.

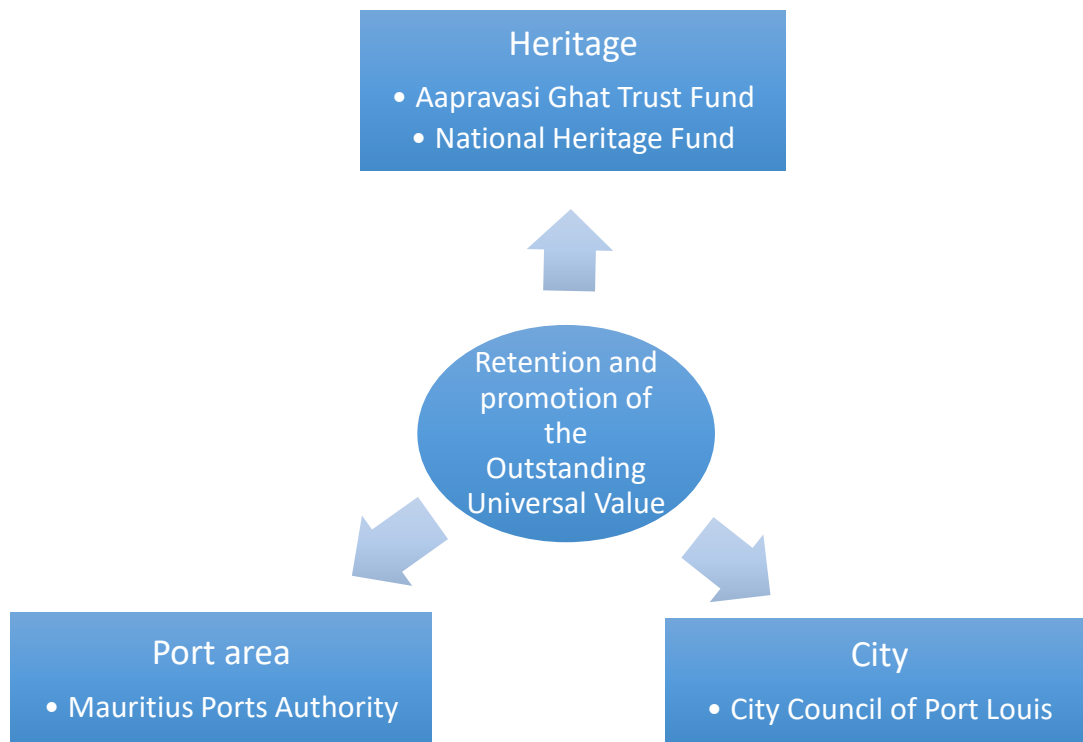
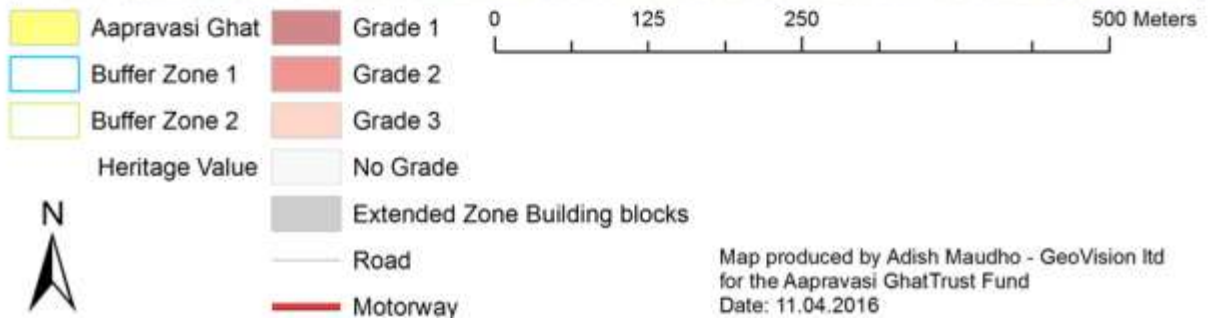


Figure 15: Diagram showing the area of responsibility of each institution in the maintenance and protection of the OUV of the World Heritage Property

⁵⁰The detailed list is available online on AGTF website: www.aapravasighat.org. The list is also available at the City Council of Port Louis and the National Heritage Fund. The list of graded buildings may vary upon regular review and heritage monitoring undertaken.



3.6.3. The Aapravasi Ghat WHP consultative groups

As part of the preparation process of the Planning Policy Guidance 6 and the Development Plan for the Buffer Zone (2011), a Consultative Committee met to discuss the issues related to the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone. The Consultative Committee comprises of members from the local community and governmental institutions. A total of 96 members are part of the Consultative Committee and take part in the process of consultations for issues related to the preservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its surroundings. It represents 3.2% of the total number of people working and living in the Buffer Zone.

The Management Plan established a Consultative Committee that meets every year at the time of the anniversary of the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List on 16 July 2006.

4. GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The Management Plan is the overarching document presenting the overall strategy for the conservation, management and the promotion of the World Heritage Property and its surroundings.

The framework for the World Heritage Property proposed in the Management Plan aims at improving and sustaining the management and protection of the setting of the World Heritage Property including part of the Port Area, the Central Business District of the Capital and the Historic Urban Landscape. To address further specific issues that may affect the World Heritage Property, the Management Plan is complemented by supporting documents addressing:

- visitor management;
- risk management;
- management mechanisms for the Buffer Zone;
- urban planning for the conservation of heritage and its revitalisation in the Buffer Zone;
- actions for the implementation of the vision for development; and
- measures for conservation management and enhancement.

The Visitor Management Plan (VMP)

The Visitor Management Plan aims at establishing a strategy for visitor management at the World Heritage Property and states measures to manage visitors and to mitigate visitor impact at World Heritage Property.

The Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP)

The Risk Preparedness Plan is a document stating the risks that may affect the World Heritage Property and addresses the measures to prevent and mitigate the risks identified at the World Heritage Property.

The Research Plan

The Research Plan was prepared in 2016 in order to address the strategy for research at World Heritage Property. The Research Plan is stating the research objectives and projects undertaken by the Research and Technical Unit.

The Heritage Management Guidelines (HMG)

The HMG provides further details regarding the management mechanisms and conservation principles for the Buffer Zones. This document was prepared in 2011 as a consultative document.

The Development Plan (DP)

The document describes an approach to development in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. Its purpose is to propose to all relevant stakeholders a way forward to realise the development potential of the Buffer Zone within the confines of a World Heritage Property. This document led to the preparation of the Local Economic Development Plan.

The Local Economic Development (LED) Plan

The Local Economic Development (LED) Plan aims at identifying effective instruments - including a set of financial and institutional tools - to allow a balanced and compatible development in the buffer zone and heritage value areas. The LED Plan identifies strengths and weaknesses for implementing a local economic development strategy based on the preservation and revitalisation of heritage and cultural assets of the city centre of Port Louis. The Plan defines a development scenario for the historic city of Port Louis and proposes tools to devise locally tailored strategies in cooperation with local, regional and international stakeholders and actors.

The Conservation Manual (CM)

The Conservation Manual was developed to provide guidelines for anyone planning development or undertaking building works in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. The objective is to support the architectural harmony in the area, enhance its authentic character and cultural coherence.

Both the Conservation Manual and the Heritage Management Guidelines are used together with the Planning Policy Guidance 6 – Urban Heritage Area – Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone – issued in June 2011 by the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning.

The Planning Policy Guidance 6 (PPG 6)

The main objective of the Planning Policy Guidance for Urban Heritage Area – Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (2011) is to define the planning framework for the World Heritage Property's buffer zone to encourage development in favour of the valorization and the preservation of heritage; and protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property.

The Action Area Plan (AAP 01)

The *Action Area Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property* (2019) is providing with an overarching vision for development in the zone and a framework to foster and implement development in an integrated and sustainable manner.



Figure 16: Diagram showing the documents related to the conservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its surroundings

5. FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE AGWHP

The primary objective of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund is to preserve, manage and promote the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. As such, the parastatal body is a non-profit-making organisation and is funded by Governments grants.

As a public body, the AGTF abides by the rules and regulations governing the allocation and use of public funds. The allocation of funds to AGTF is defined at the level of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage which receives the global grant for heritage, arts and culture from the Ministry of Finance. The recurrent and capital grants are allocated on the basis of the submission of the financial requirements for the functioning of the institution and a proposal for investment in projects.

Within the AGTF, funds are allocated for two budgets: the recurrent and the capital budgets. The recurrent budget encapsulates funds allocated to the recurrent items including wages, maintenance and other elements that are required on a recurrent basis. The capital budget refers to the sums invested in projects including defined financial and human resources for a limited duration.

The capital grant is allocated on the basis of an administrative process consisting in the submission of a budget proposal defining the human, material and financial resources required to conduct projects contributing to the conservation, maintaining and promotion of the Word Heritage Property. The budget proposal is submitted for approval and inclusion in the overall budget for heritage, arts and culture. Funds allocated are monitored by the AGTF under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

For projects requiring an investment higher than MUR 25,000,000, the project proposal is submitted by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage to the Public Investment Management Unit of the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development for evaluation. If the project is approved, it is submitted for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) regrouping the investment projects of the Government of Mauritius.

In the last ten years, the AGTF benefited from government financial support as follows:

Financial year	Recurrent grant (MUR)	Capital Grant (MUR)	Total (MUR)
2005-2006	4,500,000	8,000,000	12,500,000
2006-2007	4,275,000	5,500,000	9,775,000
2007 - 2008	7,070,000	5,000,000	12,070,000
2008-2009	9,200,000	5,500,000	14,700,000
Jul 09-December 2009	15,300,000	NIL	15,300,000
2010	12,000,000	8,000,000	20,000,000
2011	12,000,000	11,500,000	23,500,000
2012	12,000,000	6,000,000	18,000,000
2013	19,550,000	49,403,938	68,953,938
2014	26,700,000	17,800,000	44,500,000
2015	24,100,000	4,800,000	28,900,000
Jul 2016 – Jun 2017	38,032,150	1,000,000	39,032,150
Jul 2017 –Jun 2018	27,750,000	400,000	28,150,000
Jul 2018 – Jun 2019	29,200,000	400,000	29,600,000

Table 1: Table showing the funds allocated to AGTF by the Government of Mauritius

So far, the AGTF is not generating revenues. This is the reason why proposal is made to enforce entrance fees to the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre to support government expenses.

PART 2: KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The objective of the Management Plan is to ensure that the information related to heritage issues are shared and understood by all bodies involved in the management of the World Heritage Property (WHP). It provides a road map for the management of the WHP through a set of Strategic Objectives and actions that can be further expanded into a format that shows steps, deliverables, indicators, timelines and parties responsible for the different components of the plan⁵¹. Monitoring and evaluation, as formalised in a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, will form an integral part of management actions and should be an ongoing process. The ultimate goal of the Management Plan is to achieve the Vision described in part 1 for the World Heritage Property.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property will be maintained and promoted for future generations.

Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property will be a cultural landmark fostering urban heritage management and conservation in close interaction with the local community to support national unity and identity.

This section identifies issues requiring specific actions to succeed in implementing the Vision. To address these issues, objectives are proposed to guide each one involved with the World Heritage Property in the immediate, short and long term. In the part 3 of the Plan, these objectives are summarised in an Action Plan to help with their implementation.

1. MANAGING THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND ITS SETTING

The notion of World Heritage is relatively new in Mauritius. The Aapravasi Ghat was the first site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2006. Its inscription has led to develop an appropriate managerial framework through institutional and legal provision. The focus of this section is the consolidation and the improvement of the existing managerial system depicted in part 1.

The role of the Management Plan is to establish holistic and integrated management of the World Heritage Property. This is why the focus is on the involvement of all parties and the consolidation of the existing managerial mechanism and capabilities.

⁵¹ Reference is made to Part 3 of this Management Plan presenting the Action Plan.

1.1. Objectives 2020-2025

To this end, the following objectives were identified:

Managing the World Heritage Property

Objective 1: Endorse the Management Plan as the overarching document to manage, administer and promote the World Heritage Property in an integrated manner

A.1.1. Adopt the Management Plan

A.1.2. Establish yearly planning with targets

Objective 2: Consolidate the existing management system of the World Heritage Property and its setting to ensure effective and integrated management

A.2.1. Establish AGTF office near AG WHP

A.2.2. Consolidate the managerial framework for the Interpretation Centre

- Recruitment of additional staff
- Create a policy and a framework for the generation of funds
- To set up and retain a technical committee for BRIC

A.2.3. Managing heritage in the Buffer Zone

- Consolidate the role for the Technical Committee of the CCPL
- Consolidate the role for the Buffer Zone Management Committee
- Formalize the Technical Assistance mechanism for stakeholders
- Develop and consolidate capacity in heritage management and conservation
- Encourage participative conservation, management and promotion
- Provide with a simplified documentation to foster integrated management

1.2. Managing the World Heritage Property

1.2.1. Adopt the Management Plan

The World Heritage Convention requires that:

“Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means. The purpose of a management system is to ensure the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations.”⁵²

Considering the World Heritage Convention requirement, the Management Plan in its draft form is examined by the Management Plan Committee chaired by the parent Ministry prior to its submission to the Cabinet of Ministers for endorsement.

Once endorsed, the Management Plan stands as a mandatory document for the management and protection of the World Heritage Property stating the commitment of the State Party towards the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

1.2.2. Establish yearly planning with targets

The Monitoring and Evaluation system requires that committees establish a plan with defined targets for every financial year. Such a plan is a tool that guides the actions of the committees. At the same time, it helps appreciating the nature of difficulties that may be encountered in the implementation of the Management Plan.

As such, it assists the MPC in monitoring and evaluating the implementation performance of the Management Plan.

1.2.3. Establish AGTF office near AG WHP

The AGTF is the institution in charge of the daily management of the AG WHP. Since its creation, the AGTF was housed in buildings nearby the WHP in order to monitor daily conservation and activities at WHP.

In 2007, the AGTF moved to establish in the ex-Military Hospital, a National Monument used as offices by the government of Mauritius considering its proximity to the WHP. Since the announcement of the

⁵² *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Sections 108 and 109, WHC.17/01, 12 July 2017.

creation of the Intercontinental Slavery Museum in the ex-Military Hospital, the AGTF is seeking to move to a nearby building where its operations could continue at AG WHP.

The joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the Aapravasi Ghat (May 2018)⁵³ recommended that the only privately owned building in the immediate surroundings of the WHP called ‘Cerné Docks’ be acquired for the purpose of housing the AGTF offices and to establish the second phase of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre.

The AGTF would need to identify suitable potential locations nearby the World Heritage Property in order to ensure the continued efficiency of the institution in its mission to preserve, manage and promote the WHP, and undertake necessary process to settle the institution in a nearby location to the WHP.

1.2.4. Consolidate the managerial framework for the Interpretation Centre

1.2.4.1. RECRUITMENT OF ADDITIONAL STAFF

The Interpretation Centre is managed in line with the established framework and objectives: this structure requires a consolidated team dedicated to its daily running.

The AGTF created the post of “Heritage Interpretation Manager” in 2013. His role is to manage the Interpretation Centre on a daily basis under the guidance of the Core Zone Management Committee and AGTF Board.

The Heritage Interpretation Manager is assisted by “Heritage Guide / Public Outreach Officer”. The role of the Heritage Guide / Public Outreach Officer is to act as an interface with the public when implementing the public programme of activities at WHP.

The Heritage Guides / Public Outreach Officers conduct guided visits and educational activities. They implement actions for the promotion of BRIC and the WHP. As such, they are assisting in the implementation and promotion of the public programme under the supervision of the Heritage Interpretation Manager.

Since the opening of the Interpretation Centre in 2014, the daily operations have also revealed the need for increased resources in order to reinforce the team at BRIC. Considering the experience gained during its five years of operation, there would be a need to conduct an assessment of the current needs in terms of human resources in order to create or/and fill in the posts with the view to guarantee the quality of visitor experience in line with the expected cultural and economic dynamism of the Interpretation Centre.

⁵³The report can be consulted online: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/171739>



Figure 17: Diagram indicating the management process at BRIC

1.2.4.2. CREATE A POLICY AND A FRAMEWORK FOR THE GENERATION OF FUNDS

In the last five years, the operations at the interpretation centre have highlighted a potential to support government expenses with an increased number of visitors. Since its opening, the policy in place opted for an entrance free of charge at the Interpretation Centre and World Heritage Property. However, figures demonstrate a capacity to cover the actual expenses incurred for the daily running of the Interpretation Centre⁵⁴. The table hereunder provides an estimation of the funds that would have been raised based upon the number of visitors:

	Number of visitors	Estimates (MUR)
Year 2014 (Nov – Dec)	4,367	516,214
Year 2015	49,400	3,326,600
Year 2016	55,801	4,022,389
Year 2017	50,224	6,135,043
Year 2018	53,321	7,141,826
Year 2019	55,605	8,538,980
TOTAL	268,718	29,681,052

⁵⁴The actual expenditure including staff is MUR 3,125,179 per year.

Currently, the Trust Fund generates little funds raised by the sale of publications and donations as per the provision in the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act under section 6 (d): *‘to raise funds by subscriptions, donations, grants, gifts or loans and any such other means acceptable to the Board’*. However, the generation of these funds would deserve further attention so as to set up an appropriate framework - and potentially the amendment of the legislation – and a policy to examine how the Trust Fund could optimize its resources and generate or raise funds.

In order to optimize the existing facilities and opportunities offered by the Interpretation Centre, there is a need for a policy and framework regarding the generation of funds via entrance fees and sales at the shop. The Trust Fund may also consider the preparation of a fund raising plan for the World Heritage Property in order to secure financial resources if the need is felt.

A STAC involving key representatives would be in the best position to advise on the policy and framework to be set to generate funds in line with good governance and transparency and make recommendations to the Board for approval and implementation. The STAC would need to take into consideration the current development of a policy for entrance fees at Museums led by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

It is also important to think of achieving the goals set out in the business plan. A yearly plan with targets is essential to monitor the implementation of the business plan’s objectives. The plan will help monitoring and assessing the actions taken for their implementation. It is a tool providing clear actions for the staff over the year and help effective management of BRIC.

It is proposed that the Core Zone Management Committee monitors the yearly action plan for BRIC.

1.2.4.3. SET UP AND RETAIN A TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR BRIC

While the maintenance of the World Heritage Site is taken care of by the team of Site Conservation Workers under the supervision of the World Heritage Site Manager, the maintenance of the Interpretation Centre including IT and other equipment requires an expertise that is not available at the AGTF.

Considering this, a Technical Committee was set up to look into maintenance issues at BRIC with the view to provide recommendations from trained professionals. It is proposed to maintain this provision as part of the Management Plan to ensure a service of quality at BRIC when the Interpretation Centre is housed in a heritage building requiring specific attention.

1.3. Managing heritage in the Buffer Zone

The Interpretation Centre is located in the immediate surroundings of the World Heritage Property. As such, it serves the revitalization of the Buffer Zone for which a new framework was developed in

2011. This framework was established to encourage the retention and the enhancement of heritage in the area.

In this undertaking, three institutions are involved: the City Council of Port Louis (CCPL), the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF) and the National Heritage Fund (NHF). The AGTF and NHF are monitoring the heritage component in the Buffer Zone while the CCPL has the legal responsibility to implement the Planning Policy Guidance 6 for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

The coming into force of a new framework for the Buffer Zone has led to review the system in place as part of the Management Plan 2013-2018. This framework is maintained. However, the framework is integrating new elements following the development projects taking place in the buffer zone under the aegis of the government. These elements include the recommendations made by the Advisory Mission (May 2018) encouraging an integrated development in the area. This recommendation led to the elaboration and adoption of an Action Area Plan for the Heritage Urban Area of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property's Buffer Zone in 2019 designated as AAP 01. This section sets out key objectives to retain the heritage value while allowing the development of the Buffer Zone into a vibrant heritage district.

1.4.1. CONSOLIDATE THE ROLE OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CCPL

The joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the Aapravasi Ghat⁵⁵ recommended to consider the reinforcement of the role of the AGTF on the Technical Committee as follows:

"The property and buffer zone are well protected by legislation and the PPG 6. These protections are adequate under normal development pressure conditions. The legally constituted Technical Committee (constituted through the Local Government Act of 2011 and its functioning prescribed by Sections 97 and 98 of the Local Government Act of 2003) is chaired by the City of Port Louis.

The advice of the Technical Committee is however not binding and the number of representatives on the committee limits the contribution of the AGTF and the National Heritage Fund.

*These weaknesses form a potential danger to the buffer zone of the property even if the provisions of PPG 6 form a safeguard to some extent. The Mission therefore recommends that the State Party investigate granting the AGTF a right to veto in decisions of the City of Port Louis permit system, then its objections to development proposals can be substantiated and are supported by the National Heritage Fund."*⁵⁶

⁵⁵The report can be consulted online: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/171739>

⁵⁶Joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission, May 2018, page 29.

It is proposed that this proposal be examined by authorities concerned upon the proposal of the Buffer Zone Management Committee who would be in a position to sustain such recommendation for consideration.

1.4.2. CONSOLIDATE THE ROLE OF THE BUFFER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Provision was made in the Management Plan 2006 for the creation of a Buffer Zone Management Committee. The objective of the Buffer Zone Management Committee – chaired by the City Council of Port Louis - is to “*implement the Management Plan in the Buffer Zones 1 & 2*”. Consultation with the members of the Technical Committee of the City Council of Port Louis underscored the need for the Buffer Zone Management Committee to meet on a quarterly basis.

In the Management Plan 2013-2018, the number of members was reduced to include representatives of:

- The City Council of Port Louis (Chairmanship);
- Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund;
- National Heritage Fund.

The purpose was to increase the interaction between the CCPL, the NHF and the AGTF as institutions responsible for the preservation of heritage in the Buffer Zone. The number of members was reduced to tackle effectively issues that mainly concern these key institutions. It gives the opportunity to the BZMC to focus on key issues that are instrumental for the consolidation of the managerial system in the Buffer Zone. The following issues should be considered as priorities:

- The progress and impact of the projects taking place in the buffer zone as part of the governmental programme;
- The reports on the monitoring of heritage in the Buffer Zone. Same would be forwarded by the Committee to the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage as representative of the State Party to UNESCO and as Chair of the Management Plan Committee;
- The coordination for the heritage register in the Buffer Zones and monitor their continued documentation;
- The examination and recommendations for the retention and enhancement of heritage in the Buffer Zone;
- Proposals for incentives that may be offered to people undertaking action in favour of the enhancement and sustainable development of heritage in the area;
- Consider means to foster technical assistance to the local community;
- Identify the training needs and undertake actions for implementation;
- Organise events or actions to promote or retain heritage in the Buffer Zone;

- Consider means for the promotion of heritage in the area; and
- Disseminate information on heritage in the Buffer Zone.

To address specific issues, the Buffer Zone Management Committee may:

- co-opt representatives of key ministries/departments as such the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development and the Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail to better address current development issues;
- convene a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or co-opt members to assist where necessary.

Management will improve with constant interaction between these three key institutions and with the help of external assistance if required. It also raises the need to reinforce capacity:

- the Reactive Monitoring Mission of UNESCO/ICOMOS in 2012 has pointed out the need for capacity in heritage conservation and management at the City Council of Port Louis and at the National Heritage Fund.
- The Advisory Mission in 2018 recommended the need for the development of an ‘overarching vision and masterplan on precinct level’ and stressed the need to include the tasks of developing (or redeveloping) ‘visions and master plans’ for the buffer zone as part of the mandate of the BZMC⁵⁷.

It is to be noted that the AAP 01 was developed and issued to address this objective and its implementation rests under the Management Plan Committee (MPC). However, the BZMC may identify areas requiring specific attention and contribute in the MPC in order to undertake coordinated actions.

The present document therefore recommends closer interaction between institutions to achieve the set objectives and that the BZMC be chaired by the City Council of Port Louis as the relevant authority.

1.4.3. FORMALIZE THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MECHANISM FOR STAKEHOLDERS

The Management Plan 2013-2018 made provision for the setting up of a Conservation Unit or equivalent mechanism to provide technical assistance and reinforce the mechanism for heritage conservation and management at the City Council of Port Louis considering that the CCPL is the institution in charge of the implementation of the Management Plan and the Planning Policy Guidance in the Buffer Zone.

⁵⁷Report of the joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to Mauritius, May 2018, page 30. Consultation available online: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/171739>

This objective was supported by the recommendation of the Reactive Monitoring Mission of UNESCO/ ICOMOS that suggested *“the creation of a Conservation Unit within the Municipal Council to assist the Technical Committee in evaluating permit requests and other monitoring and controlling activities”*⁵⁸.

The objective is to provide information to stakeholders on the principles stated in the PPG 6 in favour of the retention, enhancement and rehabilitation of heritage in the buffer zone. To this end, consultation would be only **informative** and it is understood that prior consultation with heritage institutions does not guarantee a favourable clearance for the Building and Land Use Permit (BLUP) submitted by an applicant.

The formalization of such mechanism supposes that members sitting on the Technical Committee of the CCPL would not be in position to provide advice in order to ensure good governance and absence of conflict of interest.

The formalisation of such mechanism is considered as a temporary measure. Experience with this mechanism may lead to a better appreciation of how the conservation unit could take shape potentially at the level of the National Heritage Fund. In the long term, it is recommended that the conservation unit or an equivalent mechanism would be created and may be entrusted to:

- Guide development towards the rehabilitation of heritage as per ICOMOS charters;
- Provide technical assistance to (potential) applicants and stakeholders planning a development;
- Assist in the heritage enhancement and rehabilitation as per established international guidelines of conservation by providing information related to good practise in the restoration and rehabilitation of heritage; and
- Foster the implementation of the vision for development set out in the Planning Policy Guidance for the Urban Heritage Area – Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

The Buffer Zone Management Committee could advise on the creation of the Conservation Unit.

The creation of a conservation unit - or of an equivalent mechanism - would consolidate the existing framework for the management and monitoring of heritage in the Buffer Zone and be a supportive technical unit for operators and owners.

In the long run, the conservation unit or equivalent mechanism could take over the monitoring and documentation of heritage register in close collaboration with the National Heritage Fund and the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund.

⁵⁸ Report of ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Mauritius, March 2012;
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/36COM/documents/>.
World Heritage Committee Decisions, 36 COM 7B.45, 2012.

1.4.4. DEVELOP AND CONSOLIDATE CAPACITY IN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

The need for the dissemination of information on heritage conservation and rehabilitation was expressed through the objective to “*develop and consolidate capacity in heritage management and conservation*”. This objective stated in the Management Plan 2013-2018 was partially achieved with the setting up of several training programmes including those of the University of Mauritius in Heritage Management and other training sessions organised by the NHF.

The present Management Plan maintains this objective to build further capacity and expertise in heritage conservation and management in Mauritius. Capacity needs to be consolidated in institutions in charge of heritage especially in the form of assistance to the City Council of Port Louis where this expertise is not available as underlined by the report of the reactive monitoring mission to Mauritius in March 2012. The mission recommended empowering staff with competence in heritage at the City Council of Port Louis and at the National Heritage Fund:

“This [conservation] unit would also reply to the need for technicians specialised in conservation. The National Heritage Fund also needed to strengthen capacity in regard to conservation and maintenance. These capacity needs would be optimally addressed through the development of a comprehensive capacity building strategy on conservation and management.”

Consultations also revealed that professionals in heritage related areas such as architecture or engineering expressed the need for increased capacity in heritage conservation and rehabilitation. Capacity building programme would therefore make provision to include professionals in these areas.

It would also be recommended to make a call for interest in order to include anyone interested in taking part in such capacity programme. The scope of these programmes could either be local or regional considering the needs identified on the African continent and the possibility to benefit from the assistance of the African World Heritage Fund, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) or similar entities.

The needs in capacity building would be identified as part of the mandate of the Buffer Zone Management Committee. The BZMC would be in a position to make proposals for the setting up of specific programme meeting the needs identified and monitor their implementation.

1.4.5. ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATIVE CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION

While further capacity could be built among professionals in heritage conservation and rehabilitation, there is also a need to encourage the community to take actions in favour of heritage enhancement.

Empowering the community is an important task to encourage actions in favour of heritage rehabilitation. To do so, it seems important to disseminate information and adapt proposed measures to meet the concerns of the community, thus, optimizing the successful implementation of the vision for the Buffer Zone. In this respect, the local community is one of the key actors contributing to the sustainable conservation, rehabilitation and promotion of heritage.

In the last years, several consultative committees have taken place to address issues related to the Buffer Zone. Such forums have demonstrated that the community is keen to take part in actions for the revitalisation of the area. To this end, regular consultations on development opportunities in the zone have taken place and shown the increasing interest in heritage economics. Consultations have revealed that the community is seeking information on the profitability of heritage rehabilitation as well as business models onto which further development could be thought. Information on heritage economics would be a means to support private initiatives.

Appropriate information could be made available in the form of published material as well as discussions or meetings with experts coming to Mauritius. Workshops can also be organised as and when required to address specific issues and develop commonly agreed actions.

Increased communication on heritage rehabilitation could be made available in the form of exchange forum where anyone could be invited to share experience with the community.

The Consultative Community should be open to anyone who wishes to contribute to the conservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its surroundings.

