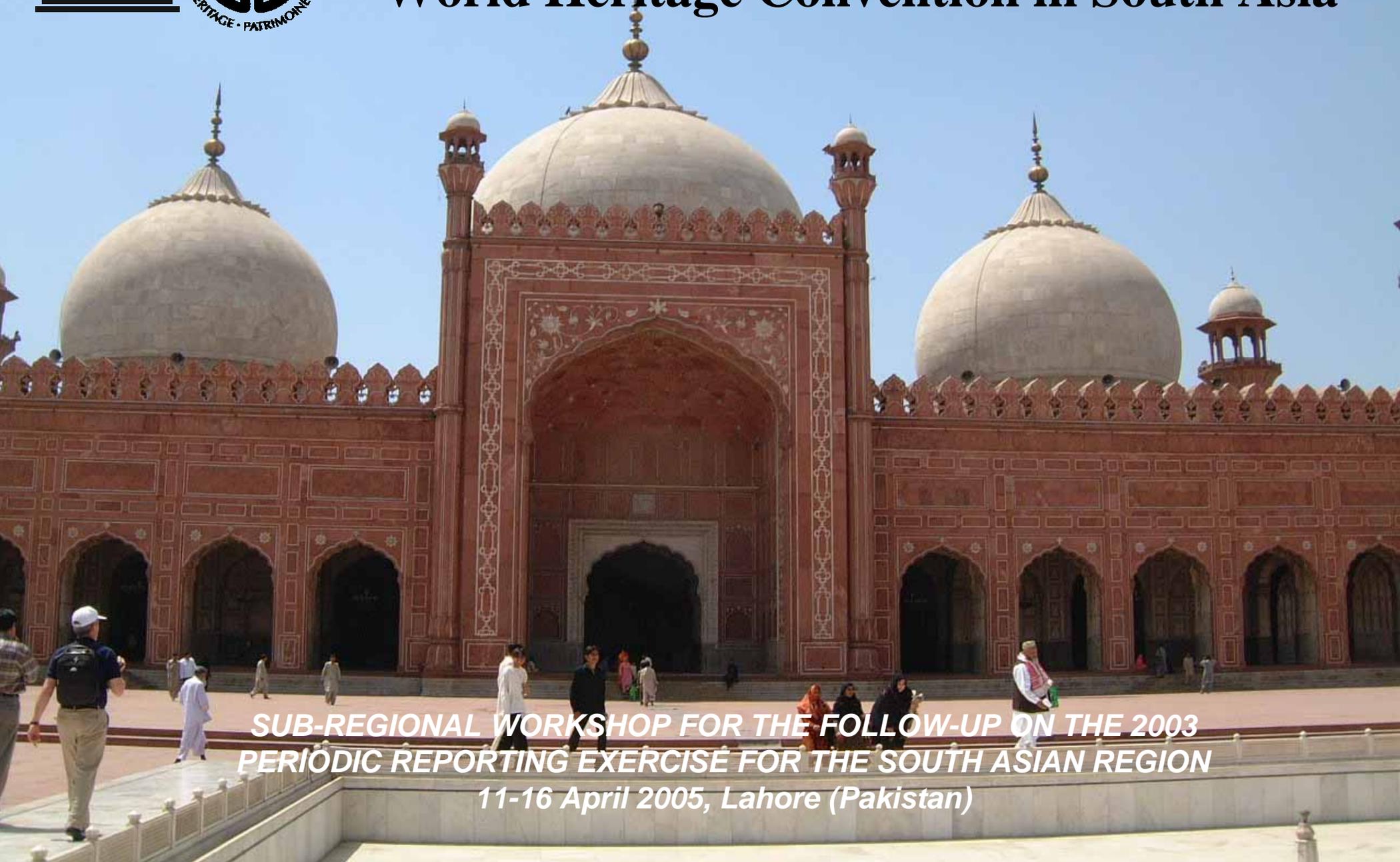




Action Plan for Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in South Asia



***SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE FOLLOW-UP ON THE 2003
PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION
11-16 April 2005, Lahore (Pakistan)***

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Action Plan for Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in South Asia

Introduction

This Action Plan is the result of the Sub-regional Workshop for the Follow-up on the 2003 Periodic Reporting Exercise for the South Asian region, Lahore (Pakistan), which took place from 11 to 16 April 2005. Participants included representatives at the highest level from the Governmental Agencies responsible for the protection of the heritage from all the South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Owing to budgetary and organizational constraints, the scope of this Action Plan concerns exclusively the cultural heritage. A list of all the persons who attended the Workshop is enclosed in Annex 1.

The Action Plan defines concrete actions that could be implemented by the countries concerned, either individually or collectively, in order to address the needs identified by the Periodic Report. These actions are in line with the four strategic objectives set by the World Heritage Committee in 2002 (the four “C’s”: Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-Building and Communication) and consistent with the main recommendations adopted by the Committee at the time of its consideration of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Asia and the Pacific in 2003. It is expected that each State Party of South Asia would identify, within this Action Plan, its own priorities for implementation over the next years, and thus determine a “National” Action Plan as a basis for cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

This Action Plan should be implemented, to the extent possible, over the next five years, with resources from the States Parties’ own budgets, World heritage Fund and other possible external sources. A key indicator to assess implementation and facilitate the achievement of the stated objectives will be the establishment, within each of the South Asian State Party, of a national World Heritage coordinating mechanism, involving all concerned institutions, NGO and the academic sector (See Action Plan, under

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“Credibility”). The setting up of these focal points for WH activities within each country will greatly enhance their capacity to implement the Convention.

