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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Session

Durban, South Africa

10-17 July 2005

Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda: International Assistance

14A. Examination of International Assistance requests

SUMMARY

Background: The World Heritage Centre received **one** request for International Assistance as of 15 March 2005 for decision by the Committee.

Action by the Committee: The Committee is requested to take decision concerning the approval of the request presented in this document.

Draft Decision : 29 COM 14A, see point II

I. International Assistance requests

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

-

Cultural Properties

N°	Region	State Party - Name of activity	Amount requested (US\$)	Amount recommended for approval (US\$)
1	Asia	Bangladesh – Study of the drainage problems and monitoring of the internal moisture conditions of the monuments of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur	45,000	45,000

Funds available as at 23 May 2005 for approval: US\$ 0

Total amount of requests submitted for approval by the Committee: US\$ 45,000

Comments of the Secretariat: Insufficient funds. But given the current situation of the Fund, the Centre advises against using the 2006 Budget to approve this request.
Details of individual request attached.

REQUEST N° 1
Technical Co-operation
Cultural Heritage
Asia

A. Description

State Party: BANGLADESH

Status of dues to the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2004: US\$ 85 to be paid for 2004 as of 23 May 2005

Name of Activity: Study of the drainage problems and monitoring of the internal moisture conditions of the monument of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur

Amount requested: US\$ 45,000

Previous contributions from the World Heritage Fund for this property/activity:

- Technical Co-operation (1986), US\$20,000
- Training Assistance (2003), US\$35,000

B. Background:

1. In accordance with the decisions of the 26th and 27th sessions of the World Heritage Committee, two UNESCO missions visited the Vihara at Paharpur in October 2002 and 2003 to determine whether or not this property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage In Danger. After careful examination of the property, the members of the mission suggested that the property was not in a situation that would have justified its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, the experts recommended that certain measures be urgently taken to address the very serious environmental factors affecting the property, and notably the problem of the ground water. A comprehensive study on the drainage of the site was identified as a priority by the mission. The Department of Archaeology had accordingly submitted a request of International Assistance early in 2004. This was included in the document for International Assistance at the 28th session of the Committee. The relative Committee Decision (**28 COM 10A.1**) is as follows:

“ 28 COM 10A.1 The World Heritage Committee,

1. Noting that no funds are available in 2004 for consideration of technical co-operation requests for cultural properties,
2. Also noting that the Bureau did not approve technical co-operation requests in advance on the 2005 budget (Decision **28 BUR 8.3**),

3. Agreeing with the Bureau's recommendation not to approve requests in advance on the 2005 budget as it did at its last session in 2003 with regard to the use of the 2004 budget,

4. Decides that the following request:

- Bangladesh: Study of the problems and monitoring of the internal moisture conditions of the monuments of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur,

be submitted again in 2005 for decision by the Committee, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines in force at that time, provided that the State Party concerned has paid its contributions to the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2004.”

2. In this context, and following some additions in response to last year comments from the Advisory Bodies, the request has been redrafted and submitted again in 2005 for US\$ 45,000 instead of US\$ 40,000.

C. Objective

3. The objective of the request is to provide clear guidance to the Bangladesh authorities on how to reduce the impact of ground water on the ancient structures of Paharpur. This would be achieved thanks to a comprehensive study on the existing drainage system and hydrogeology of the site.

D. Project plan

4. This activity is expected to last one year. This duration is necessary to observe the particular situations at the site throughout the various climatic conditions over the different seasons.

E. Expected outcomes

5. The proposed study of drainage system will enable the State Party to determine future action for the establishment of an effective drainage system and the mitigation of the impact of ground water on the monument.

Total activity budget (in US\$):	45,000
National or other contributions (in US\$):	in kind
Amount requested from the World Heritage Fund (in US\$):	45,000
1. Two International / Regional Consultants Level P-IV (3 visits, duration of each visit: 2 weeks) International travel + DSA + honorarium + report writing + sundry + terminal expenses, etc.	16,000
2. Two local experts (each local expert will work 6 months under the guidance of foreign experts) Local travel + DSA + honorarium + report writing + sundry, etc.	12,000

3. Two local experts as assistants Local travel + DSA + honorarium + report writing + sundry, etc.	2,000
4. Programme support cost Monitoring, evaluation, backstopping and field visits, etc.	3,000
5. Two one-day Seminars	4,000
6. Publication of the study report Editing, page layout, printing, etc.	3,000
7. Transport	1,000
8. Equipment Computer, laptop, moisture measuring instrument, hydrological instrument, etc.	4,000