1.4.6. PROVIDE WITH A SIMPLIFIED DOCUMENTATION TO FOSTER INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

In order to empower the community and increase its involvement, there is a need to produce condensed versions of documents providing information on the buffer zone. This general principle stated in the Management Plan 2013-2018 is maintained to allow an increased dissemination of information.

As at now, most documents were already produced in a condensed version. Consultations revealed that there may be a need to treat the information stated in the PPG 6 in the form of a summary to ease understanding of the development vision and the key principles to achieve this vision. It would also be beneficial to provide information on how to use the PPG 6.

2. CONSERVING THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

The main objective of the Management Plan is to ensure the retention and enhancement of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property. The OUV represents the values that led to the international recognition of the World Heritage Property. The need to sustain them substantiates the establishment of an overarching framework for their optimal conservation, as well as their enhancement.

Since 2011, a specific framework was elaborated for the conservation and enhancement of the Buffer Zone. Planning tools are implemented to develop Port Louis into a dynamic historic centre. This Management Plan recalls the Planning Guidelines for the Buffer Zone⁵⁹ elaborated in the Management Plan 2006.

This section is addressing the following objectives to meet this goal:

Conserving the World Heritage Property (WHP)

Objective 3: Monitor conservation and risk preparedness for the World Heritage Property and its surroundings, and the Interpretation Centre and its collections

A.3.1. Monitor and evaluate conservation at World Heritage Property

A.3.2. Update the Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP)

A.3.3. Continue training of AGTF staff in risk preparedness

A.3.4. Monitor and mitigate the impact of visitors at World Heritage Property

A.3.5. Maintain the policies for AGTF collections

⁵⁹ The Planning Guidelines for the Buffer Zone are available at Annex 4.

Conserving and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value in the Buffer Zone

Objective 4: Consolidate the framework for the conservation of the heritage component in the Buffer Zone

- A.4.1. Prepare a long-term conservation policy and guidelines
- A.4.2. Update, upgrade and disseminate the heritage inventory

Objective 5: Establish a suitable environment for the conservation and enhancement of the Buffer Zone that encourages sustainable development and the transformation of the area into a vibrant regenerated heritage district

- A.5.1. Implement the Local Economic Development (LED) plan
- A.5.2. Implement the Action Area Plan for the buffer zone and its extended areas
- A.5.3. Coordinate large scale development projects to implement an integrated vision and sustainable development
- A.5.4. Provide assistance to property owners and users of the buffer zone
 - Publish guidelines on heritage conservation and rehabilitation;
 - Publish an improved user – friendly version on development in the buffer zone;
 - Publish an informative document on heritage economics and existing business models;
 - Conduct a survey and publish results on heritage rehabilitation in Mauritius.

2.1. Conserving the World Heritage Property

2.1.1. Monitor and evaluate conservation at World Heritage Property

The conservation of the World Heritage Property is the responsibility of the AGTF. From 2004 to 2010, all efforts were concentrating on the conservation project to retain and enhance the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage Property. These accomplishments are the result of the actions initiated in 2004 when a Conservation Policy and technical reports were established to meet the needs for restoration. As at date, the World Heritage Property is maintained as per the maintenance plan in place and through indicators set up at World Heritage Property to monitor conservation.

The present Management Plan makes provision for the monitoring and evaluation of the conservation and maintenance taking place at World Heritage Property allowing adjustments, revision and mitigation in light of the indicators in place and of the implementation of the maintenance plan.

2.1.2. Update the Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP)

The Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP) was prepared in 2011 and updated to take into consideration new challenges including climate change (risk of tsunami, rise in sea level, natural disaster etc.) and its potential impact on the WHP. Currently, two distinct RPP are available including one for the World Heritage Property and another one for the Interpretation Centre. Considering that the Interpretation Centre is adjacent to the WHP, the CZMC recommended that proposed measures be merged in one document as most procedures and measures would require similar actions.

The RPP is being updated to state appropriate measures for risk prevention, mitigation and recovery at BRIC and at the WHP.

Measures set out in such document should be known to the staff with a view to optimise its implementation and efficiency. This particularly concerns measure to implement in time of:

- Cyclone;
- Torrential rains;
- Impact of Human factor.

2.1.3. Continue training in risk preparedness

Training should continue on a regular basis in risk prevention to AGTF staff as well as drills should take place regularly to ensure the efficient implementation of appropriate measures stated in the RPP.

An updated short guide should also be made available to the staff to ensure prompt response to risks.

2.1.4. Monitor and mitigate the impact of visitors at World Heritage Property

MONITOR THE IMPACT OF VISITORS AT AG WHP

Since the opening of the Interpretation Centre, the number of visitors has regularly increased raising the need to monitor the impact of visitors at World Heritage Property. The impact of visitors on WHP was mostly mitigated with the implementation of the Landscaping Project completed in 2014 in line with the recommendations of the Conservation Policy set out in 2006.

For the time being, the monitoring is made via:

- Prior booking of groups visiting the WHP;
- Daily supervision of visitors by AGTF staff;
- Daily registering of visitor number;
- Regular checks at WHP to monitor potential impact.

There would be a need to reinforce visitor monitoring in order to assess the impact in a more precise manner and provide further information regarding the policy for visitors including:

- Inform the visitors of the existing rules and regulations⁶⁰;
- Reinforce security at WHP in order to better monitor the impact of human factor;
- Improve the visitor recording system;
- Set up video surveillance system at WHP.

The impact of visitors is closely monitored and addressed in order to serve the retention and enhancement of the OUV for future generations.

UPDATE THE VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

In recent years, the number of VIP visits has increased with the opening of the Interpretation Centre leading to the inclusion of the World Heritage Property in most state visits.

This has led to the setting out of guidelines for VIP visits with the view to mitigate the impact of such visits and also, to ensure a quality visitor experience.

Year	No. of VIPs	Total No. of visitors
2015	7	49,400
2016	18	55,801
2017	18	50,224
2018	16	53,321
2019	18	55,605
TOTAL	77	264,351

The sequence of the VIP visit is:

1. VIP welcome;
2. Guided Visit to Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre;
3. Wreath laying (for Heads of States only);

⁶⁰The Code of Conduct is available at Annex 9 and the Rules and regulations for visits at Annex 10.

4. Guided Visit to the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property;
5. Signing of Visitor's Book and Gifts to Guests;
6. Refreshments in Hospital Block.

The Visitor Management Plan states the guidelines and policy for visitors at AG WHP. This present Management Plan is recommending the updating and the implementation of the Visitor Management Plan.

2.1.5. Maintain the policies for AGTF collections

The AGTF has gathered an important collection since it started to operate in 2003. The collection includes:

- A total number of 27,114 artefacts were collected during the archaeological campaign at former Aapravasi Ghat Immigration Depot from 2002 to 2004;
- The artefacts collected during the archaeological campaign at Trianon from 2009 to 2011;
- A total number of 5,000 artefacts were collected during the preventive archaeological excavations conducted at BRIC from 2009 to 2011.

The collection of about 35,000 archaeological artefacts is kept in the storage area while some 100 are on display at the Interpretation Centre. A campaign involving the restoration of some 50 objects was completed in 2012 to allow their display in BRIC.

In addition to this, the collection also includes contemporary works of art as follows:

- ❖ 2 Bronze sculptures of Mr. Devanand Bungshee (sculptor) purchased in 2002;
- ❖ 1 Bronze sculpture by Mr. Kalooah (sculptor and photographer) purchased in 2006;
- ❖ 3 Paintings by Mrs. Nalini Treebhoobun (painter and head of the Fine Arts Department at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute) purchased in 2004;
- ❖ 44 Photographs by Mr. Atman Ramchalaon (photographer). Donation of the artist in 2003.

The Conservation Policy made provision for the artefacts to be kept in the storage area at a constant temperature of maximum 25°C and a rate of Relative Humidity of maximum 60%⁶¹. Given the tropical climate, recommendation was made to maintain these benchmarks both in BRIC and in the storage area located at AGTF office. Required equipment was acquired and is regularly checked to make sure that all requirements are in place for the safe conservation of the collections.

⁶¹ The temperature and Relative Humidity rate need to be constant and permanent 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

The conservation policy therefore makes provision for:

- Parameters of conservation including a dedicated storage area with prior quarantine;
- Norms of conservation;
- Regular checks of equipment;
- General principles of collection care.

In 2005, the AGTF produced a collections policy, revised in 2009, aiming at setting up a framework for AGTF's collection including:

- Parameters and procedures for acquisition;
- Accession into the permanent collection;
- Documentation of objects and artefacts;
- Parameters and procedures for Deaccession;
- Parameters and Procedure for disposal;
- Framework for incoming and outgoing loans and deposits;
- General rules, framework and procedure for collecting;
- Parameters and procedures for restoration;
- Principles for access to collections;
- Ethics.

The present Management Plan maintains these provisions.

2.2. Conserving and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value in the Buffer Zone

In the Buffer Zone, the heritage component identified as 'Attributes' of the World Heritage property, needs to be sustained: it is a crucial component that substantiates the OUV. For this reason, a framework was established to encourage the retention of heritage and its enhancement in the area. The main tools are the Planning Policy Guidance 6 and the Action Area Plan 01 that work towards urban revitalization to retain and develop the authentic character of Port Louis city centre.

With the development of planning tools, the instruments in place work towards the integration of heritage within the daily lives of Mauritians. This approach allows a proactive protection and management of heritage. This section on "Conserving and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value in Buffer Zone" sets out objectives that not only consider the framework recently put in place but also follow the principles established by UNESCO's concept of Urban Historic Landscape (HUL)⁶².

⁶² Reference to documentation available online on UNESCO recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul/>

In doing so, the Management Plan intends to develop a coherent approach that leads to make the Buffer Zone a heritage district. As mentioned in the Reactive Monitoring Mission Report⁶³:

‘Port Louis is not only a historic city but also a good example where the approach set in the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendation could be applied.’

(Reactive Monitoring Mission Report, 2012: 21)

There is increasing understanding globally that the protection of Outstanding Universal Value in places like the Buffer Zone goes well beyond its relevance to the Core Zone only. The UNESCO *Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape* that was accepted at the General Conference in November 2011 is a guiding document that aids the understanding of cities as cultural landscapes, and in doing so helps to achieve integrated management of historic cities. One needs to consider that the Buffer Zone is not a delimited area⁶⁴ but its heritage values – incarnated in the attributes – continue in the areas around and beyond this precinct, that are also rich in terms of tradition and historical architecture.

The aim of the UNESCO recommendation is to develop a set of guiding principles for member states to enable them to achieve integrated management frameworks for the development of cities with rich historic content, *“support and facilitate decision-making processes within a framework of sustainable development”* (UNESCO, 2011: Clause 24b) and to develop cities in such a way that they will regain or retain their identity, diversity, and a legacy of the past. The World Heritage Property, by virtue of ‘lying at the heart of the city’, can stimulate regeneration and development of the inner city in a way that will help the City of Port Louis to retain its character and derive benefit from being a historical capital city.

The HUL approach, as seen in Clauses 11-22 from the UNESCO *Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape* (2011) ensures that urban development and management processes in the Buffer Zone will:

- Integrate the goals of urban heritage conservation with those of social and economic development;
- Have a comprehensive approach for the identification, assessment, conservation and

⁶³The report is available online: <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/1227/documents/>

⁶⁴ Reference is made to the notion of “area of influence” as stated in the conclusions and recommendations of the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and Buffer Zones (11-14 March 2008, Davos, Switzerland) presented to the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Quebec City, Canada, 2 – 10 July 2008: *“The meeting recognised that actions may take place well beyond the boundaries of a property and any buffer zone that might nonetheless have a significant influence upon the outstanding universal value and integrity of a property. The concept of an **area of influence** may also be useful to describe a wider zone, in which activities may take place that could have an impact upon the outstanding universal value and integrity of a property.”*

management of historic urban landscapes within an overall sustainability framework;

- Allow for the recognition of cultural significance and diversity;
- Help protect the essence and values attributed to the historic area and building of the Buffer Zone;
- Help protect the sense of place by managing the intensification of urban growth and density;
- Help ensure that the new functions will contribute to the well-being of the inhabitants and owners of the historic area and that the opportunities arising from the development are appropriately implemented;
- Ensure that the new development will use as far as possible materials and architectural design that is in line with the heritage values of the Buffer Zone;
- Provide for the monitoring and management of change;
- Improve the quality of life and of urban space;
- Support sustainability and continuity in planning and design;
- Strive to preserve the quality of the human environment and enhance the productive use of urban spaces and social and functional diversity;
- Learn from the traditions of local users, including shop owners and hawkers and promote respect for their values; and
- Achieve a balanced continuity between urban continuity and contemporary architecture, and ensure that contemporary interventions respect and are harmonious with heritage in a historic setting.

It is important to know that these guidelines are already being applied to other ‘heritage cities’ in the region. The *Zanzibar Recommendations on the Application of the Concept of the Historic Urban Landscape in the African Context* (2009), adopted at the 34th Session of the WHC in Brazil in 2010, showed an understanding for the need for a paradigm within which development of historic towns and cities could be conceptualized and executed in an integrated manner, and inclusive of the significant attributes and values. In Mauritius, this is already happening through the Planning Policy Guidance 6, which has reacted to the HUL Recommendation. What is needed now is the development of context specific management and conservation tools to support the HUL Approach, and the continuing support of a management structure that allows for integrated development and planning. This was partially achieved through the adoption of the Action Area Plan in December 2019. UNESCO and ICOMOS can be approached for assistance in working out the precise guidelines and to provide technical assistance to implement them.

2.2.1. Prepare long-term Conservation Policy and guidelines

If the framework established in 2011⁶⁵ has revealed appropriate and efficient, there is a need to develop further the conservation policy for the Buffer Zone where the conservation issues related to buildings of heritage value (except for National Heritage) and their context remained at embryonic stage. Practice has shown that there is a need for a long-term Conservation Policy for the Buffer Zone based on commonly agreed conservation principles (see Annex 4).

The objective is to provide an understanding of why conserving together with a framework for the effective conservation of heritage. The Conservation Policy would not only be a guiding document for the AGTF but also for the City Council of Port Louis, the National Heritage Fund and the community at large. The Conservation Policy would seek to establish a common strategy for the conservation of heritage.

The need for conservation guidelines was raised during the Technical Committee meetings when the assessment of applications has revealed a number of elements to be addressed in order to enhance heritage attributes in the area. The conservation policy should start with the needs addressed in the Planning Policy Guidance 6 for the conservation of the following key elements:

- Historic drains;
- Historic pavements;
- Facades (addressing the addition of modern materials and devices such as roller shutters for eg.);
- Historic architectural elements (cornices, balustrades etc.).

The BZMC would be the appropriate body to steer the preparation of such policy and conservation guidelines for the area.

2.2.2. Upgrade, update and disseminate the heritage inventory

The update, upgrade and dissemination of the heritage inventory include three actions as part of this Management Plan:

1. The formal adoption of the grading system;
2. The need to update the inventory on a regular basis;
3. The creation of an integrated database to share information among the CCPL, NHF and AGTF.

When the heritage's Buffer Zone needs to be sustained, this implies that tools are in place to appreciate that heritage. This is why a comprehensive inventory including a grading system, classifying

⁶⁵It refers to the issue of the Planning Policy Guidance 6 for the Urban Heritage Area, Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

heritage assets in order of importance, was prepared during the elaboration process of the Planning Policy Guidance for the Buffer Zone⁶⁶. The grading system was implicitly adopted through the issue of the PPG 6 in 2011 and of the AAP 01 in 2019.

It is now essential that this grading system be formally adopted in the legislation as a general principle. The formal adoption would lead to establish an official heritage register shared by the CCPL, the NHF and the AGTF for heritage management and monitoring in the zone⁶⁷. Since 2011, more heritage buildings that are in need of protection were identified and would need to be added to this list, stressing the need for regular update of information on heritage in the buffer zone while development is taking place within the framework of PPG 6 and of the AAP 01.

Further tools are required to assist the CCPL, the NHF and the AGTF in managing and monitoring heritage in the zone. The key issue is to empower the three institutions with the possibility to manage heritage in an integrated manner when each institution has a different mandate in the zone. There is a need to develop a tool that will integrate all information generated by each institution. This can be achieved with the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) database - under the guidance of the BZMC - as a tool generally used for heritage conservation and management in urban areas.

During consultations, the City Council of Port Louis indicated that the database NAVEO is used for monitoring development and cadastral information. The institution proposed that the NAVEO database be linked to that of AGTF and NHF in order to share different set of information.

The coordination of the data on the buffer zone would contribute to improve the performance of the institutions responsible for heritage monitoring including AGTF and NHF. They will also be in a position to address effectively the demands of the community when they will have access to clear updated information. It is a tool that will make integrated management possible, help development monitoring and ultimately, assist the institutions in enhancing the OUV. The BZMC should be monitoring the creation of an integrated database⁶⁸.

2.2.3. Provide an appropriate framework encouraging sustainable development

To encourage development in the Buffer Zone, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund in collaboration with key stakeholders prepared a Development Plan in 2011 setting out the following vision:

“We would like to see the ‘heritage area’ develop into a vibrant precinct that adds value to the City of Port Louis and brings benefits to property owners, the business sector as well as other stakeholders in the area, and the nation at large”.

⁶⁶The criteria for grading is available at Annex 8.

⁶⁷ In current practice, the AGTF has developed a complete inventory of buildings in the buffer zone and conducts regular documentation and updates.

⁶⁸ In the past, NHF proposed that the city of Port Louis be used as a pilot project to be extended to other areas in Mauritius.

This vision was prepared to reflect the framework set up with the adoption of the PPG 6. During the preparation of the PPG 6, the general perception was that the new planning instrument (PPG 6) would stop development. Working on the vision and its related objectives was particularly important when the concept of historic city brought forward by the PPG 6 was not fully understood. On this point, the Reactive Monitoring Mission⁶⁹ noted that:

‘Observations made during the mission show that many stakeholders do not consider the buffer zone 2 as a part of the “historic city”. For them, and as the morphology of the town shows, the buffer zone 2 is a continuity of the CBD of Port Louis. This understanding has its consequences. It encourages certain processes of development which adversely affects the setting of the buffer zone as a historic setting of the capital.’

(Reactive Monitoring Mission Report, 2012: 14)

⁶⁹The report is available online: <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/1227/documents/>

2.2.3.1. IMPLEMENT THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) PLAN

Therefore, rather than focussing on restrictions in the Buffer Zone, the AGTF completed the preparation of a Development Plan in 2011 and of a Local Economic Development (LED) Plan in 2016 with the support of UNESCO to look forward in terms of the economic potential of the Buffer Zone.

The preparation of the LED Plan was an action set out in the Management Plan 2013 – 2018 to tackle the issues of sustainable economic development in the core centre of the capital city. This document prepared by professionals in Heritage Economics was critical to further demonstrate the economic potential of the area:

‘Many stakeholders of Port Louis are not aware, sometimes even dubious, of the potential economic benefits of a heritage site. Some developers of Port Louis even perceive heritage as an obstacle to local economic development. To enhance the management and conservation of the buffer zone 2 and to change the perceptions of the inhabitants of the historic area regarding the relation between the historic value of their town and development, it is required that the economic potentials of heritage be demonstrated and understood by all stakeholders.’

(Report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission, 2012:22)

Both documents (Development Plan and LED Plan) dwell on how heritage can be a driver for development that unlocks further opportunities in the Buffer Zone as well as in the wider context in which it exists. Their objective is to empower development initiatives in the area.

Consultations with the community particularly underlined the need for financial assistance to support heritage conservation and rehabilitation. It is even more important when heritage in the zone is in need of rehabilitation and enhancement.

‘Some inhabitants of Port Louis blame the local authorities for refusing to consider financial incentive as a tool for encouraging conservation and enhancing the management of the buffer zone. [...] Considering the actual situation of the buffer zone 2 and the reluctance of the inhabitants to embrace the idea of conservation of their historic buildings, the government should consider the option.’

(Report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission, 2012: 22)

One of the critical measures that the community has desperately asked for is the adoption of financial incentives to encourage heritage rehabilitation. Consultations with the community at large have impressed upon the need to provide incentives when the PPG 6 advocates specific guidelines to be abided by the property owners and developers. The LED Plan has proposed measures and incentives based upon the existing provisions and made a study of their impact on the economy in order to better appreciate the benefits of implementing measures and incentives in favour of investments. These measures would need to be examined again so as to consider their adoption.

To make opportunities a reality, there is a need to create a STAC to examine and implement measures proposed in the LED Plan in favour of development through the rehabilitation of heritage. The STAC - would produce recommendations on the way forward. Ultimately, the recommendations should be included in frameworks and policies that would encourage development opportunities through heritage enhancement.

This is even more important, as the Development Plan and the LED Plan are not the only documents supporting the vision for the area. These plans propose tools to be used in order to make the vision for development a reality and meet the criteria and framework set out in the Planning Policy Guidance 6, the Outline Planning Scheme (OPS) for Port Louis and the AAP 01: the three documents set out planning measures for urban revitalization through heritage. This set of planning documents places heritage as a vector to sustain development in the urban centre. This new framework is a key opportunity for the Buffer Zone that requires the full support of all. In the words of the Reactive Mission to Mauritius in 2012:

“The inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List is an opportunity to sustain the historic area of Port Louis. However, some developers or administrators who are in favour of a process of “modernity” conceived in opposition to heritage conservation do not support this idea. Observations made during the mission shows that the buffer zone 2 is at a crossroads. The success of new ideas concerning the connection between heritage and development depends on the conviction and efforts of the local authorities.”

(Report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission to Mauritius, 2012:17)

2.2.3.2. IMPLEMENT THE ACTION AREA PLAN FOR THE BUFFER ZONE AND ITS EXTENDED AREAS

The LED Plan was prepared to support the overall vision for the area exploring measures to implement to the benefit of the community and the country at large. The LED Plan advocates the need to develop the area in an integrated manner in order to achieve sustainable development for the city based on the Historic Urban Landscape recommendation. With the concern to develop the area, the Government of Mauritius has recently launched a number of projects in the buffer zone including:

1. Waterfront Mixed-Use District project by Landscape Mauritius Ltd;
2. Immigration Square Urban Terminal by the Ministry of National Infrastructure and and Community Development;
3. The Light Rail project and an end station at Immigration Square by Metro Express Ltd;
4. The Intercontinental Slavery Museum by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage;
5. Galerie d’Art National by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage;
6. Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre – phase 2 by AGTF.

Considering these large-scale projects, the government of Mauritius called for an Advisory Mission to the Aapravasi Ghat from 14 to 18 May 2018 in line with in the section IV.A. 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the World Heritage Convention:

“The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the outstanding universal value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the outstanding universal value of the property is fully preserved.”

The joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission visited the Aapravasi Ghat and consulted with the various parties involved in the development projects. The Mission submitted a report⁷⁰ to the State Party whereby the main recommendation was:

“that an overarching vision and masterplan on precinct level be developed, integrating all these development projects. This vision and masterplan should then be assessed for its impacts following the PPG 6 prescribed protocols. This masterplan should be completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical Review by the Advisory Bodies before design or implementation of any of the projects commence”.

(Advisory Mission’s report, 2018: iii)

The main conclusion of the mission was that the *“development proposals have the potential to support the OUV of the property [...] However, if not integrated and brought into balance with the values and qualities of the property and its buffer zone, these development projects could have a long-term negative impact on the OUV of the property”*⁷¹.

Following the recommendation of the Joint Advisory Mission, the State Party has completed the preparation of an ‘Action Area Plan’ (AAP) for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone⁷² under the umbrella of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning and in collaboration with the heritage institutions including the AGTF and the NHF. This process also involved stakeholders who participated in the elaboration of the AAP⁷³.

⁷⁰The report of the UNESCO/ICOMOS Mission is available online: <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/1227/documents/>

⁷¹ Joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission’s report, 2018: 32.

⁷² The document is entitled “Action Area Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zones of the Aapravasi Ghat” (AAP 01), and was adopted in 2019.

⁷³ The preparation of the AAP included a task team composed of representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning, the AGTF and NHF while consultations were conducted with government agencies and private promoters as per the recommendation of the joint advisory mission report: *“The Mission therefore advises that a task-team headed by the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning, in collaboration with the City of Port Louis and with the AGTF and the National Heritage Fund as advisors, would be the preferred bodies to take ownership of the development of an integrated vision and master plan. Such a task-team could include representatives of the ministries involved in the three developments as well as Landscape Mauritius.”* Report of the joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius, 14-18 May 2018), page 29.

The AAP is the equivalent of a Master Plan as per the existing provision in the Mauritian legislation⁷⁴. The AAP 01 took effect after the notification of its approval in the Government Gazette on 28 December 2019. Considering the recommendation of the joint advisory mission, this Management Plan is recommending the implementation of the AAP as well as the overarching vision it contains in order to foster an integrated development contributing to the retention of the OUV in the long run⁷⁵.

The AAP being subject to an EIA/VIA/HIA⁷⁶ with specific attention to the attributes of the World Heritage Property, it would be recommended to integrate and adopt the recommendations of the HIA/VIA with the view to achieve the successful implementation of the AAP.

It is to be noted that for any development, the PPG 6, the OPS and the AAP 01 will apply and require a HIA/VIA while large-scale projects or any project that may affect the OUV are also subject to Section IV. A. 172 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention⁷⁷.

Mauritian legislation also indicates that any development listed in the Fifth Schedule of the Environment Protection Act shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Environment by way of a Preliminary Environmental Report (PER) or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a Visual Impact Assessment / Heritage Impact Assessment, as applicable.

The implementation of the Action Area Plan 01 is monitored by the Management Plan Committee pending the setting up of a dedicated agency to execute and monitor the Action Area Plan (AAP). As part of this Management Plan, it is recommended to examine measures supporting an optimal implementation of the AAP as part of the Management Plan Committee's assignments.

In 2020, the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage has initiated actions to develop an overarching HIA/VIA for the buffer zone of the Aapravasi Ghat WHP⁷⁸. The HIA/VIA once completed will serve as a guiding document for the Management Plan Committee in the implementation of the AAP 01. Other studies may be undertaken with the view to support the MPC in its mission.

⁷⁴ The Planning and Development Act 2004 provides the following definition: "An action area plan shall set out –(i) detailed programmes and proposals for the future development of an area for which the plan is being prepared; and (ii) a detailed plan for the implementation of such programmes and proposals."

⁷⁵ The attributes of the World Heritage Property need to be taken into consideration: a definition and description of the attributes are provided in the present document. Attributes will also be the subject of specific attention by the HIA/VIA.

⁷⁶ "This integrated vision and master plan should be subject to the EIA/VIA/HIA and CHIS processes outlined in the PPG 6 and the property's 2013-2018 Management Plan". Joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission Report, May 2018, page 32.

⁷⁷ This paragraph indicates: "The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the outstanding universal value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the outstanding universal value of the property is fully preserved."

⁷⁸ Reference is made to the World Heritage Committee's decision requesting the State Party in 2019 to : « Develop a Master Plan on the precinct level, integrating all these development projects, assess this Plan through independent Heritage Impact and Visual Impact Assessment processes, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies". The overarching HIA/VIA will serve as guidance for the Management Plan Committee in its implementation of the AAP 01. Further studies may be requested to support the mandate of the MPC.

2.2.3.3. COORDINATE LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED VISION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development in the buffer zone is currently dealt with at the level of the City Council of Port Louis. However, the large-scale projects mentioned here above are currently under different authorities driving the various projects namely:

1. Landscape Mauritius Ltd is a private company whose main shareholder is the Government of Mauritius. The company was incorporated in 2016 *“further to the amalgamation of five companies engaged mainly in property development and management”*⁷⁹.
2. The Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development;
3. The Metro Express Limited (MEL) is a *“Mauritian company incorporated on 26 October 2016 as a Public Company Limited by shares and is fully owned by Government. The Company is responsible to develop, finance, construct, operate and manage the light rail system in Mauritius”*⁸⁰;
4. The Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

Considering that projects are steered by different entities, the advisory mission noted that:

“The current management system does not provide for a body, or mandate a statutory body to develop integrated development visions based on the prescripts of the relevant legislation, guidelines and plans”.

Based on this recommendation, the present Management Plan recommends that a mechanism ensuring the coordination among projects be set up in order to ensure the implementation of an integrated development enhancing the OUV. This mechanism would include the creation of a dedicated agency to execute and monitor the Action Area Plan (AAP 01). Such mechanism may be considered at the level of the Management Plan Committee who could make recommendations to the government.

The Advisory Mission also underlined the need to consult the community and provide information on large-scale projects. The Consultative Committee meeting once a year on 16 July⁸¹ may be one of the vectors to communicate thereon. However, the Management Plan Committee may consider

⁷⁹Information retrieved from the website of Landscape Mauritius Ltd: <http://landscopemauritius.com/about-us/>

⁸⁰Extract from the website of the Metro Express Limited company: <https://www.mauritiusmetroexpress.mu/about/>

⁸¹The Consultative Committee meets at least once a year at the time of the anniversary of the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List (16 July).

increasing the involvement of the community through other media and improve the dissemination of information to the public at large.