Among the most interesting results of this consultation were the proposal to organize a Regional Seminar on Authenticity in the South Asian Context, with specific reference to living cultural heritage sites; the identification of a number of potential themes for serial and trans-boundary nominations in the region; and a focus on site management and the need to strengthen capacity of States Parties in this area.

The Action Plan will be presented to the Committee at its 30th session in July 2006, together with two similar Action Plans, which will be prepared on the occasion of Workshops on the Follow-up to the Periodic Reporting, which are planned to take place in Central Asia (October 2005) and North and East Asia (November 2005).

Acknowledgments

The World Heritage Centre would like to express its gratitude to the authorities of Pakistan, and notably its National Commission for UNESCO, for hosting the Workshop and contributing to ensure its success. Special thanks should also go to all the participants from the States Parties, who devoted so much of their time into the elaboration of this Action Plan, and to ICCROM for its precious support and technical advice during the Workshop.

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Objective: Credibility

Priority	Action	Expected results	Participants	Resources	Action by	Timeframe
	Planning workshop for the development of a protocol for national WH coordinating mechanisms, involving all concerned institutions, NGO and academic sector	National WH coordinating mechanism created in each country of South Asia, which facilitate a participatory approach in the identification and protection of sites of potential OUV.	All, separately	WH Fund or state budget Bangladesh		2005
	Review/revision of Tentative Lists at national level	New Tentative Lists developed at national level, integrating new orientations and concepts as well as a strengthen relation between cultural and natural heritage.	All	WH Fund or State budget		2005- 2009
	Sub-regional experts' workshop to harmonize Tentative Lists	Tentative Lists of South Asia fully represent the diversity of the cultural heritage in the region, including through serial and trans-boundary sites, and avoid duplications.	All	WH Fund		2007

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	Thematic Studies on certain categories of heritage (e.g. historic railways; Small islands' cultural landscapes; Irrigation structures; Sacred sites, routes and mountains; Temples (Buddhist, Hindu, mosques); Industrial heritage; Colonial cities/monuments; Prehistoric and proto-historic sites; Tea plantations; Himalayan cultural landscapes; pilgrimage routes; trade routes)	A better understanding of the cultural phenomena which have produced certain categories of sites as well as comparative knowledge on the specific features and state of conservation of a number of those sites, which would allow the identification of a select number with possible Outstanding Universal Value to be nominated for inscription on the WH List.	All countries depending on the theme	States Parties		2005-2009
	Development of Trans-boundary nominations (e.g. India and Pakistan on Indus Civilization; India, Nepal on the Life of the Buddha Circuit; Citadels of East India and Bangladesh; etc.)	Protection of WH properties and strengthened regional dialogue and cooperation	Concerned States Parties	WH Fund		
	Re-nomination of World Heritage Properties to include larger areas and/or additional values (e.g. Anuradhapura and Galle, in Sri Lanka).	Protection of WH values which had not been previously recognised	Sri Lanka, countries interested	WH Fund and/or extra budgetary funds		
	Establishment of a regional mechanism to coordinate World Heritage within South Asia. (e.g. SPAFA model)	A forum for the review of issues of common concern related to WH in South Asia will be available for all involved persons to share views and information.				

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	Regular meetings of WH site management authorities, through the sub-regional coordinating mechanism (annually, biannually)	Global review of general WH issues and progress of WH Regional programme			States Parties	
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Objective: Conservation

Priority	Action	Expected results	Participants	Resources	Action by	Timeframe
	Regional Seminar on Authenticity in the South Asian Context and its impact on Conservation. This should take place at a WH site with authenticity issues and involve reps of concerned group such as religious authorities and tour operators. (living heritage sites) accessibility, alterations and addition, official history/nationalism, traditions, intangibles	Guidelines for the conservation of WH “living” properties developed taking into account the views and perspectives of all concerned actors	All	WH Fund, All countries	One country to take the initiative to host the Seminar	
	Development of documentation and monitoring strategies for sites included in the Tentative List or in the WH List.	Improved management and conservation at the site based on established documentation and monitoring procedures	Maldives, Bhutan,			
	Exchange programme for Heritage professionals/ management authorities among World Heritage Sites	Improved conservation of WH properties in the region through shared useful knowledge and strengthened regional cooperation.	All	Self, All countries		