F. Comments of the Advisory Bodies

ICOMOS

6. ICOMOS commented on this International Assistance request when it was last submitted in 2004. The details seem to be the same as before. The State Party has not added further details to answer ICOMOS' and ICCROM's request to see this project in its wider context and provide further information as to how the results of the study will be taken forward beyond the national seminar.
7. The request mentions that a strategy for archaeological research and conservation of the site was defined at a workshop that took place in March 2004 and that a long term strategy was also 'proposed' at this workshop. No details are given of either of these or the resources or expertise needed to take them forward and whether these are achievable. A workshop that was supported in 2003 was to define a management plan - but again no details are given of what was achieved.
8. It is clearly highly desirable to carry out a project to consider problems with drainage and recommend remedial action. But this mission needs to be guided by an overall plan and the likely resources available both for remedial action and day-to-day maintenance and monitoring of the site. The mission also needs to be linked to training of staff on site in recording, maintenance, monitoring and preventative conservation and the development of support networks of experts. Any assessment of drainage problems should be linked to regular monitoring based on reliable data.
9. ICOMOS supports the thrust of this request but would like to see the research and analysis tied more firmly into an overall management and conservation strategy/plan for the site through integrating it into existing plans, where these are in place.
10. Where funds have been supplied for workshops to develop plans, it would be helpful if the outcomes could be referred to in subsequent requests for support.

ICCROM

11. ICCROM would note that this request is nearly identical to the one that was submitted last year and postponed. While ICCROM do realizes that some very minor adjustments have been made to the budget, ICCROM still feels that its overall comments hold (these comments are reproduced below). To summarize, ICCROM do feels that the work is very important, but that the budget needs to be re-examined and the national seminars clarified.
12. ‘ The technical assistance request addresses two technical priorities at the site, the drainage system of the monastery, and the monitoring of the overall moisture content of the monument. This request has been submitted by the State Party following encouragement given the State Party to do so by the World Heritage Committee, and a series of preliminary site needs assessments.
13. A budget for the proposed studies is provided. Additional information from the UNESCO office in Dhaka made available to ICCROM by the World Heritage Centre describes the professional make-up of the team, and indicates how the budget has been calculated. While the amount devoted to the various consultants is carefully calculated using standard DSA per diem and fee rates for UNESCO work, the overall amount devoted to consultants (in particular the outside consultants) is rather large in comparison to the amount devoted to a national seminar on the subject to accompany the work of the consultants (US\$ 1,500.) especially in relation to the benefits that may be obtained from the seminar. For work of this duration, it is not necessary to pay consultants at full daily rates throughout the length of their work. Economies can often be made for long stays on accommodation and food costs. Also, the site visit component of foreign experts work may be limited and much later work and report writing done at the consultant’s home base. Consultants are often happy to negotiate mission costs in such situations.
14. ICCROM believes that the proposed studies should be supported as urgent site priorities, subject to the State Party re-examining the budget as suggested above.
15. The State Party should be encouraged to consider whether the proposed national seminar can achieve its objectives within the budget proposed, and if necessary, strengthen this part of the proposal, perhaps at the expense of the funds allocated for international and regional consultants, if these can be reduced.
16. ICCROM believes that before finalising response to this request, the UNESCO Regional Adviser for culture in Asia should be consulted to ensure an up to date appraisal of on-site conditions. A workshop was held on site at the end of March this year, and at present the results of that workshop are not available to ICCROM. The UNESCO Regional Adviser for culture in Asia was present during the workshop and would be able to put the workshop conclusions in the long term context of site conservation.
17. ICCROM would be pleased to work with the State Party to review these points and any reconsideration that may result. ’

G. Comments of the Secretariat

18. The relevance and urgency of this activity was emphasized in the recommendations of the UNESCO Reactive Mission in 2002. The request has been further improved following the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies. The World Heritage Centre recommends the approval of the request for the amount of US\$ 45,000.

II. Draft Decision

Option A: if the dues for 2004 are fully paid at the time of examination of this request

Draft Decision: 29 COM 14A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/14A,*
2. *Noting that no funds are available in 2005 for consideration of technical co-operation requests for cultural properties,*
3. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 10A.1 paragraph 3, agreeing with the Bureau's recommendation not to approve requests in advance on the following year's budget,*
4. *Aware of the importance of the study to be undertaken for the conservation of the property,*
5. *Noting that US\$ 217,000 are still available under the emergency assistance reserve six months before the end of the biennium,*
6. *Decides to approve the following request:*
 - *Bangladesh: Study of the drainage problems and monitoring of the internal moisture conditions of the monument of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur, for an amount of US\$ 45,000*
7. *Requests the Secretariat to transfer US\$ 45,000 from the emergency assistance reserve to the technical cooperation assistance budget in order to finance the above mentioned international assistance request,*
8. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre to ensure that in implementing this activity, adequate attention be paid to integrate the conclusions of the study into an overall management and conservation strategy, including provisions for day-to-day maintenance and training of relevant staff.*

Option B: if the dues for 2004 are not fully paid at the time of examination of this request

Draft Decision: 29 COM 14A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/14A**,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **28 COM 10A.1** to submit again the request for the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur in 2005 for decision by the Committee, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines in force, provided that the State Party concerned has paid its contributions to the World Heritage Fund as at 31 December 2004,*
3. *Also recalling that under the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 237), the payment of dues is mandatory for all international assistance requests (except emergency assistance),*
4. *Noting that the 2004 dues are not fully paid at the time of the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee,*
5. *Decides not to approve the following request:*
 - *Bangladesh: Study of the problems and monitoring of the internal moisture conditions of the monuments of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur.*