2.2.3.4. PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND USERS OF THE BUFFER ZONE

The development strategy for the Buffer Zone resting on heritage rehabilitation and the HUL recommendation depicts a new concept for development in Mauritius. Experience has shown that there is a natural reluctance to a change in the way development is perceived. This explains why the report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission stresses that the current perception may impair on the success of achieving the vision for development stated in the PPG 6, LED plan and the AAP 01:

‘For different reasons, the inhabitants of Mauritius do not consider Port Louis a historic city. Such a discrepancy between local perceptions and the necessities of an adequate heritage protection complicates the management and conservation work in the buffer zone 2.’ (Report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission, 2012:21)

This impresses upon the need for increased interaction and exchange with the community. The local authorities should be in a position to attend to community’s expectations. This led the Reactive Monitoring Mission to recommend that technical assistance be provided:

‘It is crucial that, when the inhabitants of the buffer zone 2 need technical advice, they find competent technicians in front of them. The lack of proper information and technical competencies from the official authorities will drive inhabitants to looking for other alternatives, which may be destructive.’

(Report of the Reactive Monitoring Mission, 2012: 21)

Overall, consultations with the Community regarding assistance have led to list the following elements requiring attention:

1. Provide user-friendly versions of key documents;
2. Provide financial incentives to support community’s initiatives in favour of heritage rehabilitation⁸²;
3. Provide guidelines on heritage rehabilitation to support the work of architects and other professionals;
4. Provide information on existing business models using heritage rehabilitation and other measures fostering the actions of the community in favour of heritage;

⁸²This element is already treated as part of section 2.2.3.1. of this document.

5. Disseminate information on heritage rehabilitation and heritage-aligned models of development.

Following the demand of the consultative committee members, the elements mentioned here above could be made available via heritage institutions who would work together to:

1. Publish guidelines on heritage conservation and rehabilitation;
2. Publish an improved user – friendly version on development in the buffer zone;
3. Publish an informative document on heritage economics and existing business models;
4. Conduct a survey and publish results on heritage rehabilitation in Mauritius.

It is therefore proposed to consider the constitution of a STAC consisting in representatives of the AGTF and the NHF that could report on progress to the Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC).

The working group may co-opt members with specific expertise such as the University of Mauritius for the proposed survey. Its mandate would be to produce the final documents listed here above with a view to empower inhabitants and operators to develop the area.

The UNESCO *Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape* and the guidelines that can be generated from it should be considered as positive tools that can assist the development of the Buffer Zone as an attractive and vibrant heritage-aligned area that will benefit property owners rather than restrict the economic potential of the zone.

The documents prepared to assist the promoters and community at large should be guided by the UNESCO Recommendation for Historic Urban Landscape (2011) in the approach to development in the Buffer Zone. It would also be recommended that the documents and guidelines produced be disseminated in various forms such as presentations to stakeholders, workshops etc. in order to further empower the community but also governmental agencies such as the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development and the CCPL.

3. INTERPRETING THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND MANAGING VISITORS

Successful interpretation and effective visitor management enhance visitor experience at the World Heritage Property.

Visitor management deals with the practical aspect of the visitor experience: it provides tools for visitor flow and orientation.

Interpretation deals with the content communicated to visitors. As such, interpretation provides information that lead visitors to understand why Aapravasi Ghat is a World Heritage Site and why the heritage is so important.

Interpretation refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage site. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programmes, community activities, and ongoing research, training, and evaluation of the interpretation process itself.

(The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, 2008:2)

Successful interpretation leads to a better understanding of heritage within the community, and fosters its integration within the lives of the people. The story of Aapravasi Ghat speaks to all Mauritians; the intangible heritage embodied in the site however reaches far beyond the physical boundaries of the site itself, to all of Mauritius and the world beyond. How well this story is told, and the meanings that it conveys to a diversity of people are measures of the success of site interpretation.

The issue of interpretation and visitor management concern the AGTF, the NHF and the CCPL. The AGTF is the body responsible for the visitor experience at World Heritage Site. In the Buffer Zone, the City Council of Port Louis in collaboration with the National Heritage Fund directly leads projects that foster heritage interpretation and visitor management.

The role of the three institutions is to establish a successful visitor experience that will help visitors to fully appreciate the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property. Their aim is to succeed in interpreting the World Heritage Property and its surroundings, and managing visitors; to achieve success requires that a common strategy and principles be established. The institutions involved need to head in the same direction to enhance the visitor experience at World Heritage Property and in the Buffer Zone.

In this section, the following objectives and actions were identified:

Interpreting the World Heritage Property

Objective 6: Enhance visitor experience and maintain visitor satisfaction

- A.6.1. Evaluate and develop further activities for visitors
- A.6.2. Prepare and implement a yearly Public Programme
- A.6.3. Conduct regular audience surveys
- A.6.4. Review and update pedagogical and academic documentation on a regular basis
- A.6.5. Implement BRIC (phase 2) project
- A.6.6. Consolidate and promote the heritage trails

Managing visitors at World Heritage Property

Objective 7: Consolidate the visitor management strategy and optimize visitor management

- A.7.1. Implement the Visitor Management plan
- A.7.2. Improve visitor recording system
- A.7.3. Foster collaboration with neighbouring institutions and agencies

3.1. The Policy for Interpreting the World Heritage Property

The World Heritage Property is composed of fragmentary historic features and a standing building restored in 2010. After the restoration of the Aapravasi Ghat, evidence showed that visitors encountered difficulties to understand the former use of the remaining features and their interrelationship. With fragmentary remains, visitors could not fully appreciate the former organisation of the immigration depot nor figure out how it functioned. It became necessary to focus on how to provide appropriate information to visitors so that they could appreciate the cultural significance of the Aapravasi Ghat.

The Management Plan 2006 proposed the creation of an Interpretation Centre to provide information on the history of the World Heritage Property and on indenture in Mauritius.

“To provide clear orientation, interpretation and signage for all visitors to the Aapravasi Ghat and its environs so they can maximise their understanding and appreciation of the site, its environs and on- going research and conservation.”

(Management Plan, 2006:122)

The opening of the Interpretation Centre offered a number of interpretative tools fostering visitor understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property.

Messages are conveyed to visitors by way of comparative techniques, heritage education and through orchestrating productive interaction between the visitor and the World Heritage Property. Within this framework, interpretation tools must convey an in-depth understanding while evoking emotions and the interests of visitors. In short, interpretation must make history ‘come alive’ so it can be experienced first-hand and be assimilated easily by a range of visitors including children.

The interpretative tools at the World Heritage Property must respect the authenticity of the Aapravasi Ghat and address clear messages to visitors, and in doing so foster understanding that provides the visitor with satisfaction. Good interpretation is an essential component of achieving visitor satisfaction while smooth visitor management is another.

The Interpretation Policy shall abide by the following principles:

- *Fostering Understanding:* Interpretation is used to foster the understanding of the indenture experience at the Depot and in Mauritius and its consequences for Mauritian society. Interpretation should act as a link to the past for visitors;
- *Minimal intervention:* The fabric, footprint, landscape and vistas are all part of the layered history of Aapravasi Ghat. To this end, the interpretative strategies of the WHP need to conserve and enhance these features rather than impact negatively on them;

- *Use of multiple voices and multi-layering:* This refers to actively seeking multiple narratives, so as to present visitors and audiences with variations of narratives that provide an inclusive story. Where applicable narratives are contextualised within the Mauritian and international context;
- *Ensuring universal access:* The variety and forms of interpretation tools should promote access to the legacy of Aapravasi Ghat accommodating the cultural, physical, linguistic and social realities of visitors. It is a site for all Mauritians and the world;
- *Respecting and striving for authenticity:* The authenticity of experiences and narratives should continuously be scrutinised and amendments and interventions made where appropriate;
- *Stakeholder participation and transparency in museological decisions:*
 - To strive for identification and active participation of appropriate stakeholders in the development of the interpretation;
 - To ensure there is transparency in the articulation of Museum decisions and processes with respect to interpretation; and
 - To provide for feedback and comment opportunities for the public with respect to interpretation tools.
- *Inclusivity:* The Aapravasi Ghat is a national asset. It is therefore mandated to speak to an audience of all peoples who live in Mauritius. The narratives should reflect this inclusivity and particular efforts should be made to ensure that an on-going audience development programme is generated through market research. The WHP and its narrative should therefore reflect the universality of the legacy of the Aapravasi Ghat to the world. Visitors and audiences should all experience inspiration and understanding of this legacy;
- *Ensuring compliance to a Code of Ethics:*
 - Staff should respect the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics for Museums;
 - the Code of Ethics is applied and monitored through policies and procedures and practice. This sets minimum standards of professional practice and performance for museums and their staff;

- *Nurture notion of the living heritage institution:* To ‘make history come alive’, and to integrate this perspective into its programming and communications strategy. To have all visitors (tourists, school groups, campers, conference goers, etc.) understand that they are a part of the heritage-making process of the WHP and that their own stories, understanding of the collective narratives and their own footprints are valued. All visitors should feel that they have been affected by and are affected by their journey to Aapravasi Ghat and that its legacy speaks to their own condition;
- *Striving for professional excellence:* That all aspects of work related to the WHP are recognised by staff and service providers, as critical to the total positive experience for visitors. Training and development needs which are identified need to be followed up and provision made. Each year the benchmark for excellence needs to be raised;
- *Actualising the Statement of Significance:* Heritage interpretation should ensure that the Statement of Significance is embodied in representation of Aapravasi Ghat through themes that can be identified in the process of making the Interpretation Plan;
- *Relevance:* That the interpretation of the legacy of Aapravasi Ghat should be related to the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts in which it is found, and to the state of the world today, in particular to places where labour continues to be exploitative.

2.2.4. Interpretation of historic features at WHP

The interpretation of the World Heritage Property’s features was part of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre project that included a landscaping project. Following the international standards for conservation and interpretation, the landscaping focused on measures that:

- are non-intrusive physically and visually, and enhance physical and intellectual access to the historic and archaeological features;
- direct visitors with a pathway at floor level leading to the main points of interest;
- support the interpretation of historic features by informative panels; and
- include reversible and sustainable materials that can be differentiated from historic features.

At the World Heritage Site, basic information is provided for visitor interpretation related to the remaining historic features, but in a way that will lead to an understanding of how the Aapravasi Ghat functioned.

The Interpretation Centre is the gateway to the rest of the World Heritage Property. This is where the journey starts. The interpretation centre gives an overview of the history, the functioning and the role of the former Immigration Depot before the visit on site. The objective is to provide information beforehand that leads to a more insightful interpretation of the WHP as a whole, and with that a full appreciation of its Outstanding Universal Value.

Since its opening 2014, experience and surveys show that this objective is achieved in a successful manner thanks to the interpretation tools available at BRIC prior the visit to the WHP.

2.2.5. Interpretation at Interpretation Centre

The interpretative tools in the Interpretation Centre reconstruct the physical appearance of the Immigration Depot and convey the experience of indentured labourers in Mauritius. Interpretation techniques are used to convey meaning and to fill in a gap between the 'object' and the visitor. Interpretation is used to create visitor understanding and avoid frustration.

The principles of interpretation rely on the need to provide adapted discourse to all kind of audience and in particular, for the young audience. Provision was made in the Interpretation Centre for a storyline specifically devised for children.

Interpretation also dealt with the need to transcribe scientific data for the public at large when most data on the former Immigration Depot were gathered through scientific research in history, archaeology and anthropology.

There is also an issue of languages when considering the Mauritian multi-cultural context. The Mauritian population speak several languages, English and French being understood by all. Considering this, it was chosen to present the content in both languages to also meet the expectations of foreign visitors mainly coming from Europe, the African continent and the Indian Ocean region.

Interpreting the past requires that information takes shape through scenographic displays. Interpretation is enhanced through carefully designed signs, texts, maps, graphs, photographs, archival documents, models, slide shows, reproductions, technological and audio-visual resources, exhibitions, virtual reality items, guided visits, and the delivery of educational activities and workshops for adults, children and disabled people.

The interpretation follows several principles in the visitor centre:

- clear messages in the different sections with defined themes;
- suggestive modes to produce meaning; and
- virtual and physical reconstitutions.

The interpretation techniques present the past in a wider context that also have a bearing on the present, for better appreciation. Thus, visitors are enabled to better understand the cultural significance of the World Heritage Property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

The principle of contextualisation is also retained to support the interpretation of artefacts pertaining to the site and the Immigration Depot's remaining features. To this purpose, several elements support the contextualisation during the visit:

- Supporting texts and large format visuals;
- Reconstitutions through multimedia devices and 3D models;
- Reconstitutions through the creation of a 2D model of the Immigration Depot in 1866; and
- Reconstitutions of furniture and presentations of antique objects.

This approach stresses the need for maintenance of the displays on a regular basis. In absence of multimedia, visitors would have access to partial interpretation. In case of regular maintenance, multimedia is a key tool for effective interpretation and may be updated upon the development of knowledge on indentured labour.

2.2.6. Evaluate and develop further activities for the audience

A clear policy and an interpretation strategy were established with the opening of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre in 2014 as described in the sections here above. Since then, the efficiency of interpretation was evaluated to identify areas for improvement. Overall, the results show that visitors are satisfied with the experience offered at BRIC.

However, like any institution in the world, BRIC and WHP face the issue of being visited only once and with the need to encourage the visitors to repeat their visits. To do so, the AGTF conducted several activities for evaluation including among others:

- Artistic workshops for children;
- Treasure hunts;
- Open days;
- Temporary exhibitions; and
- Heritage trails.

These activities revealed the potential to encourage visitors to repeat their visit at BRIC and WHP. Considering this, this Management Plan is encouraging the development of further activities to:

- Diversify the offer at BRIC and WHP;
- Encourage repeaters;

- Encourage new visitor targets to come;
- Promote BRIC and WHP with new activities;
- Encourage the ownership of the community at large; and
- Support activities of the community and stakeholders.

Currently, BRIC offers three educational activities and guided visits designed for adults and children respectively. There is currently a need to develop new activities considering that these activities have been in place since 2009. New activities developed at WHP/BRIC would require a stage of evaluation, adjustment before their adoption as part of the public programme.

Experience has also shown that partnerships are beneficial to the WHP. For example, several temporary exhibitions were prepared by stakeholders and displayed at WHP creating a collaboration that is beneficial to both parties. However, there is also a need to establish parameters within which collaboration can take place. To this end, the AGTF prepared a policy stating conditions for temporary exhibition at WHP.

This also raises the need for a policy for a third party to conduct an activity at BRIC and/or WHP given that the activity:

- should not convey a negative image;
- should not impact physically or conceptually onto the WHP/BRIC;
- may not be necessarily in line with a topic related to the WHP (indenture, heritage etc.) but should be a topic respecting the '*lieu de memoire*';
- Equal chances should be given to all to organise an activity at WHP/BRIC in line with an equal opportunity policy advocating equity, fairness and transparency;
- Should maintain a level of high quality;
- Should be ethically and legally in order;
- Should not be guided by commercial or money-making purposes;
- Should not distort facts nor be prejudicial to any another party;
- Should receive formal approval of the AGTF.

Partnership and collaboration should be encouraged as well as the development of new activities by AGTF to renew the public programme on a regular basis.

Considering that this objective requires a budget, there would be a need to maintain the provision made for funds every year as part of the recurrent budget.

2.2.7. Prepare and implement a yearly Public Programme

Visitor interpretation would also rely on the public programme offering activities for adults and children. Currently, the public programme offers the following activities to better understand the context of evolution of the World Heritage Property:

- Guided visits of BRIC and WHP;
- Educational activities for children (3 to 14 yrs old).

A specific programme is in place for young audience. The objective is to foster interpretation of the young public through educational activities. These activities solicit the participation of children who learn while performing.

There is also a need to develop activities on a regular basis to propose an evolving public programme with regular new activities for the audience. The public programme will need to be reviewed on a regular basis to update information and attract visitors. The review is a key component for dynamism at World Heritage Site and for attracting new and regular visitors.

3.1.5. Conduct regular audience surveys

There is a need to conduct regular visitor surveys considering diverse audience profile. Such information promotes adaptive interpretation and resort to appropriate techniques and discourse for all visitors; allowing at the same time the development of further activities based on visitor expectations. Ultimately, the objective is to sustain visitor satisfaction.

Audience surveys are essential to gather Information on visitor profile which will determine clear audience targets and help anticipating visitor expectations. Based on their profile, adapted contents, activities and service can be elaborated.

The surveys will also provide with information on visitor satisfaction. They are an indicator for the improvement of service. Audience surveys should be carried out regularly to allow regular review of activities and support marketing strategies.

3.1.6. Review and update pedagogical and academic documentation on a regular basis

To document the site, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund has undertaken significant research on the history of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property and on the indenture period. Our interpretation of the site is based on multi-disciplinary research. The results of research are shared through interpretation, publications and education programme. The education and dissemination programme is key to further communicate and promote the OUV of the Aapravasi Ghat WHP.

Since 2003, the AGTF issued a number of publications presenting the research results. In addition to this, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF) set up a public programme offering activities to visitors at World Heritage Property since 2007. This public programme was elaborated further to offer educational activities for children and various activities for the audience at large such as guided visits, heritage trails or film projection. Since 2009, a school kit on the World Heritage Property is available for schools and Teachers.

Provision is made for the regular update of the pedagogical material to integrate new developments at the World Heritage Property and its Interpretation Centre.

3.1.7. Implement BRIC phase 2 Project

Several elements led to the development of a project proposal for a phase 2 of the Interpretation centre. The setting up of an Interpretation Centre was defined as an object of the fund in the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act (2001; amended version 2006) under section 4 (c) *“To set up a museum and create public awareness of the history of indentured labour.”* It was also identified as an objective of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site Management Plan in the light of the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites of UNESCO encouraging awareness raising and the enhancement of the *“function of World Heritage in the life of the community”* (Op. Guidelines, VI.A. 211.; VI.C.).

The Interpretation Centre Project was divided in two phases: Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre phase 1 (BRIC 1) and phase 2 (BRIC 2). BRIC 1 project completed in 2014 was set up in a 1866 sugar warehouse adjacent to the World Heritage Site. As at date, the World Heritage Site has doubled its number of visitors from 25,000 in 2011 to more than 50,000 in 2018.

Considering that the first phase is completed, the AGTF is now embarking on the phase 2 of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre Project with the view to:

- Extend the land surface where the WHP is located while improving access at WHP;
- Establish a permanent office for the AGTF entrusted to manage, preserve and promote the WHP;
- Welcome an increasing number of visitors to the WHP;
- Widen the access to existing services such as the documentation centre;
- Offer a wider variety of activities;
- Consolidate the historical significance of the area with the acquisition and the rehabilitation of a historic sugar warehouse associated with the history of the WHP where the phase 2 would be implemented;
- Participate in the historic rehabilitation of heritage in the buffer zone as a positive sign for the community.

The second phase projects to set up a permanent exhibition presenting indenture as an international phenomenon. It will include temporary exhibition space, a documentation centre, storage area for collections, offices for the AGTF, visitor facilities and cafeteria. The objective is to diversify offers at World Heritage Property while offering the opportunity to double the space available for visitor management and experience.

First and foremost, it is also essential to secure an office space for the AGTF as underlined by the Advisory Mission to Mauritius in 2018 indicating that *‘the relocation of the AGTF to a site further away from the property than the current location of the offices in the ex-military hospital would negatively impact day-to-day operations. This option is not acceptable from the perspective of maintenance, presentation and interpretation of the OUV of the property’*⁸³. The mission identified the former sugar warehouse located next to the WHP as ‘an ideal location’ and recommended to:

*‘investigate purchasing these warehouses and renovating them as permanent home for the AGTF. This will have additional benefits: it will strengthen the cultural institutional character of the precinct, safeguard these structures, which form an integral part of the quayside and basin on which the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site property is located and are therefore important in the setting of the property. The buildings themselves have historical significance and are, in the opinion of the mission, an appropriate location for the AGTF offices’*⁸⁴.

A feasibility study was included in the project proposal for the setting up of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre. The Project Plan Committee of the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development approved the same. The project was included in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) as ‘projects in the pipeline’. Further steps including timeframe and the allocation of funds need to be taken to proceed with BRIC phase 2 as per the recommendation of the 2018 Advisory Mission.

3.1.8. Consolidate and promote the heritage trails

HERITAGE TRAILS IN PORT LOUIS

The project of BRIC phase 2 raises the issue of heritage interpretation in the buffer zone. In recent years, the policy of the AGTF and NHF has been to promote the heritage component in the buffer zone with the view to create better awareness amongst the population on its importance for the nation.

This is the reason why provision was made in the Management Plan 2006 to create heritage walks and trails to the Aapravasi Ghat Site and its Buffer Zone. The trails were created and evaluated. They are currently proposed in BRIC public programme. However, few visitors make request for the

⁸³ Joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission report, 2018, page 15.

⁸⁴ Ibid. page 15.

heritage walks. When proposed in the context of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, the heritage trails attract many visitors over the open days.

The setting up of heritage walks and guided visits on site appeared an effective vector to inform the local community and visitors of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property and raise awareness on the specificity of its Buffer Zone.

The setting up of heritage trails is in line with the Government policy and forms part of the policy for Tourism Action Area Plans in the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the Tourism Development Plan (2002) of the Ministry of Tourism. The NDS includes a programme for Port Louis central area recommending the development of heritage products and of a “*discovery route*” and “*heritage based destination areas*” consisting in tours and programmes for heritage.⁸⁵ In 2011, a project to set up heritage trails in Port Louis was initiated under the authority of the Ministry of Tourism which engaged in a collaborative project.

More recently, the National Heritage Fund was designated to take over the implementation of the Heritage Trail project given its mandate. The NHF has worked with AGTF and other institutions to implement the heritage trail project in Port Louis in line with the National Exports Strategy⁸⁶ issued in 2017. Currently, the project is under way. Provision is made for the AGTF to promote the heritage trail in its immediate surroundings and potentially promote further those in Port Louis while developing tighter collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

HERITAGE TRAILS IN MAURITIUS

In order to foster visitor interpretation, the AGTF had devised heritage trails in connection with the history of indenture in Mauritius. These trails were evaluated but hinge on the capacity to rehabilitate the heritage sites as well as providing access and visitor facilities.

The present Management Plan maintains the heritage trails identified as medium / long term projects:

1. Indentured sites related to the World Heritage Property; and
2. From slavery to indenture: Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Properties.

In this undertaking, the objective is to consolidate collaboration amongst institutions to make the project a reality. The objective would be to share financial, human and logistical resources and ensure the integrated implementation of the heritage trails.

⁸⁵ *National Development Strategy*, Ministry of Housing and Lands, 2003; Chapter 8; 8.5.

⁸⁶ “Mauritius National Export Strategy, Cultural Tourism Sector, 2017-2021”, Republic of Mauritius, 2017. As the NES indicates, the “*National Export Strategy (NES) is an official document of the Government of Mauritius. The NES was developed on the basis of the process, methodology and technical assistance of the International Trade Centre (ITC) within the framework of its Trade Development Strategy programme. ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.*”

3.2. Managing visitors

Managing visitors at World Heritage Property has become a core issue considering the completion of the conservation and landscaping projects allowing visits of the World Heritage Property. In addition, the opening of the Interpretation Centre has attracted an increasing number of visitors to the World Heritage Property.

Since the inscription of the World Heritage Property, the number of visitors has constantly increased despite minimal promotion. The number of visitors has multiplied by 15 times since 2005 to reach a total of 25,000 per year in 2011 and more than 50,000 in 2018.

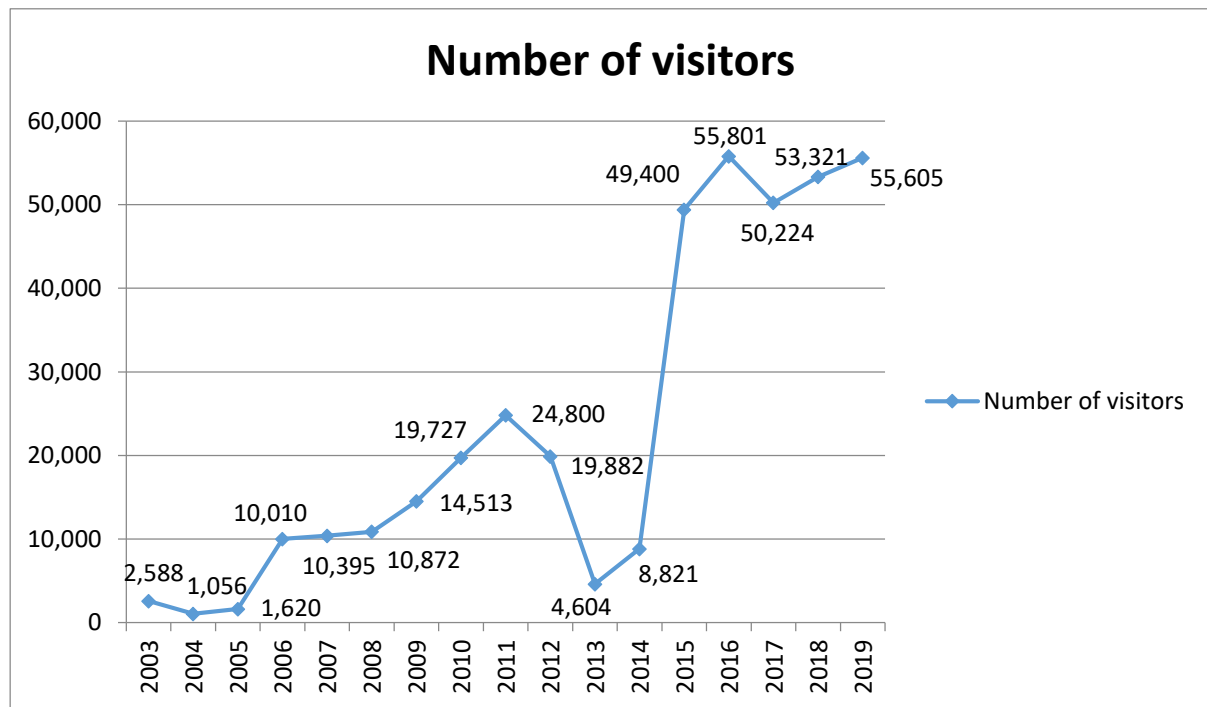


Figure 18: Graph indicating the number of visitors at WHP per year

Currently, there is an average number of 4,450 visitors a month. The Peak season is from May to August and from November to the end of December. During this period, the average number of visitors per day is 208 and can reach up to 307 a day in May when the schools visit.

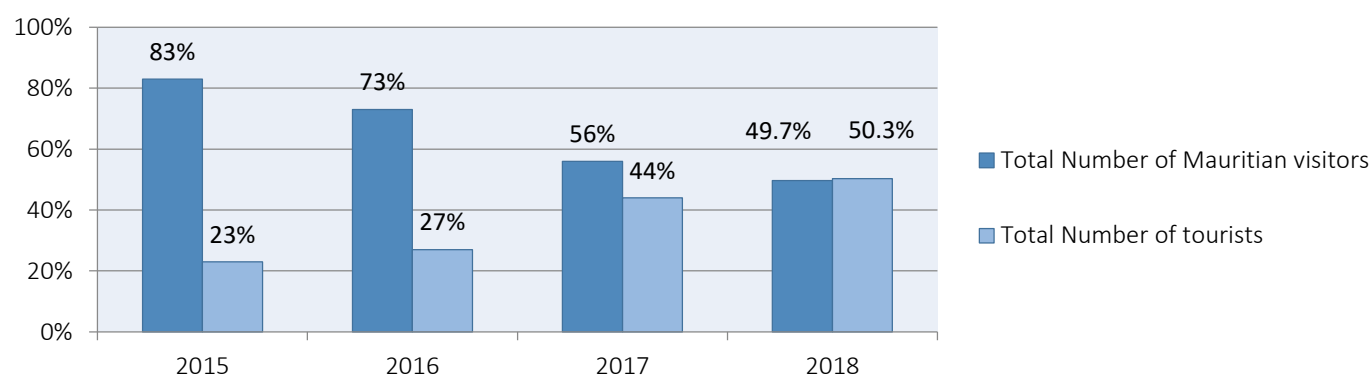
Projections estimate around 80,000 visitors per year in the years to come⁸⁷. More than 50,000 visitors come to the AGWHP since 2016. It seems realistic to estimate an average number of 80,000 visitors a year in the years to come considering the growing awareness of the local population and the potential tourist audience.

The estimation of visitor number is as follows for the next seven years:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Number of visitors	50,000	55,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,000	80,000

Table 2: Estimated number of visitors per year at BRIC as per project proposal for BRIC 1

It is also to be noted that since the opening of the Interpretation Centre, the main proportion of visitors was the local population. The year 2018 has shown the inversion of this trend in favour of the Tourist population now reaching 50.3% of the total number of visitors.



3.2.1. Implement the Visitor Management Plan

With an area of 1640 sq metres, the core area has an optimum carrying capacity of 80 people at a time. The Interpretation Centre has a carrying capacity of 100 people to reach a total number of 180 people at a time.

To ensure smooth visitor management, the team is resting its actions on the Visitor Management Plan which is a guiding document stating clear strategies and measures for visitor management. The Visitor

⁸⁷ This estimation is based on audience surveys conducted by the AGTF at the Mauritius Institute and at the Blue Penny Museum and on visitors' number records in cultural institutions in Port Louis. Besides, the statistics of the Tourist industry helped to define the socio economic context of tourism in Port Louis and in cultural sites or tourist places.

Management Plan (2008) was reviewed to integrate new developments at World Heritage Property and propose adapted measures to mitigate visitor impact.