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	Disseminate “Best-Practice” examples on conservation of World Heritage (including successful nomination files) through the web-site of the World Heritage Centre	Improved conservation of WH properties in the region through shared useful knowledge				
	Development of a data-base of regional experts that could be consulted for peer reviewing.	Improved accessibility to expertise for site managers, validation of practices and strengthened regional cooperation	States Parties of the South Asia region to provide names to WHC			
	Collection and dissemination of “best-practices” in Management of World Heritage properties in the South Asian region, including on innovative legal and institutional frameworks, visitor management plans, and documentation systems.	Improved conservation of WH properties in the region through shared useful knowledge	Private Consultant or University	Countries/ extra budgetary		
	Revise existing management and/or master plans for World Heritage sites, where appropriate.	Improved management system at World Heritage properties in the region	All	Assistance might be available by WH Fund and/or Extra-budgetary Funds		2008

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	Develop management plans for World Heritage sites where they did not exist.	Improved management system at World Heritage properties in the region	All	Assistance might be available by WH Fund and/or Extra-budgetary Funds		2008
	Technical study on water and drainage issues affecting a World Heritage Site.	Clear recommendations for the implementation of realistic and feasible remedial measures for the mitigation of the impact of ground water on the values of World Heritage properties	Bangladesh Lumbini	WH Fund		
	Assessment of risks threatening the state of conservation of a World Heritage property, including from environmental factors, and development of appropriate risk management strategies.	Improved conservation and management of World Heritage properties through the reduction of risks affecting its OUV as well as persons and infrastructure contained therein.	All			

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Objective: Capacity-Building

Priority	Action	Expected results	Participants	Resources	Action by	Timeframe
	Training workshop on the development of Statements of Significance, authenticity and integrity.	Improved understanding and strengthened capacity of concerned persons within the State Party in the elaboration of Tentative Lists and Nomination Files				
	Training workshop on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention	Concerned persons acquire a general understanding of the main objectives, concepts and procedures for the implementation of the WH Convention				
	Training workshop on the application of a methodology for understanding World Heritage properties in their broad ecological, historical and cultural context.	Heritage professionals develop an approach to place their site in a broader environmental, historical and cultural context, leading to an improved definition of their values and related conservation policies				
	Training Workshop on principles of conservation and management of World Cultural Heritage	Concerned persons acquire a general understanding of the main principles and methods for the conservation and management of World Cultural Heritage	Maldives; Bhutan, Nepal			

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	National/Regional Training Workshop(s) on development of Management Plans for World Heritage properties	Staff responsible for the conservation of WH sites become capable of applying a sound methodology for the development of a Management Plan.	All	Assistance might be available by WH Fund and/or Extra-budgetary Funds		
	National Training Workshop on Risk Management involving all concerned institutions and practical exercises on a selected case study	Heritage officials and staff from other concerned institutions (e.g. Civil Defence) trained in the methodology for the development of risk management plans for WH sites and sensitised on the need for integrated mechanisms and coordination to mitigate risks at WH sites				
	Regional Workshop on Risk Management for heritage experts	Improved management of WH properties in the region through sharing of experiences among professionals on risk management approaches				
	National/Regional Training Workshop(s) on Public Use Plans at World Heritage sites including practical exercise at site level.	Staff responsible for the interpretation of WH sites become capable of applying a sound methodology for the development of a Public Use Plan.	All	Assistance might be available by WH Fund and/or Extra-budgetary Funds		

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	Young professionals from heritage organizations trained on-the-job during short term collaboration with conservation projects in other countries of the region.	Increased capacity of young professionals involved in the conservation of WH cultural properties.	Maldives; Sri Lanka, Lumbini	Inviting host country	Bi-lateral arrangement	
	Training workshop on specific conservation techniques relevant to the South Asian context (i.e. brick masonry; mural painting; gypsum stuccoes; etc.)	Staff responsible for the conservation of WH sites become capable of applying sound conservation techniques, leading to improved conservation at the site.				
	Training Workshop on basic techniques for the documentation of cultural heritage properties and the establishment of monitoring systems	Staff responsible for the conservation of WH sites become capable of applying sound documentation techniques and an appropriate monitoring mechanism, leading to improved conservation at the site.				
	All proceedings and materials developed through the implementation of the Action Plan published and disseminated to all WH site management authorities of the region.	Strengthened capacity of heritage professionals in the region through shared useful knowledge, leading to improved conservation of WH cultural properties.				

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Objective: Communication

Priority	Action	Expected results	Participants	Resources	Action by	Time-frame
	2-3 day Workshop for decision makers and other concerned partners to raise awareness on World Heritage	Strengthened political and institutional support for the implementation of the WH Convention	All			
	One-week Training Workshop for school teachers and education policy makers to introduce the “ <i>World Heritage in Young Hands</i> ” Kit into school curricula	Education policy makers sensitised on the opportunity to include WH into school curricula and a group of teachers trained in the use of the Kit in class and field activities	All			
	Development of a short World Heritage handbook	Strengthen support for the objectives of the WH Convention through sensitising concerned institutions and the public at large on the need for safeguarding World Heritage properties and the requirements for its conservation.	ICCROM with feedback from all	WH Fund		
	Development of TV Ads to promote conservation of World Heritage Sites	Strengthen support for the objectives of the WH Convention within the large public.				

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Annex 1

**List of Participants of the UNESCO Sub-Regional Workshop on the Follow up to the Asia Pacific Periodic Reporting for
World Heritage Cultural Properties in South Asia**

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