The Visitor Management Plan would also need to take into consideration exceptional circumstances such as the measures developed (or to be developed further) following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The VMP also includes the establishment of indicators to monitor the impact of tourism on the World Heritage Property.

3.2.2. Improve the visitor recording system

A visitor recording system is in place to record data in an excel sheet including the number of visitors, contact details, provenance and administrative data on visitors. These data provide information on visitor profile and help anticipating visitor needs.

At present, visitors come mainly as part of a tour in Port Louis organised by Tour Operators, local institutions or schools. The visitor recording system is suitable to record data of limited audience. However, with the increasing number of visitors at World Heritage Property, there is a need to improve the visitor monitoring and recording system. A working group could explore the options to improve the same and to optimize the use of existing facilities.

The objective is to use data for monitoring visitor impact on the World Heritage Property and for marketing and promotional purposes.

3.2.3. Foster collaboration with neighbouring institutions and agencies

On several occasions, the AGTF called upon the support of neighbouring institutions to disperse the number of visitors in two or three areas at a time. This measure aims at reducing the number of visitors at World Heritage Property with the establishment of system based on visitor rotation.

This measure has allowed the management of a large number of visitors that would otherwise not be accommodated at World Heritage Property at one time. It has also proven to be beneficial for institutions.

In this respect, there is a need to work in close collaboration with neighbouring institutions and to include them in the process described in the visitor management measures at World Heritage Property.

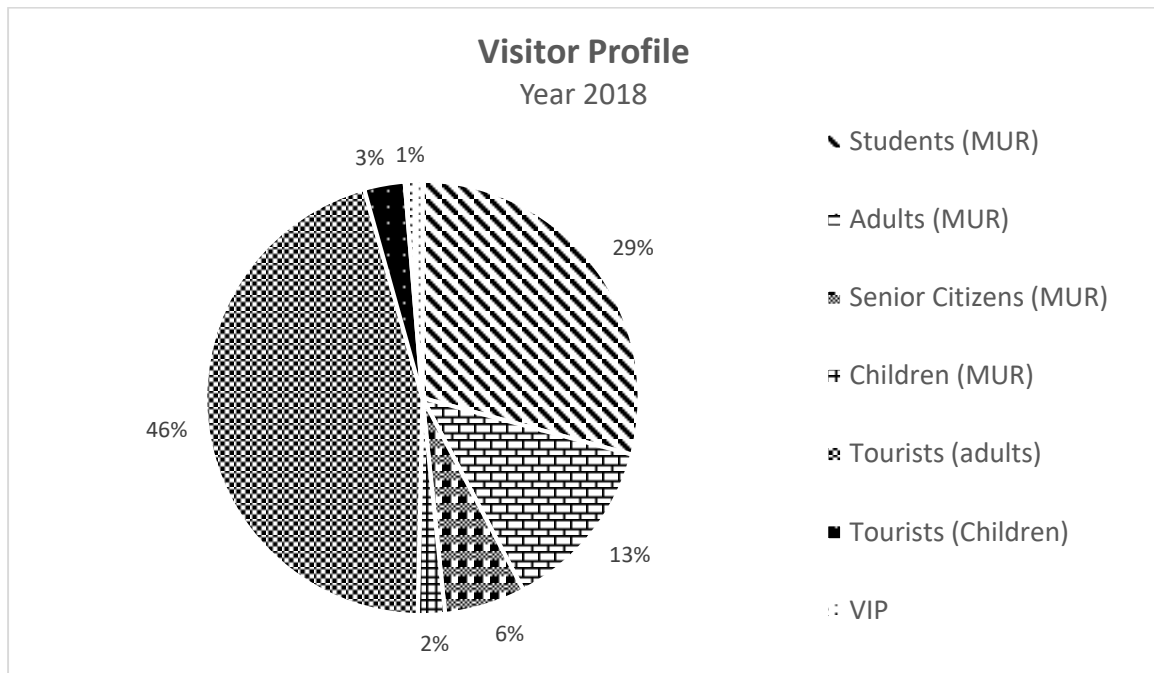
A second element worth mentioning is the benefits brought by such collaboration. A good example is the inclusion of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site in the *Porlwi Festival* which took place in December from 2015 to 2017 in the capital city. The participation to this festival has brought a significant number of visitors to the World Heritage Site:

Year	Duration	Number of visitors at WHS
2015	3 days 4 to 6 December	12,299
2016	3 days 2 to 4 December	12,551
2017	5 days 29 November to 3 rd December	54,700
TOTAL		79,550

During this festival, conditions and provisions for large number of visitors were made making this experience a successful one for the promotion of the World Heritage Site. Considering this, this Management Plan would recommend collaborative programmes to increase the visibility of the World Heritage Site provided that all provisions are made for its safe protection and appropriate visitor management.

4. PROMOTING THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Since the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List in 2006, the Trust Fund opted for little promotion since the conservation project was still underway and visitor infrastructure was not available at WHP. Since the opening of the interpretation centre, the number of visitors has increased and the World Heritage Site welcomes new visitor profiles. As at date, the majority of visitors are Tourists (adults - 45%), Mauritian students (29%) followed by Mauritian adults (13%). The percentage of senior citizens has remained stable with 7% before the opening of the interpretation centre in 2014 and 6% in 2018.



With the completion of the Conservation Project and the opening of the Interpretation Centre, the number of tourists has increased significantly from 23% in 2015 to 50.3% in 2018. This increase marks the result of the increased promotion conducted by the Tour operators, the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) and foreign travel guides. The Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property benefits from its central location in the capital city and nearby the Caudan Waterfront⁸⁸.

⁸⁸ According to the data provided by Le Caudan Development Ltd, the company managing Le Caudan Waterfront, 400,000 foreign visitors visit the waterfront per year. According to Analysis Research Consultants and Taylor Nelson/ SOFRES, the Caudan receives more visitors than Port Louis market (56%), Pamplemousses Gardens (55%), and île aux Cerfs (42%). The percentages are expressed on the total number of tourists. The source for these figures: "Overview" in Ministry of Tourism's web site, 14/02/2005. <http://www.gov.mu/portal/site/tourist>

Beyond this area, Mauritius has seen the number of tourists increasing in the past years. During the year 2017, Mauritius received as many as 1,341,860 tourists when the population is 1.3 million. Given the prime location of the Aapravasi Ghat, the increase in tourist arrivals has also had an impact on the number of visitors at World Heritage Site⁸⁹.

Up to present, the AGTF has adopted a promotional strategy limited to visibility in travel guides and in the network of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority. The Management Plan 2013-2018 made provision for the preparation of a tourism and marketing strategy that has partly been implemented. Several limitations were noted as a result of an absence of policy for the generation of funds and limited resources for the promotion of events. Based on actual figures and resources available since the opening of the Interpretation Centre, the current tourism and marketing strategy identified the following objectives as priorities:

- Encourage repeating visits of the local population through regular activities;
- Encourage more tourists to visit the centre; and
- Develop collaborative programme with sister institutions to encourage more visitors to come to the World Heritage Site.

The marketing and tourism strategy developed when the Centre opened in 2014 was further consolidated by an overarching framework elaborated under the aegis of the Government of Mauritius. A National Export Strategy for Cultural Tourism Sector was developed and adopted in 2017 in order to integrate “*cultural tourism within the main Mauritian tourism products*”⁹⁰. This policy is providing an action plan to coordinate activities undertaken under the aegis of various stakeholders and authorities for the period 2017 to 2021. The present Management Plan makes provision for the implementation of this action plan as part of the tourism strategy for the World Heritage Site.

This is in line with the need to support the tourism industry which is the 3rd pillar of the national economy. It is essential to offer cultural activities to develop tourism in a sustainable manner. Cultural tourism has become a priority in the government policy. This area has a strong potential for future development and for employment of the local population.

⁸⁹According to the surveys conducted by the Ministry of Tourism, Mauritius received 1,275,227 tourists in 2016 and 1,341,860 in 2017 and has an objective of 2 million visitors a year in a near future. International Travel and Tourism Year 2016 and Year 2017: <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/Publications/Pages/Int-Travel-and-Tourism-Year-2016.aspx>
http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/Publications/Pages/Tourism_Yr17.aspx

⁹⁰National Exports Strategy, 2017, page 1.

To this end, the following actions were identified in this section:

Promoting the World Heritage Property and its surroundings

Objective 8: Ensure the implementation of a sustainable strategy for the promotion of the World Heritage Property

A.8.1. Review and implement the Tourism & Marketing Strategy

A.8.2. Approve and implement the pricing policy

A.8.3. Promote heritage in the buffer zone

4.1. Review and implement the Tourism & Marketing Strategy

Conservation works were taking place from 2004 until 2010. Consequently, the constant restoration works were not compatible with the management of important number of visitors. What is more, visitor infrastructures were not appropriate to meet the needs of visitors. With the opening of the Interpretation Centre in 2014, a Tourism and marketing Strategy was prepared in order to address the orientation for overall promotion of the World Heritage Property. This document provides:

- A description of the product marketed (World Heritage Site);
- The vision;
- Potential markets for the World Heritage Site;
- The offers;
- Pricing policy;
- Activities and actions to promote the World Heritage Property.

Concurrently with the Visitor Management Plan, the objective of this strategy was to ensure that tourism at World Heritage Property be managed in a sustainable manner and to curtail negative impact on the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage Property.

The Core Zone Management Committee ensures the timely implementation and the monitoring of the Visitor Management Plan and the Tourism & Marketing Strategy in collaboration with stakeholders.

Principles guiding the tourism & marketing strategy:

1. the objective is to privilege and constantly enhance the quality of visitor experience;
2. the promotion of the World Heritage Property should prevail over that of the Interpretation Centre: the objective is to promote the World Heritage Property and its Outstanding Universal Value;
3. the public programme should focus on well-defined activities that focus on the quality of visitor experience;
4. collaborative approach should be favoured to allow a larger development of promotional activities; and
5. participative approach should be privileged to allow the involvement of the local community in a way that meets the principles established at WHP.

Up to present, the marketing and promotional strategy of the World Heritage Property was part of the Visitor Management Plan. There may be a need to update the plan of activities and actions for the promotion of the World Heritage Property on the basis of current situation and its assessment to ensure the successful promotion of the World Heritage Property and its Interpretation Centre.

The UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit should be used as a reference document.

4.2. Approve and implement the pricing policy

The Section 1.2. of this document is recommending the elaboration of a policy and framework for the generation of funds. In line with this recommendation, the present Management Plan is impressing upon the need to establish a pricing policy for the World Heritage Site.

There is currently a project led by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage to charge fees at the entrance of national museums in Mauritius. The Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site was first identified as a potential pilot project before enforcing fees in National Museums. As at date, the objective is to devise a national ticketing system allowing with one ticket the visit of several museums/sites managed by governmental institutions.

It would be recommended to elaborate a pricing policy in line with governmental process for approval and a system for the clear management of funds would also need to be established. It is recommended to pursue efforts to enforce entrance fees in order to support operating expenses incurred at World Heritage Site and maintain a high level of quality.

4.3. Promote heritage in the Buffer Zone

4.3.1. Promote the vision for development

Before the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, the Aapravasi Ghat was hardly known: from 41% in 2005, the percentage of people who know Aapravasi Ghat has increased to 95% in 2011⁹¹. However, the World Heritage Property is not fully integrated in the social dynamism of the city centre as a result of a physical separation created by the motorway constructed in 1980s. Planning policies for the area aim at curtailing this demarcation and recreate the historic circulation between the World Heritage Property and its surroundings.

The vision stated in the PPG promotes heritage as a driver for development. However, this is a new concept in Mauritius where no similar reference exists locally. There is a need to promote the vision for the heritage area and raise awareness on the opportunities for sustainable development in the area. As part of this management plan, it is proposed to pursue efforts to disseminate information on heritage economics and rehabilitation potential as per items described under sections 1.3., 2.2. and 3.1.

The recommendation of the Reactive Monitoring Mission (2012) is also taken into consideration as part of the promotion in favour of the Buffer Zone:

“The mission recommends the organisation of an international meeting in Port Louis to foster dialogue about the connected issues of Heritage and Economy in Mauritius. This occasion will offer an opportunity to show examples on how heritage is a viable alternative for the development for historic town” (2012: 6).

Based on this recommendation, the Buffer Zone Management Committee may explore the potential to organise an international meeting on ‘Heritage as a Driver for development’ or similar initiatives that would foster awareness thereon.

4.3.2. Develop and consolidate a programme of activities

The promotion of heritage in the Buffer Zones and the appreciation of its potential development could be fostered by the setting up of a programme of activities in collaboration with private and public agencies and the local communities.

One of these actions could be the setting up of a yearly event consisting in opening the heritage buildings and sites to the public at night and invite the local community to participate with a view to encourage the revitalisation of the area.

⁹¹ Surveys carried out by AGTF in 2005 and 2011.

The World Heritage Status also supports the setting up of activities forming part of regional and international events such as the International Day for Monuments and Sites on a national scale.

It is proposed to invite the Buffer Zone Management Committee to examine the potential range of activities and identify the process for their implementation.

5. CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE SCOPE AND EXTENT OF INDENTURE

Conducting research is a prerequisite at World Heritage Property to further document and sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat as per the *Convention for the protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites*.

Since 2003, the AGTF has undertaken research as per its mandate defined in AGTF Act (2001 amended 2006, 2011):

- *To encourage and support projects and publications related to the indentured labour;*
- *To encourage and support interdisciplinary scientific research related to indentured labour and to the sites specified in the schedule.*

Research has been an on-going process with the primary objective to document the experience of immigrants at the Depot. Most research results were presented in the Nomination Dossier submitted to UNESCO in 2005. At the time of inscription of the Site in 2006, the World Heritage Committee recommended to:

- *“Undertake research on indentured labour to consider the extent, scope and impact of the indentured labour Diaspora around the world” (WHC- 06/30 COM/19, p.145).*

This includes the development of research in various scientific disciplines including history, anthropology and archaeology. The objective is to develop our knowledge of the indentured experience through interdisciplinary research.

In 2014, the government of Mauritius presented a project proposal for the establishment of the Indentured Labour Route project (ILRP) to the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 195th session held in Paris on 20 October 2014 who offered its support to the project⁹². The Indentured Labour Route Project is steered by the International Scientific Committee (ISC) established as an inter-governmental committee with representatives from various countries where indenture was experienced. The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund was designated as the Secretariat for the Indentured Labour Route Project. The indentured Labour Route Project also forms part of the research strategy for the World Heritage site.

⁹²see extract of UNESCO's decisions at Annex 11.

To continue research on the scope and extent of indenture, the following objectives were identified:

Conducting research on the scope and extent of indenture

Objective 9: Continue and encourage multidisciplinary research on the scope and extent of indenture by establishing local, regional and international networks

- A.9.1. Regular Review the integrated Research Plan (2016-2021)
- A.9.2. Conduct an archaeological survey at *Parc à Boulets* and adjacent area
- A.9.3. Implement the Indentured Labour Route project
- A.9.4. Consolidate and Develop a research strategy for Intangible Cultural Heritage
- A.9.5. Prepare a strategy and policy for consolidating research capacity
- A.9.6. Develop and consolidate networks to foster research on indenture

Objective 10: Improve the management of information and consolidate the documentation centre

- A.10.1. Set up appropriate data management system
- A.10.2. Prepare an ethics and access policy for research

5.1. Scope and limitations

5.1.1. The research scope

The AGTF's research scope responds to its mandate focusing on research on indentured labour.

The prime objective is to document and appreciate the significance of the Aapravasi Ghat former Immigration depot now World Heritage Property, within the local, regional and international system of indenture. This is considered to be the base for understanding the scope and extent of the indenture system in Mauritius, and appreciate the experience of immigrants on a global scale.

Research undertaken on other indentured heritage sites aim at offering a deeper insight in the indenture system and sustain the cultural significance of the World Heritage Property as a symbol of the international system of indenture in the 19th century.

Historical research

Capacity in historical studies is available at AGTF which has led research projects on the history of indenture. Since 2003, historical research has focused on the creation, functioning and role of the Aapravasi Ghat Immigration Depot, and on the indenture experience in Mauritius.

The research results were disseminated in several publications.

Intangible Cultural heritage

The World Heritage Property was inscribed under criterion (vi) stressing the importance of intangible cultural heritage. The definition of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is in line with the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* of UNESCO that Mauritius signed in 2003.

The research methodology on intangible cultural heritage will abide by the principles addressed in the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* of UNESCO and its operational directives.

Research on the ICH will be guided by the following limitations:

- The ICH studied is related to the indenture experience in Mauritius and elsewhere; and
- The research on ICH will focus on the interaction existing between the World Heritage Property and its physical and spiritual environment.

Archaeological research

Archaeological research pertaining to the documentation and identification of features of the Immigration Depot from 2003 to 2009 was led by a holistic approach aiming at restoring the authenticity and integrity of the site and also, documenting further its functioning at the time of indenture. The research allowed the identification of key authentic features forming the former Immigration Depot and their conservation.

On completion of archaeological campaigns at WHP, most information relevant to the immigration depot and its functioning was gathered. Today, Professionals who assessed the archaeological potential at World Heritage Property feel that further archaeological research would not be justified considering that accessible parts were already documented through archaeological methodology.

However, the recent Advisory Mission to Mauritius in May 2018 underscored the need to document the site called 'Parc à Boulets' located next to the World Heritage Site considering its archaeological potential. The present Management Plan makes provision for this recommendation.

Regarding other indentured sites, the strategy is to document the life of the immigrants after their stay at the depot as a continuous process. The documentation of the life of the immigrants on sugar estates brings further significance to the role and function of the Immigration Depot as the initial process of indentured labour in the country and elsewhere.

The interaction between the immigration depot and the sugar estates is therefore the current subject of investigation to substantiate further the cultural significance of the World Heritage Property.

5.2. Guiding principles and objectives

Since 2003, a research unit was established at AGTF to conduct research documenting the history and significance of the World Heritage Property. The research programme was devised upon the need to document further the history of the Aapravasi Ghat Immigration Depot and its role within the indenture system in Mauritius and in the world.

The research undertaken so far responded to the following principles and objectives:

1. Conduct research to document and further appreciate the extent and scope of indenture;
2. Relate the Mauritian indentured experience within the perspective of indenture in the world;
3. Encourage multi-disciplinary approach to better appreciate Mauritian experience;
4. Continue documenting the World Heritage Property as the symbol of indenture in the 19th and the early 20th century;
5. Document the modalities and dynamics that led the British colonial power to choose Mauritius as a test case for the implementation of the indentured system; and
6. The impact of the indentured system set up in Mauritius on Mauritian society and on indenture in the Indian Ocean region and in the world.

5.3. Research issues and objectives

The AGTF has accomplished continuous research on indenture since the setting up of a research and technical unit in 2003. When the World Heritage Property was inscribed in 2006, the UNESCO recommended that further research be undertaken to document and appreciate *“the extent, scope and impact of Indentured Labour Diaspora around the world”*⁹³.

In 2016, the Research Plan was prepared to set up a strategy for research at the AGTF for the next five years and achieve the objectives stated in the Strategic Plan for the AGTF:

1. The AGTF has the potential to become a key research institution on indenture;

⁹³WHC- 06/30 COM/19, p.145 : decision 30 COM 8B.33.

2. There is a need to conduct research on Mauritius with the view to position it within a larger global context to address UNESCO requirements (a World Heritage mandate) and to reach satisfy higher academic standards for research and publications;
3. To foster collaborative research programmes with other institutions in Mauritius and elsewhere in the world.

The research plan is now guiding research undertakings within a set strategy based on:

1. The AGTF act (2001 – amended 2006 & 2011);
2. The recommendation to conduct research to document and further appreciate the extent and scope of indenture as per the recommendation of UNESCO (WHC-06/30 COM 8B.33);
3. The objective 11 of Management Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (2013-2018);
4. The establishment of the Indentured Labour Route project.

5.4. Regular Review the integrated Research Plan (2016-2021)

The Research Plan was prepared at the level of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund entrusted to preserve, manage and promote the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. Considering the nature of our mission and the recommendations of UNESCO, this research plan rests on the following guiding principles:

- Establishing the foundations for a longer-term rational plan of research;
- Supporting interdisciplinary research and collaborative research;
- Setting up and conducting research projects that are reasonable and manageable;
- Conducting sustainable research to capitalise on existing research and new scholarship.

The Research Plan identified the following research themes for the next five years:

- Objective 1: Research on the origins of indenture;
- Objective 2: Multidisciplinary research including Bras d'Eau and Flat Island;
- Objective 3: Research on memory and heritage.

The objective 1 “Research on origins” is required to be able to appreciate the modalities and dynamics of indenture in later periods. There is a need to understand how indenture began in order to understand how it developed and why it did so. It includes:

1. Research on the origins of the sugar industry;
2. The transition between slavery and indenture and the relationship between the two labour systems;
3. Research on early migration (c1825 to c1850)
4. Research on social mobility;
5. Research on Port Louis and its relationship with rural districts and the wider world.

The objective 2 “Multidisciplinary research” will deal with the study of two sites namely Bras d’Eau and Flat Island with a focus on:

1. The early years of indenture system (1820s-1830s);
2. Memory and heritage especially contemporary perception of heritage.

The objective 3 will deal with Memory and Heritage. This will include a focus on the way in which heritage related to indenture is viewed by Mauritians. The research will focus initially on two main themes:

1. Modern perceptions of the indentured experience;
2. Perceptions of the Aapravasi Ghat WHS.

These themes will be explored by using oral history materials (800 interviews in total) to better understand how people think about their heritage and what is the modern public memory of the indentured experience?

This is a very important topic of research as it enquires into what people expect heritage institutions to do to preserve and enhance this heritage.

With this research plan, the AGTF states its research strategy for the next five years. However, the Research Plan would require regular updates and review in light of the activities and projects undertaken to meet its objectives and those of the present Management Plan. The regular assessment and review can be undertaken at the level of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund that may also co-opt partners and professionals that may bring a valuable contribution to the achievement of the research objectives.

5.5. Conduct archaeological research at *Parc à Boulets* and adjacent area

Following the recommendation of the Advisory Mission to Mauritius, the present Management Plan makes provision for an archaeological survey, and further potential research, at *Parc à Boulets* located next to the World Heritage Site.

This site was identified to receive the terminus station of the Light Rail extending from Curepipe to Port Louis. The Advisory Mission impressed upon the need to change the location of the station and to conduct an in-depth survey to document further attributes that support the OUV of the World Heritage Property⁹⁴ including Parc à Boulets and the section of the Immigration Square where the other part of the immigration depot used to be located before its destruction in the 1980s.

If the archaeological research demonstrates evidence of tangible connections between at Parc à Boulets and the World Heritage Property, there will be a need to consider the extension of the delimitations of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. It is proposed that this research initiative be conducted by the AGTF in close collaboration with the NHF and that the section over the Immigration square terminal be also considered in the research as the area.

5.6. Implement the Indentured Labour Route project

The first meeting of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) - steering the Indentured Labour Route Project - was held on 30 and 31st October 2017. The ISC was established as an inter-governmental committee with representatives from various countries. The ISC met to prepare an action plan for the implementation of the Indentured Labour Route Project including a number of projects and activities regrouped under the following main objectives:

1. Priority projects

- Establish an **International Indentured Migration Database**
- Establish an education kit for the young audience entitled 'Girmitiya **Children.Youth.Connect** "Connecting roots and routes"

2. Set up quick win actions to promote the indentured labour route project

- Create a FaceBook page
- Create / review the Wikipedia Page
- Create a website dedicated to ILRP

3. Foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary comparative research

- Establish an International Indentured Immigration Database (IIID)
- Conduct further research on indenture as an international phenomenon

⁹⁴The Mission made the following comments: *"The proposed location of the Immigration Station with its pedestrian bridge on the Parc à Boulets will have a high long-term negative impact on the property. The Parc à Boulets almost certainly contain (archaeological) attributes that support the OUV of the property"*. The decisions of the World Heritage Committee in 2019 also highlight the need for an archaeological survey at Parc à Boulets (ref. Annex 3).

4. Identify, conserve and promote the heritage associated with indentured labour
 - Devise a global inventory of sites
 - Document and preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage
 - Create heritage trails
5. Devise Educational programmes to show global nature of indenture and links between countries
 - Create a programme entitled “Girmitiya Children.Youth.Connect”
 - Disseminate knowledge on indenture for wide audience
6. Undertake actions to commemorate / pay homage to indentured labourers
 - Identify and suggest memorials and commemorations

The first actions of the ISC would be to:

1. The designation of a focal point per country involved;
2. Focal points will be invited to create advisory groups / national committee in their country.
3. Chairpersons of regional and thematic subcommittees to constitute the groups and inform secretariat on the composition of the subcommittees.
4. Create National Committee in Mauritius.

The present Management Plan makes provision for the implementation of the Indentured Labour Route project within the established framework and available resources and in line with UNESCO’s decision at Annex 11.

5.7. Consolidate and develop a research strategy for Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Another important aspect is the development of research on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) considering that the World Heritage Property was inscribed under criterion (vi). The research on elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage started with a project of inventory initiated in 2010 partly funded by UNESCO. The project aimed at identifying ICH elements. The AGTF in collaboration with the National Heritage Fund constituted an inventory of 60 elements related to the indenture experience.

Considering the research data compiled since 2005 on oral history among descendants of indentured labourers and on Intangible Cultural Heritage, further analysis of these data would bring deeper insights supporting the understanding of the indenture experience and identify the surviving Intangible Cultural Heritage related to indenture.

Based on data available and the framework established by UNESCO's Convention for Intangible Cultural Heritage signed by Mauritius in 2003, there is a need to further elaborate the strategy for the documentation and analysis of data in order to support research undertakings. The present Management Plan recommends that a research strategy for Intangible Cultural Heritage be developed in collaboration with the National Heritage Fund as National Repository for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mauritius and other parties involved in ICH.

The ultimate goal is to document and retain the Intangible Cultural Heritage and also, propose elements of ICH on the representative list of UNESCO as signatory state of the *Convention on the Safeguard of Intangible Cultural Heritage*.

5.8. Prepare a strategy and policy for consolidating research capacity

The research and technical unit of the AGTF has gained significant knowledge in the indenture experience. However, there is a need to consolidate capacity in anthropology and other disciplines related to heritage to implement the Research Plan in an effective and efficient manner.

The institution particularly needs to consolidate its capacity in anthropology to better appreciate and approach the research on Intangible Cultural Heritage related to indenture. To build upon existing capacity, there is a need to identify the needs for training and training opportunities, and empower the research staff further.

Considering that disciplines such as Anthropology or Archaeology require post-graduate consolidated studies, it is proposed to build capacity through mentoring activities privileging on-the-job-training to empower AGTF staff as well as training in the form of professional training or courses dispensed by tertiary education institutions.

Partnerships in projects and MoU are also encouraged. In the long term, the objective is to empower the AGTF to become one of the leading institutions for research on indenture in the world.

Identifying the needs for training and training opportunities would require that a strategy and a policy be established for consolidating research capacity. Existing capacity at the AGTF and other institutions can be augmented further with the view to establish collaboration with sister institutions, mentoring or any other means empowering the research capacity further.

The STAC on research could explore via a pilot project or based on existing situation, means to build further research capacity serving the objectives of this Management Plan.

5.9. Develop and consolidate networks to foster research on indenture

5.9.1. CONSOLIDATE LOCAL RESEARCH NETWORK

Other institutions have resources in history, archaeology, anthropology and other fields related to heritage. The establishment of an overall collaboration among institutions would be beneficial to share available resources in an integrated manner and achieve the goals set out in the Research Plan.

The collaboration could be established through formal agreements such as Memorandum of Understanding with institutions conducting research such as the University of Mauritius, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture.

The establishment of a formal collaboration would lead to the creation of research groups composed of key resource person to conduct specific projects. The research group would work to:

1. elaborate clear research project proposal;
2. implement and monitor the research proposal;
3. report on the progress of work to relevant decision-makers; and
4. assess the result of research and make recommendations for the consolidation of research and dissemination of research results.

5.9.2. CONSOLIDATE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS

Formalize and foster research network

The phenomenon of indenture was not limited to Mauritius. Indenture was also used mainly in the Indian Ocean Region and the Caribbean, and other places in the world. The AGTF has initiated a number of actions aiming at fostering and consolidating links with other research networks on regional and international scale.

It is proposed to sustain the initiatives already undertaken namely:

1. The convention with Musée de Villèle in Réunion Island in charge of Le Lazaret de la Grande Chaloupe, a site where indentured labourers stayed in Quarantine in Reunion Island;
2. *Iconotheque de l’Ocean Indien* project led by the Department de la Reunion; and
3. Formalise, foster and consolidate the network established via the Indentured Labour Route Project.

The present Management Plan makes provision to encourage collaborative research projects falling within its established framework and to formalize collaboration in the form of agreement or MoUs.

The research projects would follow the process of :

- Preparation of clear research proposal with estimates
- Technical committee for review
- Official approval
- Implementation
- Monitoring via relevant committee.

5.10. Improve the management of information and consolidate the documentation centre

5.10.1. Set up appropriate data management system

As part of the research process, there is a need to set up a proper system to organize and manage information. The objective is to expand the existing documentation centre and set up an appropriate information system to manage information. The objective is also to allow friendly access to anyone conducting research on indenture.

The expertise in data information management would be required to establish the needs and the requirements for the establishment of a data information system meeting the needs of the AGTF. This technical report would be the base to undertake necessary process to implement the creation of such information system.

In the future with the increase of research data, the AGTF may need to recruit a Documentation Officer to manage the data entry and access, and manage the documentation centre.

5.10.2. Prepare an ethics and access policy for research

The public access to the Documentation Centre also underlines the need for a policy regarding access to the research data. Principles are in place and should be consigned in a policy paper. The policy would consider the access to the research data by a third party and propose guidelines that the person accessing to the data would abide by.

PART III: IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The following Action Plan presents the ten objectives that are the cornerstones of the Management Plan 2020-2025. Each objective is linked to an expected outcome. The set of actions needed to pursue each objective, are listed. In order to measure whether a particular action has been executed satisfactorily, there is an indicator by which the result of the action can be monitored and measured.

Taking into account that the management of the World Heritage Property involved an array of parties, the Action Plan also links the specific actions to the primary parties responsible for their execution. This ensures that responsibilities are clear. This is not to say that other parties cannot assist in particular actions but indicates the responsible parties that will help to remove bottlenecks that may arise when multiple parties are responsible for management.

Stakeholders are also listed for particular objectives as implementation will rely on their goodwill, as well as any assistance that they may be able to give. This collective approach reflects the wide interest that numerous parties have in the welfare of the WHP. Finally, there are timelines tied to particular actions so that the roll-out of the plan is linked to a timeline. This is important as certain actions depend on other actions to be taken first, or sometimes at the same time.

The format of the Action Plan makes it easy to monitor and pinpoint areas where additional effort or assistance may be needed. It is essential that a monitoring and evaluation systems be put in place that correlates with the Action Plan and its format. In this way implementation of the Action Plan can be monitored - and can periodically be reviewed - by the Management Plan Committee chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

Provision is made in the present plan for its review in five years.

ACTION PLAN

<u>1</u>	Endorse the Management Plan as the overarching document to manage, administer and promote the World Heritage Property in an integrated manner					
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.1.1 Adopt the Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present Management Plan to all parties concerned and request their final views • Integration of views and approval of the Plan by all parties • Present proposal to Cabinet of Ministers and request endorsement • Submission to the World Heritage Centre • Formal adoption. 	Management plan used as a mandatory document	Monitoring on the implementation of the MP by the MPC	MACH	ALL	November 2020
A.1.2. Establish yearly targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish targets at WHP and for Committees • Set up marketing and promotion objectives and targets as per yearly plan • Report on results to the CZMC and to the BZMC 	Better management of resources and optimal revenue generation	Regular reporting and monitoring by CZMC Reporting to Board	AGTF	MACH	January 2021- December 2023

2 Consolidate the existing management system of the World Heritage Property and its setting to ensure effective and integrated management						
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.2.1.To establish AGTF office near AG WHP ⁹⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit project proposal for BRIC 2 & include proposal for acquisition • Monitor process with MACH • Prepare and launch tenders for consultancy and works • Set up dedicated team of professionals for monitoring the works once awarded • Implementation 	AGTF office and BRIC 2 set up and operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building acquired • Tenders launched and awarded • Rehabilitation phase implemented 	AGTF	MACH MPA	Mar. 2020 - 2025
A.2.2.Consolidate the managerial framework for the Interpretation Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an assessment of the needs in terms of Human Resources • Devise appropriate plan and initiate appropriate procedure to provide appropriate resources • Advertisement and procurement of appropriate human resources 	BRIC managed as per set targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on need assessment submitted • Programme for recruitment and its implementation • Publication of Pay Research Bureau Report • Visitor satisfaction survey 	AGTF	MACH Ministry of Civil Service Pay Research Bureau	2021 - 2022
A.2.3.Create a Policy And Framework For the Generation of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a STAC with key representatives • Take necessary actions to elaborate and enforce entrance fees at BRIC • Produce a policy and framework for the shop at BRIC 	Entrance fees enforced Policy and framework in place for BRIC shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings • Number of actions • Policy and framework drafted, approved and implemented 	AGTF	MACH Attorney's General Office MFE PD	2021 - 2022
A.2.4.Set up and retain a technical committee for BRIC	Set up a technical committee with relevant permanent members and co-opted professionals	Maintenance & other issued identified and addressed	Committee to meet at least three times a year	AGTF	-	2020

⁹⁵ The joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission 2018 recommended that to “investigate purchasing these warehouses and renovating them as a permanent home for the AGTF” (2018:15).

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.2.5.Consolidate the role of the Technical Committee (CCPL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BZMC to examine the potential for a right of VETO⁹⁶ BZMC submitting report and proposals BZMC's proposal considered and notification thereon Proposed measures or their rejection in place 	Greater scope for heritage protection and enhancement	BZMC's proposal submitted and considered	CCPL NHF AGTF	MACH MLGOI	2021 - 2022
A.2.6.Consolidate the role of the Buffer Zone Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up yearly calendar of meetings Identify priority issues and discuss them Regularly report on meetings to initiate and follow up on actions undertaken 	Sustainable and integrated management of heritage in the Buffer Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of meetings per year Regular reporting on the percentage of progress of work 	CCPL NHF AGTF	MACH MLGOI	2021 - 2024
A.2.7.Formalize the technical assistance mechanism for stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare terms of reference for the modus operandi regarding technical assistance provided Institutions to designate dedicated persons officially Maintain a record of information provided BZMC to make proposal for consolidation of such mechanism in the short, medium and long run 	Conservation unit or equivalent created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of meetings Reports submitted yearly on nature of assistance provided Proposal submitted by the BZMC 	CCPL	MLGOI MACH AGTF NHF	2021 - 2024
A.2.8.Develop and consolidate capacity in heritage management and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BZMC to identify the needs and requirements Prepare a project proposal for capacity building in heritage conservation and management Call for interest to enrol participants Final project proposal submitted for approval Implementation 	Capacity in heritage strengthened at MCPL and NHF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback and decisions of the World Heritage Committee Number of meeting Implementation of a work plan and reports Monitoring by the BZMC 	CCPL NHF	MACH AGTF	2023 - 2025

⁹⁶ Reference is made to the Advisory Mission's report: "The Mission therefore recommends that the State Party investigate granting the AGTF a right to veto in decisions of the City of Port Louis permit system, when its objections to development proposals can be substantiated and are supported by the National Heritage Fund" (2018:29).

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.2.9.Encourage participative conservation, management and promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a working group to prepare information on business models and other measures would support community's investment in heritage • Prepare draft documents for review and editing • Publication after approval • Identify means to foster interaction with the local community and to disseminate information • Propose, secure funding and Implementation 	Productive and supportive interaction with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of work produced by working group • Number of publications 	AGTF NHF	MACH MCPL	2021 - 2023
A.2.10.Provide with a simplified documentation to foster integrated management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce summaries of key managerial documents • Produce synthesis of reports on heritage economics for dissemination at large • Ease access to documents and allow large dissemination 	<p>All documents related to the management of the WHP and its BZ available to all</p> <p>Documents on heritage economics available for the local community and the public at large</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan of work for the preparation of summaries and synthesis • Regular monitoring through WHPC 	AGTF	MACH MCPL NHF	2021 - 2022

3	Monitor conservation and risk preparedness for the World Heritage Property and its surroundings, and the Interpretation Centre and its collections					
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.3.1. Monitor and evaluate conservation at World Heritage Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and assess the implementation of the maintenance plan • Report to the CZMC on potential adjustments • Monitor and implement corrective actions 	Appropriate conservation policy in place at WHP	Monitoring by CZMC committee	AGTF	NHF	July 2020-December 2022
A.3.2. Update the Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group led by WHS Manager producing an updated RPP • Review by CZMC and approval by AGTF Board • Training of staff • Monitor the implementation by CZMC 	Appropriate measures in place at WHP and BRIC	Monitoring by CZMC and approval of Board	AGTF	NHF	2021-2022
A.3.3. Monitor and mitigate the impact of visitors at World Heritage Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information to the public at WHP and BRIC on visitor policy • Enlist security services to mitigate the impact of human factor and set up reporting thereon • Set up video surveillance system at WHP • Improve the visitor recording system • Update the Visitor Management Plan (VMP) • Regular reporting to the CZMC 	<p>Mitigation of the impact of visitors on WHP and anticipate risks</p> <p>VMP implemented</p>	Monitoring through CZMC Regular reporting	AGTF	NHF	2021
A.3.4. Maintain the policies for AGTF collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure implementation of conservation and collections policies in case the storage area is moved to another location : prepare a specific plan taking into consideration all issues implied with moving the artefacts 	WHP landscaped as per ICOMOS conservation guidelines	Regular conservation assessment Monitoring and reporting to WHPC and AGTF Board	AGTF	NHF	2020 - 2023

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
Objective 4	Consolidate the framework for the conservation of the heritage component in the Buffer Zone					
A.4.1. Prepare a long term conservation policy and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAC on conservation to make proposal for the preparation of the conservation policy and guidelines and to monitor its preparation • Approval of proposal by BZMC • Assessment and review of draft conservation policy • Approval by AGTF and NHF Boards and implementation 	Long term conservation ensured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reporting by the STAC • Conservation indicators in place 	AGTF NHF	CCPL MACH	2021 - 2023
A.4.2. Upgrade, update and disseminate the heritage inventory	<p>Adopt the grading system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion in the National Heritage Fund Bill • Implementation of actions for the adoption of the bill • Disseminate Information about the grading system <p>Updating the inventory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up working group in the form of a STAC to update the inventory • Implement the plan of work with relevant resources <p>Creation of an integrated database</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlist appropriate expertise to assess the needs for the creation of an integrated database using NAVEO • Secure funds for the project • Procurement exercise and award of contract • Monitoring and delivery • Testing and implementation phase • Training of staff 	<p>Grading system formally adopted</p> <p>Inventory regularly updated</p> <p>Integrated database in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reporting by STAC to BZMC • Number of meetings 	AGTF NHF	CCPL MACH	2021 - 2023

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
Objective 5	Establish a suitable environment for the conservation and enhancement of the Buffer Zone that encourages sustainable development and the transformation of the area into a vibrant regenerated heritage district					
A.5.1.Implement the local economic development (LED) plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group to be set up under umbrella of CCPL Study of proposed measures of LED STAC to recommend the way forward Implementation of the measures stated in the LED plan with a priority given to incentives to owners and developers 	Area regenerated in line with HUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master planning and Incentives available 	CCPL MACH	AGTF NHF EDB	July 2021 - June 2022
A.5.2.Implement the Action Area Plan for the buffer zone and its extended areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Area Plan 01 examined through HIA/VIA process and submitted to WHC for technical Review Recommendations by the Management Plan Committee for any amendment to AAP 01 Coordination and implementation of the AAP 01 with detailed plan stating priorities 	Master Plan implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIA/VIA completed and recommendations made Effective Coordination in implementation with meetings of the Management Plan Committee Plan of action devised and implemented 	MHLU MACH	CCPL NHF AGTF	2020 - 2023
A.5.3.Create an agency to coordinate large scale development projects to implement an integrated vision and sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations led by CCPL with various parties to see how coordination can be effective and how to communicate further with the community Proposal for a coordination among authorities and communication Implementation and reporting to MACH as State Party 	AAP 01 implementation guided by a dedicated entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of consultations Proposal for coordination submitted and adopted 	CCPL	MACH MHL MPI Landscape Metro Express	2020 - 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration and implementation as per approval received 					
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce draft documents for consultation and review • Approval and Publication of: 					
A.5.4. Provide assistance to property owners and users of the buffer zone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidelines on heritage conservation and rehabilitation; 2. An improved user – friendly version on development in the buffer zone; 3. An informative document on heritage economics and existing business models. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish collaboration with relevant body to conduct a survey and publish results on heritage rehabilitation in Mauritius. • Secure funding and implement the survey • Produce a report on the survey 	Information provided to stakeholders and community on heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of publications • Survey prepared and completed • Funding dedicated 	AGTF	NHF MPI CCPL EDB	2021 - 2022

6	Objective 6: Enhance visitor experience and maintain visitor satisfaction					
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.6.1. Evaluate and develop further activities for the audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group to make proposals for new activities Secure funding Evaluate new activities Assessment by relevant entity Approval and implementation 	New activities proposed at WHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of activities Funding available 	AGTF	MACH	2020 - 2021
A.6.2.Prepare and implement a yearly Public Programme to enhance visitor experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group (CZMC) to make proposals for activities for the year Prepare proposal Secure funding Process proposal to set up activities Implement Evaluate and report 	Optimal heritage interpretation for high quality visitor experience at WHP and BRIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of visitors Rate of Visitor satisfaction 	AGTF	MACH	2020 - 2021
A.6.3.Conduct regular audience surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devise survey Secure resources Undertake survey Analysis of survey Submission of reports on audience surveys Make recommendations for improvement based on survey Consider and approve implementation 	Visitor experience improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of visitor survey Number of recommendations implemented 	AGTF	MACH	2020 - 2023

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.6.4. Review and update pedagogical and academic documentation on a regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CZMC to assess the needs • Proposal prepared and submitted for consideration • Secure funding • Review and editing of documents • Procurement exercise and allocation of contract • Implementation 	Dynamic and appropriate documentation available to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reporting to Editing committee 	AGTF	MACH	2021 - 2023
A.6.5. Implement BRIC phase 2 project proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a STAC on BRIC – phase 2 • Update the project proposal for BRIC 2 • Submission to AGTF Board and MACH/MPC for approval • Submission to MFEPD for financial approval • Preparation of a plan of actions and a resource plan for implementation of project proposal • Implementation 	<p>Opening of BRIC 2</p> <p>Offices for the AGTF secured</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring by steering committee • Funding approved 	AGTF	MACH MFEPD	2021 - 2023

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.6.6.Consolidate and promote heritage trails	Heritage trail in Port Louis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the committee set up for heritage trail in Port Louis Report to BZMC and explore how can the trail be further promoted as part of BZMC Contribute to the promotional strategy and assist in its implementation 	Heritage trails of quality available in the buffer zone of the WHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of meetings Monitoring and reporting 	MTL CCPL	AGTF NHF MTPA UoM	2020 - 2022
	Heritage trails in Mauritius <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a STAC including LMHTF and NHF Prepare project proposal including a financial estimate and an implementation plan and submit to relevant Boards for approval Submission to MACH/MPC and MFEPD for approval and allocation of funds Implementation of project proposal 	Heritage trails substantiating the OUV of the WHP available in Mauritius for all audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting by STAC to AGTF & NHF Action plan for implementation 	AGTF NHF LMHTF	MT MACH MTPA	2021 - 2022

7	Objective 7: Consolidate the visitor management strategy and optimize visitor management					
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.7.1. Implement the Visitor Management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation, evaluation and review of the VMP if required • Foster collaboration among staff and with neighbouring institutions and agencies • Training of staff where required • Implementation monitored by CZMC and AGTF Board 	Clear measures established for visitor management at WHP and BRIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of VMP as per plan of actions • Reporting to WHPC 	AGTF	MACH NHF	2021
A.7.2.Improve the visitor recording system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify clear requirements for visitor management • Define specifications and acquire software • Training of staff • Regular reports 	Clear vision of the quality and density of the audience to ensure efficient visitor management	Regular reports on visitor management to WHPC	AGTF	MACH NHF	2021 - 2022
A.7.3.Foster collaboration with neighbouring institutions and agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise meetings to identify areas of potential collaboration • Prepare a plan of activities per quarter, trimester or year • Proposal and approval • Implementation 	Increased collaboration with optimization of resources	Number of activities	AGTF	NHF	2021 - 2023

8 Objective 8: Ensure the implementation of a sustainable strategy for the promotion of the World Heritage Property						
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.8.1. Review and implement the Tourism & Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a working group Assess current tourism and marketing strategy Consultation, evaluation and review within a STAC Submission to AGTF Board and MPC for approval Implementation monitored by WHPC 	Sustainable and efficient tourism strategy in place	Reporting and monitoring by WHPC	AGTF	MACH MTL MTPA NHF	2022
A.8.2. Approve and implement the pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage Setting up of a working group to make proposal Submission of proposal for consultations with other parties Seek Official clearance Proceed with procurement exercise Award of contract and implementation of the ticketing system Identify items requiring improvement and revise same in the system (Consultation, evaluation and review) Implementation monitored by WHPC 	Dynamic marketing in place to promote WHP	Reporting and monitoring by WHPC	AGTF	MTL MTPA	2021 - 2022
A.8.3. Promote the vision for development in the buffer zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strategy at the level of the BZMC Develop a project proposal stating financial implications and a plan of action Submission for approval to CCPL Council, MACH, NHF and AGTF Implementation monitored by BZMC 	Vision for development in the BZ promoted widely	Reporting and monitoring by BZMC	CCPL AGTF NHF	MLGOI MACH MTL MTPA	2020 - 2023
A.8.4. Consolidate and develop a programme of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential activities at the level of BZMC stating resources required Approval by relevant authorities Implementation monitored by BZMC 	Activities taking place for the promotion of heritage in the BZs	Reporting and monitoring by BZMC	MCPL AGTF NHF	MACH MTL MTPA	2020 - 2023

9	Objective 9: Continue and encourage multidisciplinary research on the scope and extent of indenture by establishing local, regional and international networks					
Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.9.1. Regular Review of the integrated Research Plan (2016-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a working group at the level of AGTF • Assess elements requiring update including resources requirements • Consultation, evaluation and review by STAC on research • Submission of final update for approval • Implementation monitored by STAC on research 	Production of academic research on relevant topics Publication and dissemination of research results	Reporting and monitoring by STAC	AGTF	NHF MGI UoM	2021 - 2023
A.9.2. Conduct an archaeological survey at Parc à Boulets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare TOR and secure funding • Call for the enlistment of services of an archaeologist • Undertake survey • Report and interpretation • Assessment and identification of way forward 	Survey completed Funds dedicated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services enlisted • Report submitted 	AGTF	MACH NHF	2020 - 2023
A.9.3. Implement the Indentured Labour Route project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up the National Committee(s) • Initiate plan of action devised by ISC • Monitoring via ISC through Secretariat • Organise activities and report thereon • Evaluation, review and report 	Indentured Labour Route Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings • Reports on work undertaken 	AGTF as secretariat	MACH NATCOM	2020-2025

Objective	Actions	Expected outcome	Indicators	Implementing body	Main Stakeholders	Timeframe
A.9.5.Consolidate and develop a research strategy for Intangible Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a STAC Prepare draft strategy Submission for consultation and approval Implementation Monitoring and reporting 	ICH strategy in place as per UNESCO 's convention	Number of meetings Number of Reports	AGTF	NHF	2020 - 2021
A.9.6.To prepare a strategy and policy for consolidating research capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAC to identify training needs and opportunities Submit for consultation and approval Implement Monitoring and reporting 	Research capacity increased	Number of trainings Deliverables completed	AGTF	NHF	2020 - 2023
A.9.7.Develop and consolidate networks to foster research on indenture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAC to explore avenues for local, regional and international collaboration Submit proposal for consultation and approval Implement Monitoring and reporting 	Scope for research expended	Number of agreement signed	AGTF	MACH	2020 - 2023
A.9.8.Prepare an ethics and access policy for research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a working group at the level of AGTF Devise a policy for ethics and access to research Consultation, evaluation and review by STAC on research Submission of the final policy to AGTF Board for approval Implementation monitored by STAC on research 	Provide access to the public in accordance with an established framework allowing access monitoring and preservation of data	Reporting and monitoring by STAC	AGTF	NHF MGI UoM	2021
A.9.9. Improve the Management of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the needs to improve access to information and formulate a proposal Secure funding Seek approval and implement 	Information accessible to wide audience	Number of actions undertaken	AGTF	MACH	2021

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: CONTACT DETAILS

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MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY

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MINISTRY OF ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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CITY COUNCIL OF PORT LOUIS

The Chief Executive
City Council of Port Louis
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Chief Executive's Department

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NATIONAL HERITAGE FUND

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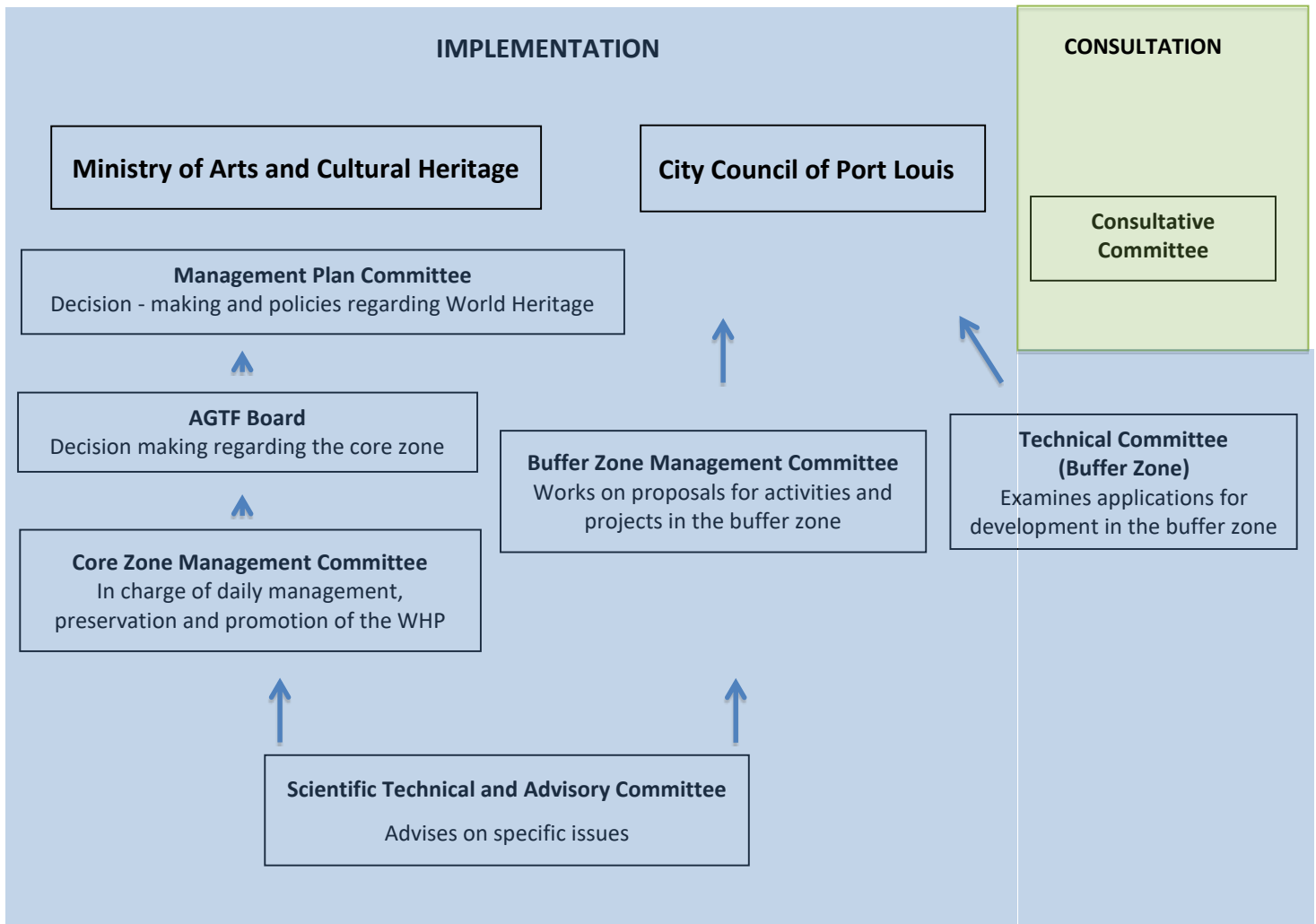
SECRETARIAT

INDENTURED LABOUR ROUTE

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ANNEX 2: THE MANAGERIAL FRAMEWORK

Management mechanism for the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone



World Heritage Site Steering Committee

The **World Heritage Site Steering Committee (WHSSC)** chaired by the Prime Minister is the committee that heads the overall management system.

The prime function of this committee is to monitor, review, and reformulate (if necessary) critical management policies for the WHS management plan and its implementation.

This committee will be comprised of ministers (or their representatives) from ministries directly involved in the policy making or implementation of the Management Plan.

Because of its importance and international nature the chair of this committee will be entrusted to the Prime Minister. WHSSC will meet once or twice every calendar year.

Management Plan Committee

Role:

1. Monitor, review and reformulate (if necessary) critical management policies for the AG WHS Management Plan and its implementation.
2. Take decisions regarding the implementation of the Management Plan and the management of the World Heritage Property based on the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and other international and local sub-committees.
3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Management Plan.
4. Monitor the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property and discuss any threats that may affect the World Heritage Property.
5. Consolidate or elaborate further policies and guidance to ensure the retention of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property.
6. Monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and of the World Heritage Committee's decisions.
7. Discuss management issues and promote integrated management.
8. Direct the review of the Management Plan and update the plan regularly in accordance with the international principles and guidelines of UNESCO and ICOMOS.
9. Provide a forum for debating the key issues and management priorities addressed in the plan.
10. Guide government bodies in their respective projects in the Buffer Zone;
11. Monitor the implementation of the AAP 01;
12. Assess and make recommendations regarding large scale development projects;
13. Examine and assess Cultural Heritage Impact Statement /Heritage Impact Assessment / Visual Impact Assessment;
14. Coordinate large scale development projects within the precinct of the World Heritage Property and make recommendations thereon; and
15. Advise on the development in the Buffer Zones of the World Heritage Property.

Members

- Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage (chairmanship)
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
- Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning
- Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development
- Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail
- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
- Attorney General's Office
- National Commission of UNESCO Mauritius
- Economic Development Board
- Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund
- National Heritage Fund
- City Council of Port-Louis
- Mauritius Ports Authority.

Frequency of meetings: minimum once a year

AGTF Board

Role:

1. Establish, administer, manage, promote and maintain the Aapravasi Ghat as a national, regional and international heritage site;
2. Preserve, restore and manage the Aapravasi Ghat and the sites specified in schedule 2 of the Act;
3. Set up a museum at Aapravasi Ghat and create public awareness of the history of indentured labour;
4. Promote social and cultural aspects of the sites specified in schedules 1 and 2 of the Act;
5. Encourage and support projects and publications related to the Indentured Labour;
6. Establish links with appropriate national, regional and international organizations in line with the objects of the Act;
7. Identify and acquire sites, buildings and structures associated with indentured labour; and
8. Encourage and support interdisciplinary scientific research related to indentured labour and to the sites specified in schedules 1 and 2.

Members:

- AGTF Chairman
- One representative of the Prime Minister's Office;
- One representative of the Ministry of Finance;
- One representative of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage;
- One representative of the Ministry of Education;
- One representative of the Ministry of Tourism;
- One representative of the High Commission of India;
- One representative of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute;
- One representative of the National Heritage Fund;
- 5 Members from the local community.

Frequency of meetings: once a month

Buffer Zone Management Committee

Role:

1. Developing (or redeveloping) 'visions and master plans' for the buffer zone;
2. Monitor and report on heritage in the Buffer Zone including for large scale projects. Same would be forwarded by the Committee to the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage as representative of the State Party to UNESCO;
3. Coordinate the preparation and updating of the heritage register in the Buffer Zone and monitor its continued documentation;
4. Examine and recommend on the retention and enhancement of heritage in the Buffer Zone;
5. Propose incentives that may be offered to people undertaking action in favour of the enhancement and sustainable development of heritage in the area;
6. Identify the training needs and undertake actions for implementation;
7. Consider means to foster technical assistance to the local community;
8. Organise events or actions to promote or retain heritage in the Buffer Zone;
9. Consider means for the promotion of heritage in the area;
10. Disseminate information on heritage in the Buffer Zone.

Members

- City Council of Port Louis (chairmanship)
- Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund
- National Heritage Fund

Frequency of meetings: three times a year

To address specific issues, the Buffer Zone Management Committee may:

- co-opt representatives of key ministries/departments as such the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development to better address current development issues;
- convene a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or co-opt members to assist where necessary.

Core Zone Management Committee

Chair: Director, AGTF

Members: Head Technical Unit, WHP Manager, Heritage Interpretation Manager

Role:

1. Implement the yearly objectives set by the Board for the preservation, management and promotion of the World Heritage Property and its interpretation centre;
2. Making recommendations to improve the daily monitoring and management of the World Heritage Property and the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre;
3. Report on the daily management and monitoring of the World Heritage Property and its interpretation centre.

Frequency of meetings: once a month

Technical Committee

Created under the Permits and Businesses Monitoring Committee through amendment to Local Government Act, the Committee is concerned with applications for Building and Land Use Permits in the Buffer Zone.

Role:

1. Assess applications for development projects in the Buffer Zone.
2. Assess the impact assessments for development projects in the Buffer Zone.
3. Make recommendations to the Permits and Businesses Monitoring Committee as to the result of the applications.
4. Ensure application of PPG6 HMG, CM and DP in addition to other existing legal provisions applicable to the Buffer Zone.

Members:

- Head Planning Department, City Council of Port Louis (Chair)
- The Head, Works Department of the Municipal Council of Port Louis
- A representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of public infrastructure or his representative
- A representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of housing and land use planning or his representative
- A representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of environment or his representative
- A representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of tourism or his representative
- A representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of arts and cultural Heritage or his representative
- A representative of the National Heritage Fund or his representative
- A representative of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund or his representative
- A representative of the Mauritius Ports Authority or his representative.

Meetings:

When applications for development in Buffer Zone are received by the Municipal Council of Port Louis, the same will be forwarded by Permits and Business Monitoring Committee to the Technical Committee, which will then meet to give its recommendations.

Conservation unit or an equivalent mechanism

Role:

1. Guide development towards the rehabilitation of heritage as per ICOMOS charters;
2. Provide technical assistance to (potential) applicants for development permits;
3. Set up or assist in setting up projects in favour of heritage enhancement and rehabilitation as per established international guidelines of conservation;
4. Foster the implementation of the vision for development set out in the Planning Policy Guidance for the Urban Heritage Area – Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC)

Role:

- Provide advice on technical issues to ensure implementation of the Management Plan in the best possible manner.
- On request, the STAC will also offer advice and make recommendations on policy issues to the Management Plan Steering Committee.

Membership: The composition of the STAC is determined upon the issue(s) to be addressed.

Consultative Committee

Chair: City Council of Port Louis

Members registered and public at large

Role:

1. Keep the community informed of the developments and progress of work taking place at World Heritage Property;
2. Involve the community in the undertakings at World Heritage Property;
3. Discuss specific issues related to the World Heritage Property and its surroundings;
4. Consider and integrate the recommendations and proposals of the local community in the management, development and promotion of the World Heritage Property; and
5. Produce planning and an Action Plan for common initiatives.

Meetings: minimum once a year in the context of the Anniversary of the Inscription of the Apravasi Ghat on the World Heritage List (16 July)

ANNEX 3: DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decisions and Recommendations of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO regarding Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site.

Recommendations of UNESCO	Actions undertaken by the State Party
<p>2006 - Decision 30 COM 8B.33</p> <p>The World Heritage Committee, Having examined Documents WHC-06/30.COM/8B and WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.1, Inscribes Aapravasi Ghat, Mauritius, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (vi):</p> <p>Criterion (vi): Aapravasi Ghat, as the first site chosen by the British Government in 1834 for the ‘great experiment’ in the use of indentured, rather than slave labour, is strongly associated with memories of almost half a million indentured labourers moving from India to Mauritius to work on sugar canes plantations or to be transhipped to other parts of the World.</p> <p>Recommends that the State Party and other interested parties:</p> <p>a) Undertake research on indentured labour to consider the extent, scope and impact of the indentured labour Diaspora around the world;</p> <p>b) Consider the possibility of inscribing the Aapravasi Ghat archives for the UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register.</p>	<p>- Aapravasi Ghat Conservation Project to meet the criteria of authenticity and integrity (2004-2010) for inscription on the World Heritage List</p> <p>- Submission of the Nomination Dossier for the Aapravasi Ghat (February 2005)</p> <p>- Preparation and submission to the World Heritage Centre of the Management Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat (2006)</p>

Recommendations of UNESCO	Actions undertaken by the State Party
<p>2010 - Decisions Adopted By the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 25 July - 03 August 2010)</p> <p>WHC.10 /34.COM /20</p> <p>Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius) (C 1227)</p> <p>Decision: 34 COM 7B.49</p> <p>The World Heritage Committee,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add, 2. Recalling Decision 30 COM 8B.33, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), 3. Notes with concern the recent high degree of loss of historic buildings within the buffer zone through demolitions, the apparent lack of legal protection of the buffer zone and lack of planning policies; 4. Urges the State Party to halt any demolitions in the buffer zone until adequate planning and legal policies are in place; 5. Also notes the development of the Aapravasi Ghat Planning Policy Guidance document, and encourages its official adoption at the earliest opportunity; 6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to complete the management plan for the property to include the development and conservation of the buffer zone, and archaeological and tourism strategies, and to regulate restoration work undertaken to date; 7. Also reiterates its recommendation that the State Party undertake research on indentured labour to consider the extent, scope and impact of the indentured labour diaspora around the world and that the detailed archives connected with the property be considered to be put forward for UNESCO's Memory of the World Register; 8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2011, a report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on actions taken to halt demolitions within the buffer zone, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of the Planning Policy Guidance 6 for Aapravasi Ghat Buffer Zone providing a planning tool to direct development towards the regeneration and rehabilitation of the heritage in Port Louis (as per the vision of ICOMOS and UNESCO "heritage as a driver of development") - Adoption and issue of the Planning Policy Guidance 6 by the Government of Mauritius in June 2011 - Amendments made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act (2001) o The Local Government Act (2003) To cater for the legal definition of the buffer zone of the Aapravasi Ghat and the creation of the Technical Committee (TC) to assess all applications in the Buffer Zone. The TC is entrusted to implement PPG 6. - Research projects including a proposal for the Indentured Labour Route project and the Inventory of elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for which funds were received from UNESCO. - Organisation of an International Conference on Indenture held in December 2011; and a second conference in November 2014. - Several articles and books were published by the AGTF on research on indenture. - Preparation of the nomination dossier for the inscription of the Aapravasi Ghat Archives on the Memory of the World Register. Same was submitted in February 2012.

Recommendations of UNESCO	Actions undertaken by the State Party
<p>2011 - 35 COM 7B.41</p> <p>Extract of the Decisions adopted the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011)</p> <p>The World Heritage Committee,</p> <p><u>Having examined</u> Document WHC-11/35.COM/7B,</p> <p><u>Recalling</u> Decision 34 COM 7B.49, adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010),</p> <p><u>Takes note</u> of the State Party's official adoption of the Planning Policy Guidance, the main purpose of which is to control, together with other existing tools, the development, legitimate aspirations and change in the buffer zone of Aapravasi Ghat in order to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value;</p> <p><u>Acknowledges</u> the progress made in undertaking research on indentured labour;</p> <p><u>Regrets</u> that the State Party has not completed the Management Plan for the property which impedes the full enforcement of the Planning Policy Guidance, and urges for a finalization of the plan before September 2011;</p> <p><u>Reiterates</u> its request to the State Party to prepare as a matter of urgency a structured system of coordination among key institutional stakeholders for the implementation of the Management Plan and the Conservation Manual in order to allow full enforcement of the Planning Policy Guidance;</p> <p><u>Encourages</u> the State Party to continue halting any demolition or any inadequate development in the buffer zone until the Management Plan and the Conservation Manual are prepared;</p> <p><u>Requests</u> the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property, to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Planning Policy Guidance in sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;</p> <p><u>Also requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2012, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of the revised Management Plan 2013-2018. - Several workshops as part of the preparation of the Management Plan in order to optimize coordination among stakeholders and integrated management of the WHS. - Preparation and finalization of the Conservation Manual. - Preparation and adoption of Terms of Reference for the Technical Committee (applications in the buffer zone). - Reactive Monitoring Mission of UNESCO was invited to Aapravasi Ghat from 19 to 23 March 2012 and submitted its report to UNESCO.

Recommendations of UNESCO	Actions undertaken by the State Party
<p>2012 - Extract of the Decisions adopted the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (36 COM 7B.45; UNESCO, 2012)</p> <p>The World Heritage Committee,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC-12/36.COM/7B.Add, 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 35 COM 7B.41, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the progress made by the State Party in improving the management system for the property and <u>urges</u> it to secure the necessary resources for its effective operation; 4. <u>Notes</u> the results of the March 2012 reactive monitoring mission and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to implement its recommendations, with particular emphasis on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finalize the updating of the management plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for consideration and review, b) Develop a capacity building strategy to ensure that qualified conservation and management professionals are available to support the work of the Technical Committee, c) Improve collaboration mechanisms to ensure the adequate protection and management of the buffer zones and better utilise mechanisms such as the consultative meeting to strengthen participatory decision-making, d) Increase awareness raising activities and produce summaries of existing planning tools for easier consultation by different public users; 5. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2014, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations set out above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of Management Plan 2013-2018: submission to the Cabinet of Ministers who gave approval on 24 January 2014. - The Management Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2014 for consideration during the 38e session of the World Heritage Committee (38COM) at Doha, Qatar held between 15 and 25 June 2014. - The AGTF organised several meetings to set up a capacity building strategy. - The summaries of existing planning tools were completed and posted on the website of the AGTF and CCPL. - The Consultative Committee was established as an annual activity to raise awareness on the Aapravasi Ghat and its activities. - The recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring Mission were examined and the Local Economic Development Plan project for the Buffer Zone was included as a project in the Management Plan to address the issues raised by the Community and by the UNESCO regarding development in the buffer zone.

Recommendations of UNESCO	Actions undertaken by the State Party
<p>2014 Decisions WHC – 14/38. COM/16</p> <p>Decision 38 COM 7B.98</p> <p>38th session held in Doha, Qatar from 15 to 25 June 2014</p> <p>The World Heritage Committee,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having examined Document WHC-4/38.COM/7B.Add, 2. Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic), - Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation), - Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (Barbados), - Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia), - Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico), - Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay), - Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin), - Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia), - Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius); 3. Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties; 4. Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the positive recommendations, the Management Plan 2013-2018 is being implemented.

Recommendations of UNESCO	Actions undertaken by the State Party
<p>2019 WHC/19/43.COM/7B Draft Decision 43 COM 7B.108 43th session held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 30 June to 10 July 2019</p> <p>The World Heritage Committee,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B, 2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.98, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), 3. <u>Notes</u> the State Party's notification of large development and infrastructural projects in the buffer zone of the property; 4. <u>Acknowledges</u> the State Party's commendable implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission in relation to four development projects, and requests the State Party to implement the remaining recommendations; 5. Also <u>requests</u> the State Party to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop a Master Plan on the precinct level, integrating all these development projects, assess this Plan through independent Heritage Impact and Visual Impact Assessment processes, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, b) Subsequently assess the individual development projects, taking into account their collective cumulative impacts, through independent Heritage Impact and Visual Impact Assessments, and submit these for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation of the reported development projects; 6. Further requests the State Party to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that the review of the 2013-2018 Management Plan is completed with urgency and that an updated Management Plan is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, b) Develop and implement well-defined and mandatory stakeholder participation processes for the property and its buffer zone when developing projects and other activities that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, c) Undertake archival and archaeological investigation in the Parc à Boulets to ascertain if this area contains attributes that have significance in relation to the OUV of the property; 7. Finally <u>requests</u> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An Action Area Plan (AAP 01) for the Urban Heritage Area of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (equivalent of a Master Plan in Mauritian Legislation) was developed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in June 2019; - The AAP 01 was approved under section 19(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2004 in December 2019; - Terms of Reference for the preparation of an overarching HIA/VIA was prepared and tender launched in July 2020 to enlist the services of consultant(s) to undertake the VIA/HIA; - The Management Plan was updated to meet objectives for the next five years (2020-2025); - The Consultative Meeting is held every year in the context of the anniversary of the inscription of the WHP; - The Archaeological survey at parc à boulets was planned as part of the financial year 2020/2021.

ANNEX 4: PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR THE BUFFER ZONE

Protection zone	Planning Guidelines	Special Provisions
<p>Protection Zone I (Buffer Zone 1) Area between Trou Fanfaron and north of motorway)</p>	<p>Protection zone I is the area surrounding the proposed WHS and shall have guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No destruction of built and natural heritage (coral deposits). • No excavations without prior approval, even for essential services. • Avoid overhead installation of electric and telephone cables. • No standalone telecommunication towers and antennae will be allowed in this zone. • Special infrastructure development – essential services for visitors but within the existing buildings strictly following the conservation norms: like drinking water fountains, toilets, information kiosks. • Adaptive reuse of the historic buildings permitted as per conservation norms. • Signage, street paving and furniture to be given special attention • No demolition of traditional structures. • No quarrying of coral / stone for any purpose. • Pedestrianization of the whole area is preferred. <p>Regulations and guidelines for listed buildings (Grade I, II and III) are applicable.</p>	<p>Most of the buildings are national monuments and hence protected by law.</p> <p>For any developments in this area, MPC becomes additional monitoring agency apart from the City Council of Port Louis.</p> <p>The role of MPC is to keep a check on development as per the proposed land use in Master plan and norms especially around monuments.</p> <p>For any anomaly in development, Municipality and/or MPC to be informed which will take necessary action of halting demolition of construction / development and penalizing the concerned person.</p>

Protection zone	Planning Guidelines	Special Provisions
<p>Protection Zone II (Buffer Zone 2: Area south of motorway up to Royal Street and Trou Fanfaron and north up to Arsenal street)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No destruction of built heritage. Potential areas for new development to be identified such that the streetscape and built heritage of surrounding area is not disturbed. • Visual cone assessment, from and to site, should be undertaken before declaring any area suitable for development. • Development in buffer to be prioritized. Essential service upgrading followed by traffic management and then other developments • No demolition of traditional houses to replace with modern structures. • Repairs and structural strengthening of structures to be allowed. • Regulations and guidelines for listed buildings (Grade I, II and III) are applicable. • No telecommunication towers and antennae will be allowed within the visual cones. • Addition and alteration to the building should be in accordance with the streetscape which should be developed to enhance the historic character of the street. • No new development should disturb the visual continuity and historic character of the neighbouring historic building. • Reduction in vehicular traffic regulations and guidelines for listed buildings (Grade I, II and III) are applicable. 	<p>City Council to regulate this area through its Permits and Licences Committee which will have the recommendations of NHF, AGTF and other professionals.</p> <p>NHF to play a regulatory role for its protected monuments.</p>

ANNEX 5: GUIDELINES TO PREPARE A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (VIA) IN THE BZ OF THE AG WHP

A. BACKGROUND

Through the amendment to the AGTF Act 2001, subsequent consequential amendment to the Local Government Act 2004 and the adoption of the Planning Policy Guidance 6 (PPG6) for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property on 10 June 2011, new provisions were made for development in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AG WHP BZ).

Henceforth, a Building and Land Use Permit (BLP) should be obtained for any type of development, including:-

- Demolition of a building or any other structure
- Erection of a new building or any other structure
- Additions to an existing building or any other structure
- Changes to the façade of a building or any other structure
- Change in use of a building/plot

Furthermore, any application for a BLP should be accompanied by a Cultural Heritage Impact Statement (CHIS)⁹⁷. The objective of the CHIS is to encourage development in line with architectural harmony and cohesion; this to enhance the significance of the BZ or the Outstanding Universal Value of the AG WHP.

In case any proposed development departs from the provisions of the PPG6, a Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment will be required.

B. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this guide is to:

- supplement and elaborate on the contents of an HIA & VIA report; and
- explain the process for the determination of a BLP for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.

The objective of the impact assessment process is to:

- provide background information on the property in question, including boundaries, history and present significance
- identify stakeholders
- identify impacts of the development and magnitude of the same, namely:

⁹⁷ The CHIS has been simplified into a form forming part of the application for Building and Land Use permit for development in the buffer zone. It is available at the City Council of Port Louis.

- the positive and negative impacts
- on the heritage value of the property
- on the streetscape
- on the significance of the Buffer Zone
- on the OUV of the Core Zone
- whether the impact
- is direct or indirect
- has cumulative effects
- propose practical and feasible mitigation and enhancement measures which can be summarised as either
- avoidance – avoiding the impact altogether
- mitigation – reducing the negative impact through adjustments
- enhancement of the positive impacts

The objective of the CHIS is to:

- to assist the developer to provide the preliminary information to the Technical Committee to assess whether the development is in line with PPG6 and other legal requirements
- to determine whether a Heritage Impact Assessment will be required

The objective of the HIA is to:

- define the heritage value of a property and the building/structure found on it
- enable an in-depth study of all the possible impacts of the development on the significance of the building/structure in question and on that of the Buffer Zone
- analyse all alternatives and mitigation measures for negative impacts and propose feasible and practical ones
- analyse all possibilities of enhancing the positive impacts and propose feasible ones
- propose a management plan that will enhance the heritage value for the building or structure in question while ensuring sustainable use

The objective of the VIA is to:

- identify the visual character of the plot at the current stage
- enable an in-depth study of all the possible impacts of the development on the streetscape value and the overall landscape of the urban heritage area
- analyse all alternatives and mitigation measures for negative impacts and propose feasible and practical ones
- analyse all possibilities of enhancing the positive impacts and propose feasible ones

C. THE HIA & VIA PROCESS

The process involves the following steps:

- **Screening:** it is an important process that assists in deciding whether the project requires an HIA & VIA or not. The screening is done based on the information submitted in the CHIS form and the following considerations:
 - How does the development fit in with its surroundings
 - Design & appearance
 - Scale
 - Materials
 - Access
 - Traffic generation
 - Use/Activity to be carried out
 - Nuisance, for example, noise
 - Contribution to any significant local, national or international objective
 - Previous appeal decisions
 - Compliance with PPG6

In case of non-compliance with PPG6 guidelines, an HIA & VIA will be required.

- **Scoping:** the aim of scoping is to ensure that the study addresses all the issues important for decision making. It involves setting terms of reference for the HIA & VIA, selecting consultant and review of existing legislation.
- **The HIA & VIA study including the following:**
 - Demonstration of how the proposed development will not have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property or on the significance of the Buffer Zone as an Urban Heritage Area.
 - Collection of baseline data and information
 - Public involvement/participation
 - Identification of impacts in terms of magnitude and significance
 - Socio- economic analysis of project effects/impact
 - Mitigating measures for each impact identified
 - Analysis of alternatives of the project
 - Development of a monitoring program and management plan for the plot in question

The above study should be documented in the form of an HIA & VIA report and submitted at the time of application.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINE ON THE PREPARATION OF AN HIA & VIA REPORT

Who should be involved in the preparation of an HIA & VIA

The proponent

Competent authorities

Other responsible agencies

HIA / VIA practitioners

Experts in relevant fields such as history, archaeology, landscape architecture, urban design, etc.

Those affected directly by the development such as tenants, users, neighbours, etc.

Wider community

Guiding principles for the HIA & VIA

The process should be:

- Purposive – meeting its aims and objectives
- Focused – concentrating on the effects that matter
- Adaptive – responding to issues and realities
- Participative – fully involving the public
- Transparent – clear and easily understood
- Rigorous – employing ‘best practicable’ methodology
- Practical – establishing mitigation measures that work
- Credible – carried out with objectivity and professionalism
- Efficient – imposing least cost burden on proponents

The proponent/consultant preparing an HIA & VIA report shall ensure that the cultural significance as well as social and environmental parameters, are addressed and their impacts are identified and taken into account in the project design. The report shall provide substantive and indicative information on the proposed measures to mitigate all adverse effects as well as the opportunities for enhancement to enable a proper assessment.

An HIA & VIA report shall be submitted in 15 hard copies and a soft copy, all signed and dated by the proponent and all principal consultants who prepared or assisted in the preparation of the HIA & VIA.

It should enclose particulars of the schedule of works undertaken by the proponent and his consultants in the preparation of the HIA & VIA, including particulars of any consultation held with the public in the area where the development is to be located.

Notwithstanding the Copyrights Act, the content of an HIA & VIA will be accessible to the members of the public from the moment it is submitted to the CCPL.

Prior to embarking on a project, a proponent shall ensure that relevant clearances have been obtained.

E. GUIDELINE ON THE CONTENT OF THE HIA & VIA REPORT

An HIA & VIA report shall be prepared in the format as proposed below:

Title page

This should contain details of:

- the full title under which the HIA & VIA has been prepared
- the team responsible for the HIA & VIA or name of the consultancy if applicable
- the proponent
- date of submission

Non-technical summary

- This should be concise.
- The language should be simple and non-technical.
- It should give an outline of both the project and location.
- It should focus primarily upon key impacts identified in the HIA and measures proposed to avoid and reduce them.

Introduction

This should provide background information on the project, the promoters, any experience in similar projects, project costs, benefits for the immediate neighbourhood, employment opportunities, associated problems etc.

Site and project description

This should describe the project and indicate the justification and rationale underlying the project, including:

Site Description

A description should be given in general terms to indicate the nature and broad character of the local environment.

- Ownership of land and proof thereof, or lease agreement clearly indicating the owner's consent is agreeable to the project.
- Plans and policies with which the project conforms.
- Site characteristics in terms of:
 - site location
 - landform
 - grading of the plot/building
 - architectural documentation of present building, boundary walls and any other structure on the plot drawn to scale and duly certified by a Certified Architect
 - present and past land use (if known)

- accessibility to site
 - flora and fauna, etc.
- Certified and comprehensive site and location plans drawn to scale and duly certified by a Sworn Land Surveyor with known landmarks as reference points.
- Surrounding environment indicating adjacent residential buildings, designated sites of interest, listed national Heritage and grades I, II III buildings/plots adjacent to and opposite the building/plot.
- Indication of other similar projects in the surroundings.
- Existing infrastructure and availability of public utilities.

Project Description

- Project initiator.
- Type of project and associated activities to be carried out.
- Need and justification of project.
- The design, size and scale of the project.
- Detailed site/layout plan drawn to scale of 1:500 indicating site boundaries (as per title deeds) and showing all structures proposed to be put up on site with setbacks from boundaries.
- Detailed plans including elevations, plot coverage and gross Floor Area.
- Description of project in terms of raw materials, processes, equipment, work force, products, type and amount of wastes/effluent produced and its disposal etc.
- Complete list of project components that depart from the guidelines of PPG6 with the following details for each component:
 - detailed justifications;
 - in-depth analysis of the way in which the proposed development will aid in achieving the vision for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property as described in PPG6 and the Heritage Management Guidelines;
 - in-depth analysis of how the departure from the guidelines of PPG6 does not negatively affect the significance of the Buffer Zone and the Outstanding Universal Value of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property;
 - diagrams, sketches or scale drawings by the architect to demonstrate the above; and
 - *Note: Only components listed in the HIA will be evaluated by the TC. Any other component not listed in the HIA will be deemed as a contravention to the conditions of the PBMC when delivering the BLP.*
- Training requirements of the project.
- The technical, economic and environmental features essential to the project.
- Diagrams, sketches or landscape architect's impression of the project in the receiving environment.

- Proposed schedule for implementation.
- Proposed steps to be taken in case archaeological remains are to be found during excavation.

Social impacts

This should indicate impacts on:

- the lifestyle of users including the local community in addition to the wider community through the change in behaviour and relationships;
- the cultural value linked to the property and any building and structure on it, including customs, values, religious beliefs;
- community life through amenity, quality of life, infrastructure and services; and
- health both physical and mental of users and the local community.

Monitoring and management

This should indicate:

- provisions made for on-site monitoring during site preparation, construction and operation phase; and
- management plan for the building/plot including components such as maintenance, risk preparedness, visitor management and enhancement of the cultural value of the building/plot.

Method of assessment

This should contain details of the HIA & VIA procedure:

Baseline Data

- Data collection methodology (E.g. survey, matrix or checklist).
- Source of information.
- What information was the HIA & VIA based upon? (NDS, PPGs, White Papers, Government Policies, etc.).
- Are there any uncertainties or omissions in this data? e.g. if it was collected out of season or is out of date.
- Are any further surveys to be carried out to remedy this?

Consultations

This section should indicate who has been contacted about the project including the construction phase. It should include:

- Statutory bodies and amenity groups likely to be affected by the proposals;

- The local population including immediate neighbours, operators and residents in the neighbourhood likely to be affected by the proposed development and the public in general;
- Means used for contacting them and for providing publicity about the project (leaflets, public display, questionnaires, letters, etc.); and
- A brief summary of their responses detailing the areas of concern highlighted and their contribution to the HIA.

Predicted heritage impacts

There is sometimes a tendency to see impacts as primarily physical and visual. While visual impacts are often very sensitive, a broad approach is needed as outlined in the ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration. Impacts take many forms – they may be **direct and indirect; cumulative, temporary and permanent, reversible or irreversible, visual, physical, social and cultural, even economic**. Impacts may arise as a consequence of construction or operation of the proposed development. Each needs to be considered for its relevance to the HIA & VIA.

In addition, the anticipated impacts of both the construction and operation stages of the proposed development should also be assessed, since there are often different types of impacts. For example, the installation of an underground pipeline may have definite impacts in terms of site preparation, trenching, pipe-laying, filling, levelling and rehabilitation, but once the pipeline is operational, the impacts will be almost non-existent. There may even be cases where the termination of an activity or development calls for a HIA & VIA, for example when decisions are taken to demolish a building after cessation of its present use.

Mitigation and enhancement measures

For each impact the HIA should state:

- 1) For negative impacts:
 - steps proposed to be taken to avoid / reduce and / or eliminate the negative impacts
 - the likely effectiveness and adequacy of mitigation
 - technologies and other means proposed to achieve the mitigation
- 2) For positive impacts
 - steps proposed to be taken to enhance positive impacts
 - the likely effectiveness of the enhancement
 - means proposed to enhance the positive impacts

The following impacts and mitigation measures should be included:

- in terms of physical damage to the heritage value of the building/plot in question;
- in terms of physical damage to listed National Heritage and neighbouring Grade I, II and III buildings;
- in terms of noise, odour, emissions, smoke, flies, rodents, traffic implications including a brief traffic impact analysis, etc.; and
- major accident policies for the duration of the construction phase and during the use of the building (on site emergency plans, safety measures and information to the public).

Alternatives

This section should give an outline of:

- the alternatives to the project;
- the “Do Nothing” option – what will be the outcome of not undertaking the project, for instance on future land use?
- the alternative considered to be the most beneficial for the significance of the Buffer Zone even if this is not the project;
- the criteria for rejecting the alternatives; and
- the stage in the planning process when they were rejected.

Supporting documentation and references

Appendices

These should include information which would cluster the main body of the text, such as:

- plans and maps
- proof of public consultation and a summary of responses to the development including list of respondents
- press releases
- monitoring, implementation and management plans

Processing of HIA & VIA

Proponents submitting an HIA & VIA are required to submit 15 copies of the report to the CCPL. Figure 1 depicts an outline of the HIA procedure.

After a preliminary scoping, to ensure that the document is as accurate and exhaustive as possible, the HIA is open for public inspection and comments by publication in the CCPL website. A copy of the HIA report is circulated to the authorities concerned with a request to submit their views in writing within a prescribed time limit.

Concurrently, the CCPL or any member of the TC delegated by the CCPL carries out a site visit for a non-site assessment of the listed implications of the proposed development, together with the proponent and / or contact person and his consultant(s). The proponent may be requested to carry out further studies or to submit additional information by the TC. The TC may also seek the advice of professionals on any aspects of the proposed development.

The TC evaluates the application taking into consideration the views of the authorities concerned and any public comments received and makes its recommendations to the PBMC which is the final body to determine whether a BLP can be delivered with or without conditions or rejected.

Appeal

Any person who is not satisfied with the decision of the PBMC on an application for BLP may appeal within days of the decision to the Town and Country Planning Board.

Note:

Further information on the provisions of the HIA procedures can be downloaded from the website of the CCPL on <http://www.mccpl.mu> or that of the AGTF on www.aapravasighat.org.

F. Heritage Impact Assessment characteristics

Values of the heritage resource/place

This is a statement of the nature and degree of significance of the heritage resource being affected by the activity. From a heritage management perspective, it is useful to distinguish between whether the significance is embedded in the physical fabric or in associations with events or persons or in the experience of a place; i.e. its visual and non-visual qualities. This statement is a primary informant to determine the nature and degree of significance of an impact and thus needs to be thoroughly considered.

Nature of the impact

This is an assessment of the nature of the impact of the activity on a heritage resource, with some indication of its positive and/or negative effect/s. It is strongly informed by the statement of significance. In other words, the nature of the impact may be historical, aesthetic, social, linguistic or architectural, intrinsic, associational or contextual (visual or non-visual). In many cases, the nature of the impact will include more than one value.

The nature of the impact can be further qualified by analyzing if the impact is positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse), and also direct or indirect.

Triggers indicating the need for heritage specialist input relate typically to the nature and degree of significance/sensitivity of the heritage context rather than the type and scale of development. The below list shows the nature of heritage impacts/issues likely to result from development within these contexts.

- Change to historical fabric and layering due to demolition, alteration, new uses, insertions, additions.
- Change to urban form due to changed subdivision patterns and form of new development.
- Change to social fabric due to urban renewal.
- Change to historical patterns of public access and use.
- Change to rural landscape pattern due to new pattern of subdivision and land use.
- Change to scenic landscape and network due to intrusive new infrastructure.
- Incompatibility of new development related to setting, urban form, historical context, rural development, architectural character.
- Displacement of historical communities.
- Visual impacts (historical spaces, axes, corridors etc.) associated with siting and design of new facilities.
- Impacts on archaeological structures and deposits related to new building work and infrastructure.
- Disturbance of graves and burial grounds.
- Impact on intangible and living heritage.
- Impact on natural resources associated with traditional uses.
- Changes in land-use in contrast to historical character.
- Impacts on movable objects.
- Potential impact on historical remains related to the construction of new or upgrading of existing infrastructure or facilities.
- Removal of relevant historical fabric and meanings related to misinterpretations of past associations and tendency to over-restore or reconstruct such sites to an earlier state.
- The need to balance issues of social justice (with respect to previously marginalized or displaced communities) with heritage management issues.
- Different values in the interpretation.
- Loss of public memory due to privatization.
- Loss of specific architectural language associated with the particular institution.
- Loss and erosion of historical fabric through inappropriate insertions/alterations and additions.
- Loss of public access related to privatisation.
- Visual intrusion into view corridors.
- Inappropriate changes in use in contrast to regional character.
- Disruptions of scenic network related to severance of linkage routes.

The list above can be summarized in four criteria that determine the nature of impacts on heritage resources:

- Heritage loss and deterioration
- Social impacts resulting from change
- Non-conformity with heritage standards
- Probability and acceptability of risk

Extent

Here it should be indicated whether the impact will be experienced:

- On a site (volume) scale, i.e. extend only as far as the activity;
- Within the immediate context of a heritage resource;
- On a local scale, e.g. town or suburb
- On a metropolitan or regional scale; or
- On a national/international scale.

Consideration needs to be given to the significance of a heritage resource at different scales, i.e. site-specific, local, regional, national or international, the relationship between the heritage resources and the relationship between the heritage resource and its setting and its associations.

Duration

Here it should be indicated whether the lifespan of the impact will be:

- Short term, (needs to be defined in context)
- Medium term, (needs to be defined in context)
- Intermittent
- Long term where the impact will persist indefinitely, possibly beyond the operational life of the activity, either because of natural processes or by human intervention; or
- Permanent where mitigation either by natural process or by human intervention will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient.

Of relevance to the duration of an impact are the following considerations:

- Reversibility of the impact; and
- Renewability of the heritage resource.

Intensity

Here it should be established whether the impact should be indicated as:

- Low, where the impact affects the resource in such a way that its heritage value is not affected;
- Medium, where the affected resource is altered but its heritage value continues to exist albeit in a modified way; and

- High, where heritage value is altered to the extent that it will temporarily or permanently be damaged or destroyed.

Probability (likelihood)

This should describe the likelihood of the impact actually occurring indicated as:

- Improbable, where the possibility of the impact to materialize is very low either because of design or historic experience;
- Probable, where there is a distinct possibility that the impact will occur;
- Highly probable, where it is most likely that the impact will occur; or
- Definite, where the impact will definitely occur regardless of any mitigation measures.

Confidence

This should relate to the level of confidence that the assessor has in establishing the nature and degree of impacts. It relates to the level and reliability of information, the nature and degree of consultation with I&AP's and the dynamic of the broader socio-political context.

- High, where the information is comprehensive and accurate, where there has been a high degree of consultation and the socio-political context is relatively stable.
- Medium, where the information is sufficient but is based mainly on secondary sources, where there has been a limited targeted consultation and socio-political context is fluid.
- Low, where the information is poor, a high degree of contestation is evident and there is a state of socio-political flux.

The above levels of confidence are influenced by various factors, such as:

- Scientific uncertainty – limited understanding of the heritage resource or community affected;
- Data uncertainty – incomplete information or insufficient methodology; and
- Policy uncertainty – unclear or disputed objectives or standards.

Severity (magnitude) of impact

The significance of impacts in terms of their severity can be determined through a synthesis of the aspects produced in terms of the nature and degree of heritage significance and the nature, duration, intensity, extent, probability and confidence of impacts. Magnitude or severity of impacts or changes can be beneficial or adverse, taking into account their direct and indirect effects and whether they are temporary or permanent, reversible or irreversible. The magnitude or severity of impact can be ranked with due regard to the value of the heritage asset as:

- No change;
- Negligible;
- Low; where it would have a minor effect on heritage; and on the decision;
- Medium, where it would have a moderate effect (positive or negative) on heritage, and should influence the decision; and
- Major (high), where it would have, or there would be a high risk of, a big effect on heritage. Impacts of high significance should have a major influence on the decision.

A simple test to determine significance (magnitude) of impact is:

- Are there residual environmental impacts?
- If yes, are these likely to be significant or not?
- If yes, are these significant effects likely to occur?

Significance of effect of impact

The significance of the effect of change – i.e. the overall impact - is a function of the value of the heritage asset's attributes and the scale of change. This can be summarized for each place's attribute described using the following descriptors. As change or impacts may be adverse or beneficial, there is a nine-point scale with "neutral" as its centre point:

- Major beneficial
- Moderate beneficial
- Minor beneficial
- Negligible beneficial
- Neutral
- Negligible adverse
- Minor adverse
- Moderate adverse

Major adverse

Timing

Here it should be determined if the impact will happen during construction or/and operation or/and decommissioning, and if the impact will be immediate or delayed.

G. Visual Impact Assessment characteristics

Landscape character

The individual elements that make up the landscape, including prominent or eye-catching features such as landmarks identified in PPG6 can be easily described.

Landscape character is therefore the description of pattern, resulting from particular combinations of natural (physical and biological) and cultural (land use) factors and how people perceive these. The visual dimension of the landscape is a reflection of the way in which these factors create repetitive groupings and interact to create areas that have a specific visual identity. The process of landscape character assessment can increase appreciation of what makes the landscape distinctive and what is important about an area. The description of landscape character thus focuses on the nature of the land, rather than the response of a viewer.

Aesthetic value

Aesthetic value is the emotional response derived from the experience of the environment with its particular natural and cultural attributes. The response can be either to visual or non-visual elements and can embrace sound, smell and any other factor having a strong impact on human thoughts, feelings and attitudes. Thus aesthetic value encompasses more than the seen view, visual quality or scenery, and includes atmosphere, landscape character and sense of place.

Aesthetic appeal (value) is considered high when the following are present:

- Abstract qualities: such as the presence of vivid, distinguished, uncommon or rare features or abstract attributes;
- Evocative responses: the ability of the landscape to evoke particularly strong responses in community members or visitors;
- Meanings: the existence of a long-standing special meaning to a particular group of people or the ability of the landscape to convey special meanings to viewers in general;
- Landmark quality: a particular feature that stands out and is recognized by the broader community.

Sense of place

Central to the concept of a sense of place is that the place requires uniqueness and distinctiveness. The primary informant of these qualities is the spatial form and character of the natural landscape together with the cultural transformations and traditions associated with historic use and habitation. According to Lynch (1992) sense of place "is the extent to which a person can recognize or recall a place as being distinct from other places - as having a vivid, or unique, or at least particular, character of its own". Sense of place is the

unique value that is allocated to a specific place or area through the cognitive experience of the user or viewer. In some cases, these values allocated to the place are similar for a wide spectrum of users or viewers, giving the place a universally recognized and therefore, strong sense of place.

Scenic quality

Assigning values to visual resources is a subjective process. The phrase, “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” is often quoted to emphasize the subjectivity in determining scenic values. Yet, researchers have found consistent levels of agreement among individuals asked to evaluate visual quality.

Studies for perceptual psychology have shown human preference for landscapes with a higher visual complexity particularly in scenes with water, over homogeneous areas. On the basis of contemporary research landscape quality in the present context increases when where land use compatibility increases and land use edge diversity decreases.

Assessment of type of impact

The Visual Resource Management (VRM) system provides a way to identify and evaluate scenic values to determine the appropriate levels of management. It also provides a way to analyse potential visual impacts and apply visual design techniques to ensure that surface-disturbing activities are in harmony with their surroundings. Visual values are considered throughout the process, and the area’s visual resources can then be assigned to management classes with established objectives for managing:

Class 1 objective

- The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape.
- The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Class 2 objective

- The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape.
- The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer.
- Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, colour, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class 3 objective

- The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape.
- The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.

- Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer.
- Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class 4 objective

- The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape.
- The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.
- These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention.
- However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Determining the magnitude of visual impact

Visual Intrusion

The nature of intrusion or contrast (physical characteristics) of a project component on the visual quality of the surrounding environment and its compatibility/discord with the landscape and surrounding land use.

High	Moderate	Low	Positive
<p>If the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a substantial negative effect on the visual quality of the landscape; - Contrasts dramatically with the patterns or elements that define the structure of the landscape; - Contrasts dramatically with land use, settlement or enclosure patterns; - Is unable to be absorbed into the landscape. 	<p>If the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a moderate negative effect on the visual quality of the landscape; - Contrasts moderately with the patterns or elements that define the structure of the landscape; - Is partially compatible with land use, settlement or enclosure patterns. - Is partially absorbed into the landscape. 	<p>If the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a minimal effect on the visual quality of the landscape; - Contrasts minimally with the patterns or elements that define the structure of the landscape; - Is mostly compatible with land use, settlement or enclosure patterns. - Is absorbed into the landscape. 	<p>If the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a beneficial effect on the visual quality of the landscape; - Enhances the patterns or elements that define the structure of the landscape; - Is compatible with land use, settlement or enclosure patterns.
<p>Result</p> <p>Notable change in landscape characteristics over an extensive area and/or intensive change over a localized area resulting in major changes in key views.</p>	<p>Result</p> <p>Moderate change in landscape characteristics over localized area resulting in a moderate change to key views.</p>	<p>Result</p> <p>Imperceptible change resulting in a minor change to key views.</p>	<p>Result</p> <p>Positive change in key views.</p>

Visibility

The area/points from which project components will be visible.

High	Moderate	Low
<p>Visual Receptors</p> <p>If the development is visible from over half the zone of potential influence, and/or views are mostly unobstructed and/or the majority of viewers are affected.</p>	<p>Visual Receptors</p> <p>If the development is visible from less than half the zone of potential influence, and/or views are partially obstructed and or many viewers are affected</p>	<p>Visual Receptors</p> <p>If the development is visible from less than a quarter of the zone of potential influence, and/or views are mostly obstructed and/or few viewers are affected.</p>

Visual exposure

Visibility and visual intrusion qualified with a distance rating to indicate the degree of intrusion.

Distance from a viewer to a viewed object or area of the landscape influences how visual changes are perceived in the landscape. Generally, changes in form, line, colour, and texture in the landscape become less perceptible with increasing distance.

The impact of an object diminishes at an exponential rate as the distance between the observer and the object increases. Thus, the visual impact at 1000 m would be 25% of the impact as viewed from 500 m. At 2000 m it would be 10% of the impact at 500 m. The inverse relationship of distance and visual impact is well recognized in visual analysis literature (e.g.: Hull and Bishop (1988)) and is used as an important criterion for the study. This principle is illustrated in the figure below.

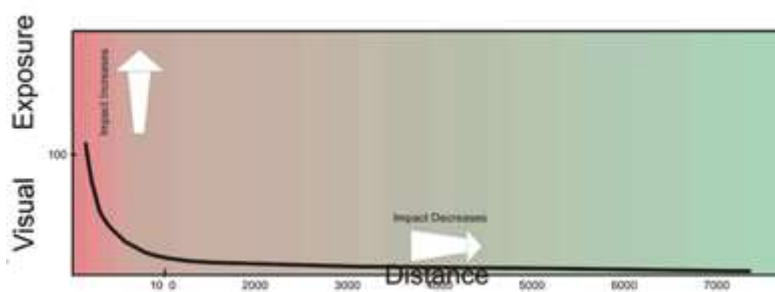


Figure 2. Effect of distance on visual exposure

Sensitivity

Sensitivity of visual receptors to the proposed development

When visual intrusion, visibility and visual exposure are incorporated, and qualified by sensitivity criteria (visual receptors) the magnitude of the impact of the development can be determined.

The sensitivity of visual receptors and views will be depended on:

- The location and context of the viewpoint;
- The expectations and occupation or activity of the receptor;
- The importance of the view (which may be determined with respect to its popularity or numbers of people affected, its appearance in guidebooks, on tourist maps, and in the facilities provided for its enjoyment and references to it in literature or art).

The most sensitive receptors may include:

- Users of all outdoor recreational facilities including public rights of way, whose intention or interest may be focused on the landscape;
- Communities where the development results in changes in the landscape setting or valued views enjoyed by the community;
- Occupiers of residential and commercial properties with views affected by the development.

Other receptors include:

- People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation (other than appreciation of the landscape, as in landscapes of acknowledged importance or value);
- People travelling through or past the affected landscape in cars, on trains or other transport routes;
- People at their place of work.

The least sensitive receptors are likely to be people at their place of work, or engaged in similar activities, whose attention may be focused on their work or activity and who therefore may be potentially less susceptible to changes in the view.

In this process more weight is usually given to changes in the view or visual amenity which are greater in scale, and visible over a wide area. In assessing the effect on views, consideration should be given to the effectiveness of mitigation measures, particularly where planting is proposed for screening purposes (Institute of Environmental Assessment & The Landscape Institute (1996).

High	Moderate	Low
Users of all outdoor recreational facilities including public rights of way (tourist routes), whose intention or interest may be focused on the landscape; Communities where the development results in changes in the landscape setting or valued views enjoyed by the community; Occupiers of residential properties with views affected by the development.	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation (other than appreciation of the landscape, as in landscapes of acknowledged importance or value); People travelling through or past the affected landscape in cars, on trains or other transport routes;	The least sensitive receptors are likely to be people at their place of work, or engaged in similar activities, whose attention may be focused on their work or activity and who therefore may be potentially less susceptible to changes in the view (i.e. office and industrial areas). Roads going through urban and industrial areas

Simulations and other visual representations

To characterize the nature and magnitude of visual intrusion of the proposed project, it is recommended that a photographic simulation technique be used. This method is most effective when the following five criteria are met.

- Representativeness: A simulation should represent important and typical views of a project.
- Accuracy: The similarity between a simulation and the reality after the project has been realized.
- Visual clarity: Detail, parts and overall contents have to be clearly recognizable.
- Interest: A simulation should hold the attention of the viewer.
- Legitimacy: A simulation is defensible if it can be shown how it was produced and to what degree it is accurate.
- Methodology for the representations should be clearly explained.

ANNEX 6: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, CITY COUNCIL OF PORT LOUIS

Background

Creation of the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee was created by the amendment made to the Local Government Act 2003. The section 97A of the Act stipulates that:

“There shall be set up, in the City Council of Port Louis, a committee to be known as the Technical Committee, which shall consist of-

- (a) the officer in charge of the Planning Department of the City Council of Port Louis or his representative, as chairperson;
- (b) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of public infrastructure;
- (c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of land use planning;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of environment;
- (e) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of tourism;
- (f) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of arts and cultural heritage;
- (g) a representative of the National Heritage Fund;
- (h) a representative of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund;
- (i) a representative of the Mauritius Ports Authority;
- (j) the officer in charge of the Works Department of the City Council of Port Louis or his representative.”

The Role of the Technical Committee

In section 98 of the Local Government Act 2011, the role of the Technical Committee is to:

“(b) Where an application under paragraph (a) is made in respect of a building, or land, found in the Buffer Zones, it shall be forwarded by the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee to the Technical Committee.

(c) The Technical Committee shall assess every application forwarded under paragraph (b) and shall submit its recommendations to the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee.

(d) In assessing an application under paragraph (c), the Technical Committee shall refer to the provisions of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act, the Building Act, the Planning and Development Act, the Town and Country Planning Act, planning policy guidance and the guidelines issued under those Acts.”

Terms of Reference

1. Mandate

- 1.1. The Technical Committee chaired by the City Council of Port Louis was created under the Local Government Act 2011. The Technical Committee shall ensure that provisions made in the Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act, the Building Act, the Planning and Development Act, the Town and Country Planning Act, Planning Policy Guidance and the guidelines issued under those Acts, are respected when an application for development in the Buffer Zone is assessed together with these terms of reference.
- 1.2. The Technical Committee shall ensure that the Buffer Zone of the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property develops to sustain its heritage component and develops into the vision for development stated in the Planning Policy Guidance – PPG 6: Urban Heritage Area – Buffer Zone of the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage property; and the Management Plan of the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage property.
- 1.3. The mandate of the Technical Committee excludes all elements that may form part of the mandate of the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Technical Committee is:

- 2.1. To advise the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee on protecting and promoting cultural heritage resources that make our town unique and a sustainable place to live;
- 2.2. When assessing development applications, the Technical Committee should ensure that the legal framework established for the enhancement of the heritage value or interest in the Buffer Zone is respected;
- 2.3. To make recommendations to the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee to allow the implementation of the vision for development stated in the Planning Policy Guidance 6 and in other statutory documents related to the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1. The Technical Committee was established by Law. Its roles and responsibilities were defined under the Local Government Act 2003, in sections 97 and 98.
- 3.2. The Technical Committee is an advisory committee established in accordance with the provisions in the Local Government Act 2011. The Technical Committee assists the Municipal Council in assessing applications for development in the Buffer Zone and produce recommendations to ensure that applications comply with the existing legal framework for development in the Buffer Zone.

- 3.3. The Technical Committee shall refer to the provisions made in the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act, the Building Act, the Planning and Development Act, the Town and Country Planning Act, planning policy guidance and the guidelines issued under those Acts, when assessing applications and make recommendations accordingly to the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee regarding the assessment of development applications.
- 3.4. The Technical Committee will not consider elements or take actions forming part of the mandate of the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee.
- 3.5. The Technical Committee is therefore consulted for:
 - 3.5.1. Assessing the applications for development including demolitions within the World Heritage Property's Buffer Zone;
 - 3.5.2. Assessing applications to evaluate if the cultural heritage value and/or interest is removed and/or altered;
 - 3.5.3. Assessing applications to evaluate if the applicants comply with the legal provisions;
 - 3.5.4. Producing recommendations regarding the applications for development for the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee which issues permits; and
 - 3.5.5. Ensuring that all procedures for the assessment of applications for development are followed and respected by applicants and also, for any development project in the zone to ensure a cohesive and coherent approach to the development vision in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property.
- 3.6. Ultimately, the Technical Committee shall ensure in its assessments that applications for development meet the principles and the requirements addressed in UNESCO's *Convention for the safeguarding of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. As per this Convention, the Buffer Zones of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property must continuously provide a suitable setting for the Aapravasi Ghat, and retain a high level of Authenticity and Integrity.
- 3.7. These principles were formulated in the Planning Policy Guidance 6 to develop the Buffer Zone into a Heritage Area and retain the authenticity and integrity through the retention of the historic urban form, scale, grain, space structure and architecture, and the urban character of the whole in terms of appropriate land uses and activation of public space and amenities. Also, the intangible component of the property is key to sustain in the heritage values for which the area is to be known.
- 3.8. It also includes the need to protect the visual quality of the cityscape and the need to protect physical and visual links between the upper and lower parts of the city, the protection of key views, of the urban form and scale, and the protection of the historic streetscapes and ensembles of buildings and places, historic buildings, urban infrastructure and street furniture, places and monuments.

- 3.9. The Technical Committee shall be invited to express its views on all development proposed as part of public space management including the development or works to be performed on roads, concerning traffic, pedestrianisation, signage, street furniture, urban design and parking management.
- 3.10. The Technical Committee shall be invited to express its views on development and infrastructure supply management.
- 3.11. The Technical Committee shall be invited to express its views on tourism projects that may be proposed for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.
- 3.12. The Technical Committee will examine the Cultural Heritage Impact Statement, the Heritage Impact Assessment and the Visual Impact Assessment submitted by applicants as per provisions stated in the Planning Policy Guidance 6.
- 3.13. The Technical Committee will ensure that the CHIS, HIA and VIA comply with the legal framework in place for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.
- 3.14. The Technical Committee may request that a Management Plan Committee, a Buffer Zone Management Committee and a Consultative Committee be held to discuss a development application or a proposal for development in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.
- 3.15. In case information is lacking to assess a development, the Technical Committee may request that research be undertaken to further document the cultural significance of the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.
- 3.16. The Technical Committee shall rely on the Management Plan for the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property, the Heritage Management Guidelines for the Buffer Zone and the Conservation Manual to be provided guidance in the evaluation of the applications for development.
- 3.17. Members shall encourage exchange of ideas and expertise to contribute to the economic and cultural development of the city in line with its legal framework.
- 3.18. As and when required, the Technical Committee may request expert advice in heritage for further assessment of development applications to produce recommendations in line with the legal framework.
- 3.19. Applicants' request for information will be submitted officially to the City Council of Port Louis for consideration.
- 3.20. When assessing, the Technical Committee shall consider the cultural significance of the property and how it would be enhanced or / and affected by the proposed development. The Technical Committee members will also consider any objection(s) or representation(s) by the Consultative Committee.

- 3.21. Where the Technical Committee resolves to pre-approve an application which would affect the cultural significance of the property/place, and an objection to such approval has been registered, unless the stakeholder withdraws such objection, the objection shall be deemed to be an appeal against the recommendation of the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee and the latter shall submit the application and all relevant information to its appeal.
- 3.22. In the event of any alteration or development of a property / place is undertaken without the consent of the Technical Committee, the local Authority must require the owner to stop such work instantly and restore the site to its previous condition within a specified period.
- 3.23. As part of the national budget exercise taking place every financial year, the Technical Committee shall establish a Technical Committee budget request to meet its resource requirements. The annual budget proposal shall define goals and objectives of the Technical Committee.
- 3.24. The Technical Committee shall produce an annual report to the Council at the beginning of each new year outlining accomplishments in the previous twelve months.
- 3.25. The Technical Committee shall be devoting efforts to fasten decision making on development applications but not to the detriment of heritage preservation and enhancement.
- 3.26. Information discussed in the Technical Committee shall remain confidential.

4. Accountability

- 4.1. The Technical Committee was legally established under the responsibility of the **City Council of Port Louis**.
- 4.2. The Technical Committee is producing recommendations to the **Permits and Business Monitoring Committee** of the City Council of Port Louis to advise on the compliance of the development applications with the legal framework established for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.
- 4.3. The Technical Committee would need to report on developments including demolitions that did not comply with the legal framework in place, in its annual report and to the Buffer Zone Management Committee.
- 4.4. The legal framework elaborated for the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property is based on principles and guidelines addressed in UNESCO's ***Convention for the safeguarding of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*** signed by the state of Mauritius in 1995.
- 4.5. The **Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage** was designated as the representative of the State Party to UNESCO and as such, may request information on development including demolitions in the Buffer Zone of the World Heritage Property.

- 4.6. If conflicting views oppose the Technical Committee and the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee on an application in the Buffer Zone, the matter will be referred to the Minister of Local Government.

5. Membership

- 5.1. The membership of the Technical Committee is established by law in the section of 97A the Local Government Act 2003. The Act states that the Technical Committee is established in the City Council of Port Louis.
- 5.2. The members are:
- (a) the officer in charge of the Planning Department of the City Council of Port Louis or his representative, as chairperson;
 - (b) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of public infrastructure;
 - (c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of land use planning;
 - (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of environment;
 - (e) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of tourism;
 - (f) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of arts and cultural heritage;
 - (g) a representative of the National Heritage Fund;
 - (h) a representative of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund;
 - (i) a representative of the Mauritius Ports Authority;
 - (j) the officer in charge of the Works Department of the City Council of Port Louis or his representative.
- 5.3. Members of the Technical Committee shall officially inform if they are involved in a conflict of interest and in this case, shall not take part in assessing development projects or applications.

5.3.1. Chairmanship

The Chair is responsible for ensuring the smooth and effective operation of the Committee and its role and responsibilities. The Chair is responsible for:

- 5.3.1.1. Calling the meetings;
- 5.3.1.2. Creating an agenda in consultation with the municipal staff;
- 5.3.1.3. Chairing the meetings;
- 5.3.1.4. Reviewing the minutes of the meetings with the Committee members and request for approval of the minutes;

- 5.3.1.5. Organise site visits to the relevant properties;
- 5.3.1.6. Submit the official recommendations of the Committee, approved by all Technical Committee members, to the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee and to the Executive Committee;
- 5.3.1.7. The Chairperson may delegate the preparation of report or other task to members of the Technical Committee who may volunteer. The work of the delegate will be presented to the Technical Committee for approval;
- 5.3.1.8. Inform the Committee members of any known infringement to the legal provisions for the Buffer Zone of the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property;
- 5.3.1.9. Acting as the official committee spokesman and media contact;
- 5.3.1.10. In the absence of the Chair, these responsibilities will be undertaken by the representative of the City Council of Port Louis.

5.3.2. *The role of members*

- 5.3.2.1. The members shall attend all scheduled meetings. Members are required to notify the Chair or the designated municipal staff if they are unable to attend a meeting.
- 5.3.2.2. The member who cannot attend the meeting may delegate a representative of his institution or send his views officially to the Chair of the Technical Committee.
- 5.3.2.3. The members shall read and take cognizance of all information supplied to them for consideration.
- 5.3.2.4. The members shall produce recommendations on the proposed development applications in the Buffer Zone of the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property.
- 5.3.2.5. The members shall attend visits to properties where proposal for development is made.
- 5.3.2.6. The members shall contribute to the preparation of reports and recommendations on behalf of the Technical Committee.
- 5.3.2.7. The members shall attend training or any capacity building operation contributing to the consolidation of their knowledge serving the purpose of the Technical Committee.
- 5.3.2.8. The members shall have knowledge of the legal framework established for the Apravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone namely the Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act, the Building Act, the Planning and Development Act, the Town and Country Planning Act, planning policy guidance and the guidelines issued under those Acts; and shall closely examine them before producing recommendations.

5.3.2.9. The Chair or a spokesperson appointed by the Committee may speak on behalf of the Committee to Council, the media, or the public. Other members shall not act or speak on behalf of the Committee without the prior approval of the Committee.

5.3.2.10. The Committee or its members shall not issue petitions, resolutions or position papers on behalf of the Committee unless specifically authorized by Council resolution.

5.3.2.11. The Committee members shall not act outside of the mandate and advisory capacity of the Committee.

6. *Meetings and timeframe*

6.1. The Technical Committee was established by law in June 2011.

6.2. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee will convene regular meetings. Meetings of the Technical Committee shall be held when an application for development is submitted by the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee to the Technical Committee and on an ad-hoc basis in such a way as to ensure a smooth running process.

6.3. In case no application is submitted, the Technical Committee shall meet at least four times a year to monitor and establish a statement on development in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. This information will also be consigned in the annual report of the Technical Committee.

6.4. The presence of six members in the Technical Committee shall constitute a quorum. However, the four members who did not attend the session, shall be informed of any decision taken by the quorum. They may also express their disagreement on the decision in writing for consideration by the Technical Committee.

6.5. In the event that a quorum is not achieved, the meeting may be postponed.

6.6. The meetings will have a formal agenda and invitation of committee members to the Technical Committee meeting will also include minutes from the previous meeting.

ANNEX 7: PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

Database for the monitoring of conservation works and maintenance

A database is already in use to monitor the conservation works on site. The database should be consolidated to be used as a monitoring report instrument.

Database for monitoring the use of materials

It was proposed to enter the data in the database used for the monitoring of the conservation works. The data are entered on basic excel sheets to keep track and initiate the monitoring of materials in the use of conservation and maintenance works.

Time schedule, target and planning for monitoring conservation and maintenance operations

An indicator is to undertake the conservation and maintenance operations as per detailed planning stating targets. This system is currently in use; this is also followed for the maintenance of the site.

Monitoring of air and noise pollution

The monitoring of air and noise pollution is undertaken once or twice a year with the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment. The data are analysed by our consultants who recommend preventive conservation measures accordingly.

Recording of Temperature and Relative Humidity

A recorder of temperature and relative humidity's rate is required in the Hospital Block to provide regular records of temperature and relative humidity variations. Up to present, the meteorological services were consulted to acquire measurements of temperature and relative humidity. However, data provided did not meet the accuracy required for the monitoring of these two parameters.

Monitoring of Sea level

In the context of climate change, it was proposed in the technical committee held on 4 June 2009 to monitor sea level. AGTF will communicate with the Mauritius Ports Authority to set up a sea level monitoring system.

Visitor Management monitoring

Visitation may have an impact on the site. Visitor Management Plan includes indicators such as record of visitor number, delimited timeframe and programme of actions, and regular audience surveys. These indicators help in the site preservation and monitoring of visitation impact.



ANNEX 8: METHOD USED FOR GRADING HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THE BUFFER ZONE

In 2008, 255 buildings and structures were listed in the AG WHP BZ. Among them 7 are National Heritage under the NHF Act, 63 have been listed as Grade I, 38 as Grade II, 24 as Grade III and 123 as No Grade buildings/plots. This listing must be expanded to include structures such as pavements, storm water drains and street furniture.

The following criteria were used to determine the categorization:

1. Age of the Building/Structure

- (i) 1730-1810: It represents the era when buildings/structures were mostly made of stone and wood were constructed during the French period thus reflecting particular French architectural style.;
- (ii) 1811-1865: It represents the early British period as well as the early and mid-Victorian period, when numerous buildings/structures were erected. They reflect a particular British architectural style characterized by the use of materials such as teak wood and shingles using the *bardeau* style. More specifically it also covers the period when the AG was constructed and expanded between 1849 and 1865; and
- (iii) 1866-1950: It represents the period when most of the stone and wooden buildings/structures located in the AGWHPBZ were constructed. After 1950, there was a gradual shift in colonial architecture from the use of traditional stone and wooden building materials to concrete.

2. Historical Value:

- (i) Continuity of use of the building or structure based on historical documentation and oral history;
- (ii) Buildings/structures associated with particular events/persons; and
- (iii) Illustrations of important aspects of the country's social, economic/commercial and technological progress.

3. Architectural Value:

- (i) Representation of an important and rare architectural design/style or the uniqueness of the building/structure;
- (ii) Buildings/structures of importance because of their design, decoration and craftsmanship, building types and techniques.

4. State of the Building/Need for Preservation:

- (i) The present condition of the building or structure; and
- (ii) the urgency of and extent the building/structure needs to be preserved.

5. Group Value:

- (i) Buildings/structures comprise an important architectural or historical unity or represent a fine example of planning in the BZ; and
- (ii) The buildings and structures may be associated/linked with other buildings on the same street or in the BZ with a similar history and architectural style/designs.

System of Allocation of Marks for the Grading of the Historic Buildings/Structures in the BZ

In order to categorize the historic buildings/structures into Grades I, II, and III as per the above-mentioned criteria, a 100-mark system was used as base, as shown below:

Criteria	Marks/Weightage
Age of Building	30
Historical Value	25
Architectural Value	20
State of the Building	15
Group Value	10

Grand Total: 100 Marks

Criteria	Level/Range	Marks/Weightage
1. <u>Age of Building</u> - Level I	1730-1870	15 Marks
2. <u>Age of Building</u> - Level II	1870-1920	10 Marks
3. <u>Age of Building</u> - Level III	1920-1960	5 Marks
4. <u>Historical Value</u> - Level I	Continuity of use of the building or structure based on historical documentation/oral history.	15 Marks
5. <u>Historical Value</u> - Level II	Building/structures associated with particular events/persons.	10 Marks
6. <u>Historical Value</u> - Level III	Illustrations of important aspects of the country's social, economic/ commercial and technological progress.	5 Marks
7. <u>Architectural Value</u> - Level I	Representation of an important and rare architectural design/style/ Uniqueness of the building/structure.	10 Marks
8. <u>Architectural Value</u> - Level II	Buildings/structures of importance because of their design, decoration, and craftsmanship, building types and techniques.	5 Marks
10. <u>State of the Building/ Need for Preservation</u> - Level I	The building/structure is in a very poor state and requires urgent and extensive repairs.	10 Marks
11. <u>State of the Building/ Need for Preservation</u> - Level II	The building/structure is in good condition and requires minor repairs.	5 Marks

12. <u>Group Value</u>	<p>Buildings and structures comprise an important architectural or historical unity or are a fine example of planning in the buffer zone.</p> <p>The buildings and structures may be associated and linked with other buildings on the same city block, street, or in the buffer zone with a similar history and architectural style/designs.</p>	10 Marks
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In addition, Grades I, II, and III were each given a ‘basic mark designation’. This process helped in the two-fold grading process.

Basic Mark Designation

Grade	Marks
Grade I	50 or above
Grade II	Between 40 and 50
Grade III	Between 30 and 40

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ANNEX 9: CODE OF CONDUCT AT AAPRAVASI GHAT WORLD HERITAGE SITE

General Rules and Regulations

1. Access to the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage site

- 1.1 All visitors to the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site should have been granted authorization to access the site. Entry to the site will be deemed to imply an agreement to adhere to the Code of Conduct as set out below.
- 1.2 Physically challenged visitors, young children and pregnant women shall be given priority of access to the site.
- 1.3 The access to the site is limited to a number of 80 people on site at a time
- 1.4 The number of visitors for a guided visit shall not exceed 20 people at a time and shall be accompanied by a heritage guide
- 1.5 Souvenir vendors are not allowed unless prior written agreement has been made with AGTF direction.
- 1.6 Independent Guides accompanying visitors shall be granted access provided that they were authorized to do so by AGTF direction and provided that they perform a guided visit that is historically accurate and without prejudice or discrimination.

2. Bags and Personal Belongings

- 2.1 Visitors will not be allowed to bring heavy and encumbering bags on site.
- 2.2 Visitors will not be allowed with any product susceptible to damage the site and affect its cultural significance such paint, spray etc...
- 2.3 No arms or weapons will be allowed on site.
- 2.4 Mobile phones may be used only outside the site area.

3. Personal Conduct

- 3.1 Visitors are not allowed to eat or drink on site; food or sweets, or chew gum or drinks are not allowed in any part of the site.
- 3.2 Smoking and spitting is prohibited everywhere within the site.
- 3.3 All garbage shall be disposed in the bins located outside the site.
- 3.3 Visitors are not allowed to play music or create a level of noise that is causing annoyance to AGTF staff and other visitors.
- 3.5 Any person who, in the opinion of the person in charge on site, is causing a nuisance, using loud or offensive language, behaving aggressively or under the influence of alcohol or a toxic substance, shall be requested to leave the site immediately. Failure to comply with such a request will be reported to the Police.
- 3.6 Please be patient and show courtesy to staff and other visitors.
- 3.7 Visitors will not be allowed to lean or sit on structures or lie down in the site area.
- 3.8 Visitors shall respect the sensitive or fragile parts of the site and shall not walk on consolidated parts or structures
- 3.9 Visitors shall observe the conservation norms dictated by the AGTF staff
- 4.0 May any visitor come across any occurrence or disturbance, or threat to the site; are requested to kindly inform the staff of AGTF

4.1 Visitors shall observe preventive measures of security and not expose themselves intentionally to risks on the site area

4.1 Children under Secondary School age shall be accompanied by an adult.

5. Animals

5.1 Only service dogs accompanying a disabled person will be allowed on site.

6. Restricted Areas

6.1 No person may enter any part of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage site other than the designated public area without the permission of a member of AGTF staff.

6.2 No person may pass through or round the security barrier at the entrance to the site Area without the permission of a member of AGTF staff.

7. Removal of items on site and access to publications

7.1 All leaflets will be made available by a member of the AGTF staff.

7.2 Visitors shall inform the AGTF staff immediately of any artifact or item be found on site.

7.3 No artefacts or items found on site shall be displaced or taken outside the site.

8. Notices, Advertising, etc.

8.1 No person shall, without the prior approval of the AGTF board, distribute, or leave any pamphlets, publicity, notice or other documents in the site area.

8.2 No person shall, without the approval of the AGTF board, offer anything for sale in the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site area or canvass or seek signatures for petitions.

8.3 No person shall use the image of the site for promotion or advertisement without prior approval of the AGTF.

8.4 Advertising, notices or any promotional document shall respect the principles addressed in the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) of UNESCO and its operational guidelines.

8.5 Conservation principles shall also be respected and strictly followed.

9. Vehicles and Bicycles

9.1 All vehicles, motorcycles or bicycles parked in the site car park are left at their owner's risk, and no responsibility can be accepted for thefts or damage howsoever caused.

9.2 The car park is for the use of AGTF Staff and visitors and should be vacated on departure from the site.

9.3 Cars, motorcycles or bicycles are not permitted inside the site area.

10. Emergency Alarms and security measures

10.1 In the event of Fire Alarm or emergency notice, all visitors must leave the site area immediately, without waiting to collect personal belongings, by the Fire Exit routes indicated. They should not re-enter the site area without the permission of a fire officer or, in the case of a fire drill, the senior member of the AGTF staff present.

- 10.2 Visitors shall respect and conform to the Mauritius Ports Authority three states of alert system (green, yellow and red) in case of emergency and follow instructions given by the staff;
- 10.3 Visitors shall strictly observe instructions given by Mauritius Ports Authority in case of disaster;
- 10.4 No visitors shall challenge or not observe security measures enforced on site in case of fire, cyclone or tropical storms, tsunami, flooding, riots, armed conflicts, land and mud slides, flows, hazards of human origin (vandalism, theft, looting, arson or accidents).
- 10.5 Visitors shall observe measures enunciated in the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site Risk Preparedness Plan;
- 10.6 Visitors shall not intentionally expose themselves to danger or risks.

ANNEX 10: RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR VISITS

Group visits

1. Prior bookings to visit the World Heritage Site are highly recommended. Bookings can be made on 217 7770/ 5256 3600 or by email outreach.agtf@intnet.mu. Please specify the details of a contact person, the date and the time of visit as well as the number of visitors (*the maximum carrying capacity of site at one time is eighty people; may the number of visitors exceeds 80, arrangements can be made to visit other places in Port Louis to divide the visitors in smaller groups*).
2. Groups should not exceed 20 people and be at all times under the supervision of an adult.
3. On booking, the AGTF will send of confirmation for the visit.
4. If you need to cancel the booking, please contact us immediately so that we can allocate the time slot to another group.

DELAYS

5. Considering that traffic issues may entail delay, the AGTF kindly request that schools inform the Interpretation Centre's staff on 217 7770 / 5256 3600 of the delay. All efforts will be made to ensure that educational sessions are not affected. However, in case the delay extends beyond 30 minutes or if the load of work of the AGTF staff is important, the educational session may have to be shortened to meet the exigencies of the day schedule. If the delay extends beyond one hour, the session may have to be cancelled.

DISCIPLINE

6. It is the responsibility of the group leaders to ensure effective supervision and appropriate behaviour of all students whilst in the premises of the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre and Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site.
7. It may be requested that large groups of students be split into groups before entering the premises in order to enhance the visitor management and experience. In this case, groups will be allowed in one at a time. On busy days, groups may have to wait before starting their visit.
8. Students are not allowed to run, push, yell or intrude on the rights of other visitors to enjoy the World Heritage Site. Students are expected to listen carefully to instructions and focus on set activities.
9. All precautions are taken to ensure that the Interpretation Centre provides a safe and enjoyable experience for all of visitors. Therefore, instances of disruptive behaviour will be immediately reported and the appropriate action taken. In extreme circumstances, the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Staff reserves the right to request visitor(s) to leave in case of disrespectful or dangerous behaviour.
10. It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that there is effective supervision of the students/children at all times whilst in the educational session. All teachers are advised to play an active role in each session by leading group discussions/tasks and monitoring behaviour.
11. Walking, leaning or sitting on remaining structures at World Heritage Site or at Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre is not allowed.

USE OF THE PREMISES

12. Food and drinks are not allowed in the Interpretation Centre and at the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site.

SURVEYS

13. Students may be asked to complete short surveys to collect their thoughts on their visit. The information obtained from surveys allows to make improvements for the benefit of visitors.
14. A school may request a specific programme/educational activity for the students that the AGTF will do its best to propose. On request, the AGTF may elaborate a specific programme for students in collaboration with teachers or other third party.
15. The AGTF also provides assistance to students undertaking project: on request by email, the AGTF can provide information on indenture or the history of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site.
16. The full collaboration of the teachers is requested in order to inform the Heritage Guides / Public Outreach Officers of students' prior knowledge and learning so that educational activities can be planned according to their abilities.
17. Pupils are requested not take any of the educational resources provided, such as pens and help sheets, unless the Heritage Guide / Public Outreach Officers specifically allows it. This is to ensure enough resources for all our educational sessions.
18. Pupils are also expected to be respectful of the premises and all educational property not to impact on the quality of other school sessions.
19. Disruptive and disrespectful behaviour within an educational session will not be tolerated. If any pupil(s) are severely disturbing the other pupils' ability to work, or are causing a health & safety issue, AGTF reserves the right to ask them to leave the session. In extreme cases of poor conduct from the whole class, the educational session may be terminated.
20. Accompanying staff during an educational session, should refrain from talking whilst the AGTF Staff is delivering.

PARKING

21. A low capacity temporary parking is available in front of the Aapravasi Ghat. The carrying capacity of this parking is 3 buses maximum.
22. Buses may temporarily park in front of the World Heritage Site to allow the students to access the entrance.
23. Buses may remain in this location during the time of the visit and will need to leave on completion of the visit.
24. Buses may be requested to leave in order to free parking for the next visitors.
25. Schools wishing to visit other sites before or after their visits to the Aapravasi Ghat Site may not leave their vehicle in these parking. They may park their vehicles at the paid parking available at the SPDC (parking located opposite the Aapravasi Ghat) or at the Granary (Port Louis Waterfront).

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is allowed at the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre and at the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site.

By visiting the site, visitors are committing to uphold all of our conditions of visit listed above. It is the responsibility of visitors to download and read these conditions from our website upon booking your visit.

May any issues require further clarification, please discuss this with the staff prior to attending your visit.

ANNEX 11: INDENTURED LABOUR ROUTE PROJECT

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 195th SESSION

195 EX/Decisions, PARIS, 28 November 2014.

30. The International Indentured Labour Route Project (195 EX/30; 195 EX/30.INF; 195 EX/DG.INF; 195 EX/42)

The Executive Board:

1. Recalling Decision 30 COM 8B.33 of the World Heritage Committee and bearing in mind the importance of an Intentional Indentured Labour Route Project, which would be complimentary to the Slave Route Project and the *General History of Africa* and implemented in the context of the International Decade of People of African descent (2015-2024),
2. Acknowledging the need to create a corpus of professionals in various fields such as history, anthropology, archaeology and heritage in order to elaborate an international database on Indentured Labour, accessible worldwide, so as to disseminate information about a major historical event and build greater understanding and cooperation among peoples,
3. Also acknowledging the synergies between the International “Indentured Labour Route and the Slave Route” project and the Slave Route Project, and the need to identify focused and coordinated activities, under appropriate extra budgetary funding, involving both projects;
4. Welcomes the establishment of a secretariat of the international “Indentured Labour Route” project through the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund to be funded by the Government of Mauritius;
5. Notes the proposed establishment of an International Scientific Committee whose terms of reference would be elaborated along with a detailed Plan of Action to be regularly monitored and emphasizes that it should not have any direct or indirect financial implications for the regular budget;
6. Requests the Director-General to provide technical support for the international “Indentured Labour Route” project with extra budgetary funding as appropriate;
7. Also notes that efforts will be made at international and regional levels to encourage Member States, especially those associated with indentured labour, to contribute through voluntary contributions to the international “Indentured Labour Route” project during the implementation stage;
8. Encourages Member States to support the international “Indentured Labour Route” project and welcomes similar projects aiming at further promoting a culture of peace, cultural pluralism and intercultural dialogue.

ANNEX 12: AAPRAVASI GHAT TRUST FUND ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAMME: GUIDELINES FOR VISITING ARCHAEOLOGISTS

1. All archaeology at Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF) must form part of the Research programme at AGTF.
2. Archaeology is one component in a multidisciplinary approach towards research concerning indentured sites and Aapravasi Ghat. Any final report must include this interdisciplinary aspect. Any archaeologist recruited for AGTF must adopt an interdisciplinary approach, accept other evidences and work with other archaeologists also interested with the site.
3. AGTF is open for proposals to be submitted by qualified archaeologists and other researchers if the proposals conform to the AGTF Research Programme.
4. Archival and other research must be undertaken to substantiate the need for archaeology.
5. All proposals will be vetted by the National Heritage Fund, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Board and the Technical Committee.
6. All archaeologists wishing their proposals to be considered by AGTF must include in addition to the archaeological survey or excavations: analysis, conservation of excavated materials and site, consolidation of excavated area, filling of the trenches and a final report which must include any justifications for further work. To their proposal, a post excavation programme defining proposed budget, resources and outcome must be included.
7. Scale and timeframes for all archaeological works must be submitted.
8. One important criteria in assessing a proposal will be the expected outcome of the archaeology and how that will contribute to the history of Mauritius and our understanding of the indentured labour system.
9. All research should consider previous research results in the elaboration of research proposal and research objectives.
10. No site is reserved for any archaeologist. AGTF reserves the right to ask any other expert to follow and take part in any excavations or surveys if it deems there is a need to do so.
11. All archaeologists and researchers must submit a copy of any research paper, article which they have produced and where AGTF sites on which they have worked are mentioned and fully acknowledge the AGTF's contribution. All researchers must request written permission to publish data obtained from AGTF.
12. Archaeologists are to secure their own qualified man/womanpower (RAS, skilled, unskilled) and not use AGTF staff as this disrupts work of AGTF staff and completion in time of both AGTF staff's work.
13. Archaeologist must declare other sources (if any) of funding for the same site in-case AGTF is partially or fully funding the project and also in-case his/her visit to Mauritius is not exclusively for AGTF project.
14. AGTF retains the right to stop, cancel or suspend any on-going archaeological work, if required.

15. AGTF hold all rights to access, monitor, survey, investigate the archaeological site at any time during the ongoing excavation work.
16. Archaeologist shall attend monitoring committees to report on archaeological research progress.
17. No artefact or any other material shall be taken outside the country for any kind of examination, analysis or tests without prior approval of AGTF and Government of Mauritius. All artefacts & materials found at site shall be properly documented and submitted to AGTF.
18. AGTF will supervise and monitor all work as well as send trainees and volunteers to any surveys and excavations.
19. If research is funded by AGTF, researchers must provide a copy of all research material they have collected including field notes and photos etc. to the AGTF.
20. A final technical report to be submitted together with a shorter version in simple English for a general or non-archaeological reader.
21. Archaeologists working on sites under control of AGTF must respect the policies and practices at AGTF and not make public statements that are unsubstantiated or go against policies and practices of AGTF.

ANNEX 13: GLOSSARY

Adaptation

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use. Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place. It should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives. New work such as additions to the place may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.

Adaptive reuse

Modifying a historic cultural landscape, place or building for a use different than its original use.

Archaeological site

Any place no longer inhabited where there are remains of the human past activity. Such remains might range from a single hearth where early man cooked his food to entire abandoned cities of the past civilizations. It can be either an excavated site or a standing ruin. It includes underwater, rock art and paleontological sites.

(Source: ICCROM)

Archaeology

The traces of our past are everywhere but frequently they are not evident or may be hidden. If this is the case, research, surveying and excavations are needed to find the clues. This is the task of archaeology, a science that interprets the past by studying its physical remains both above and below the ground. (Source: ICCROM)

Archives

A collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institutions and people. Archives are a rich source of information for understanding our past. (Source: ICCROM)

Authenticity

Conservation of cultural heritage in all its forms and historical periods is rooted in the values attributed to the heritage. Our ability to understand these values depends, in part, on the degree to which information sources about these values may be understood as credible or truthful. Knowledge and understanding of these sources of information, in relation to original and subsequent characteristics of the cultural heritage, and their meaning, is a requisite basis for assessing all aspects of authenticity.

Buffer Zone

“For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a Buffer Zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the Buffer Zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms.” (Source: Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention; WHC 08/01; II.F.104)

Conservation

a) means “all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance”. With this retention of cultural significance being based on a respect for the cultural significance embodied “in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects “and with the imperative that “significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured”. (with reference to the ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter of 1999, Article 1.2 and 1.4)

b) the dynamic application of appropriate legal, economic and operational measures to preserve specific assets from destruction or deterioration and to safeguard their future.

c) all efforts designed to understand cultural heritage, know its history and meaning, ensure its material safeguard and, as required, its presentation, restoration and enhancement.

Context

The specific character, quality, physical, historical, and social characteristics of a building’s setting. Depending on the nature of the proposal, the context could be as small as a suburban street or as large as a whole town.

Conservation Manual

The Conservation Manual (CM) was developed to provide guidelines for anyone planning development or undertaking building works in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property. The objective is to facilitate development undertakings and enhance the unique character of the heritage present in this area. The Conservation Manual is used together with the Planning Policy Guidance 6 – Urban Heritage Area – Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property Buffer Zone – issued in June 2011 by the Ministry of Housing and Land [Use Planning](#).

Cultural Heritage

The Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage defines “cultural Heritage” as follows in article 1:

“Monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

Groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science;

Sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.”

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are particular landscapes that reflect and express particular interaction over time between people and their surroundings.

Cultural landscape areas

Specific topographically delimited parts of the landscape, formed by various combinations of human and natural agencies, which illustrate the evolution of human society, its settlement and character in time and space and which have acquired socially and culturally recognized values at various territorial levels, because of the presence of physical remains reflecting past land use and activities, skills or distinctive traditions, or depiction in literary and artistic works, or the fact that historic events took place there.

Cultural significance

Refers to the aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Curative conservation

Direct action to ensure the survival of a cultural property /object when its integrity is threatened (e.g. consolidating a tottering wall, disinfesting a wooden statue, removing intrusive vegetation from ancient walls etc.).

(Source: ICCROM)

Heritage

- 1– Something inherited at birth such as personal characteristics, status and possessions.
- 2– Anything that has been transmitted from the past or handed down by tradition.
- 3– The evidence of the past such as historical sites, buildings and the unspoilt natural environment, considered collectively as the inheritance of present day society.

4 - Something that is reserved for a particular person or group or the outcome of an action, way of life etc.

5- (Law) Any property, especially land, which by law was descended or may descend to an heir. (Source: Collins Dictionary)

Heritage impact assessment:

A process that is used to define the cultural value of a resource, identify, predict and assess the potential positive and negative environmental impacts of a proposed project on the cultural environment, to propose appropriate alternatives to avoid impacts or propose mitigation of impacts. The HIA process is used to inform decision-making by the project proponent, relevant authorities and financing institutions. The process includes the following components: pre-application planning, scoping, screening, impact assessment (including the identification of management actions and monitoring requirements), integration and decision-making.

Historic areas

May be considered as those spaces where manifold evidences of the city's cultural production concentrate. They are to be circumscribed rather in terms of their operational value as 'critical areas' than in opposition to the city's non-historical places, since the city in its totality is a historical entity.

Historic Monument

“The Concept of an historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development or an historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time.” (Source: International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, Venice 1964, ICOMOS)

Historic Urban Landscape

A historic urban landscape involves a holistic approach and understanding of the city and its structural, overall heritage patterns, contexts, and an overall view of the urban landscape/urban environment. The notion of historic urban landscape goes beyond traditional terms of “historic centres”, ensembles” or “surroundings” and includes:

- environmental and topographic conditions
- gradual evolution
- historic patterns
- topography and soils, vegetation
- natural and ecological context
- the broader territorial and landscape context
- planned territorial development
- land-uses and patterns

- overall urban landscape
- human settlements
- townscapes, roofscapes
- spatial organization, spatial structures
- open spaces
- public spaces - functionality, scale, materials, lighting, street furniture, advertising, and vegetation
- building plots and types
- individual monuments and ensembles and their significant connections
- elements of technical infrastructure, details of construction
- significant connections (physical, functional and visual, material and associative), with the historic typologies and morphologies
- economic and socio-cultural values
- visual relationships

Historic urban landscapes

The historic urban landscape acquires its exceptional and universal significance from a gradual evolutionary, as well as planned territorial development over a relevant period of time through processes of urbanization, incorporating environmental and topographic conditions and expressing economic and socio-cultural values pertaining to societies. As such, protection and conservation of the historic urban landscape comprises the individual monuments to be found in protection registers, as well as ensembles and their significant connections, physical, functional and visual, material and associative, with the historic typologies and morphologies.

Impact assessment

Issues that cannot be resolved during scoping and that require further investigation are taken forward into the impact assessment. Depending on the amount of available information, specialists may be required to assess the nature, extent, duration, intensity or magnitude, probability and significance of the potential impacts; define the level of confidence in the assessment; and propose management actions and monitoring programmes. Specialist studies/reports form the basis of the integrated Environmental Impact Report, which is compiled by the EIA practitioner/consultant in accordance with existing EIA guideline.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Article 2 of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage defines intangible heritage (2003) as follows:

“The “intangible cultural heritage” means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their

interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.”

Maintenance

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair, which involves restoration or reconstruction. Maintenance is fundamental to conservation and should be undertaken where fabric is of cultural significance and its maintenance is necessary to retain that cultural significance.

Monuments

All buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings.

National Heritage

According to the National Heritage Fund Act of 2003, "**National Heritage**" means:

- (a) A national heritage designated in Section 12 and specified in the Schedule; and
- (b) Includes a national monument designated under the repealed National Monuments (Designation) Regulations 1985 and specified in the Schedule.’

The Schedules of the National Heritage Fund Act regroup a total number of 166 National Heritages as at 2003 including monuments and tombs, civil and private buildings, and military architecture. The Act stipulates that a structure becomes a *National Heritage* when its cultural significance is of outstanding value. This may also include “architectural work, work of monumental sculpture and painting, element or structure of an archaeological nature, inscription, cave dwelling”.

Outstanding Universal Value

“Outstanding universal value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.”

Place

‘Place’ means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

The concept of place should be broadly interpreted. The elements may include memorials, trees, gardens, parks, places of historical events, urban areas, towns, industrial places, archaeological sites and spiritual and religious places.

Preservation

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration. It is appropriate where the existing fabric or its condition constitutes evidence of cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out. Preservation protects fabric without obscuring the evidence of its construction and use.

Rehabilitation

Regaining the integrity and lost value of a place through adaptation, conservation and compatible use -

Rehabilitation involves the sensitive adaptation of a historic place or of an individual component for a continuing or compatible contemporary use, while protecting its heritage value. This is achieved through repairs, alterations and/or additions.

Reconstruction

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric. It is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the cultural significance of the place. Reconstruction should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation

Restoration and reconstruction should reveal culturally significant aspects of the place.

Recording

Heritage management includes heritage analysis from recording, and capturing, conserving and managing the data on which the Statement of Significance and the Conservation Management Plan is founded. Recording is the capture of information which describes the physical configuration, condition and use of monuments, groups of buildings and sites, at points in time, which may include tangible as well as intangible evidence, constitutes a part of the documentation that can contribute to an understanding of the heritage and its related values and is an essential part of a heritage analysis and the total conservation process. Recording, data capture and data management must be suitable, and of a level of reliability and effectiveness relevant to the degree of cultural significance of a heritage site.

It includes surveying and documentation. Recording is clearly also a research activity. Recording is used:

- (a) to acquire knowledge in order to advance the understanding of cultural heritage, its values and its evolution;
- (b) to promote the interest and involvement of the people in the preservation of the heritage through the dissemination of recorded information;
- (c) to permit informed management and control of construction works and of all change to the cultural heritage;
- (d) to ensure that the maintenance and conservation of the heritage is sensitive to its physical form, its materials, construction, and its historical and cultural significance.

The results of recording activity deposits knowledge that must be captured, conserved and managed as part of the heritage resource – subsequently, all managers of the cultural heritage resource are responsible for ensuring the adequate recording, capturing, quality assurance and updating of the records. The commitment at the national level to conserve the heritage resource requires an equal commitment towards the recording process.

Restoration

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material. It is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.

Setting

The area around a heritage place or item that contributes to its heritage significance. It may include views to and from the heritage item (visual catchment). The listing boundary of a heritage resource does not always include the whole of its setting.

Significance

Significance reflects the assessment of total value we ascribe to cultural and natural qualities in cultural landscapes, and thus how we evaluate their overall worth to society, to a nation or to local communities. Significance may relate to one particular quality or to a collection of several particular qualities.

Sites

The combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogeneous to be topographically definable and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

Streetscape

Means the ensemble of buildings, structures, plants and walkways along a street, as a discernible component of an urban landscape. The definition can be extended to such ensembles along canals, railway lines, harbour quays etc.

UNESCO

United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organisation was founded in 1945 to rebuild schools in countries devastated by the Second World War and to produce scientific publications. Today, the UNESCO “functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues” and also encourages the dissemination and sharing of information and expertise in educational, scientific and cultural fields.

Urban grain

The pattern of the arrangement and size of the buildings on their lots and the subdivision pattern. This pattern or arrangement contributes to the texture of an area. Fine grain is the quality or fine texture resulting from small and frequent subdivisions.

Urban historic character

a) The combination of particular characteristics or special qualities of a place related to its period or style of construction.

b) historic character of the town or urban area and all those material and spiritual elements that express this character, especially urban patterns as defined by lots and streets; relationships between buildings and green and open spaces; the formal appearance, interior and exterior, of buildings as defined by scale, size, style, construction materials, colour and decoration; the relationship between the town or urban area and its surrounding setting, both natural and man-made; the various functions that the town or urban area has acquired over time.

Any threat to these qualities would compromise the authenticity of the historic town or urban area.

Value

Value is the value people give, either individually or collectively, and at local, national or international level, to cultural qualities in an artefact like an urbanscape, ensemble of buildings, cultural landscape or a movable artefact.

Viewscape

Means section of a landscape that may be discerned from a specific vantage point or location, and which viewscape has a definable quality and character – viewsapes may be legally protected in order to conserve them, and guidelines drawn up to ensure minimal impact on that quality and character.

Visual impact assessment

A process of determining the value of the visual resource by assessing the visual quality of a cultural or natural resource like e.g. an existing building, structure and/or site, the landscape character, landscape quality, visual quality, relation to topography, sense of place and aesthetic value of the cultural landscape as a whole and in particular (i.e. the setting of the proposed site) - this assessment must make reference to the cultural significance, authenticity and integrity of the building, structure or landscape, its immediate setting and the wider heritage area – followed by an identification, prediction and assessment of the scale, nature and duration of potential positive and negative impact of a proposed intervention on this resource and the identification of mitigation or avoidance of the impact.

World Heritage

“What makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application. World Heritage Properties belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located. How can a World Heritage Property in Egypt ‘belong’ equally to Egyptians and to the peoples of Indonesia or Argentina?

The answer is to be found in the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, by which countries recognize that the sites located on their national territory, and which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, without prejudice to national sovereignty or ownership, constitute a world heritage ‘for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate’.

Without the support of other countries, some of the world’s outstanding cultural and natural sites would deteriorate or, worse, disappear, often through lack of funding to preserve them. The Convention is thus an agreement, ratified almost universally, that aims to secure the necessary financial and intellectual resources to protect World Heritage Properties.

How does a World Heritage Property differ from a national heritage site?

The key lies in the words ‘outstanding universal value’.

All countries have sites of local or national interest, which are quite justifiably a source of national pride, and the Convention encourages them to identify and protect their heritage whether or not it is placed on the World Heritage List.

Sites selected for World Heritage listing are inscribed on the basis of their merits as the best possible examples of the cultural and natural heritage. The World Heritage List reflects the wealth and diversity of the Earth’s cultural and natural heritage.” (Source: UNESCO)

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