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# World Heritage Patrimoine mondial

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**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

**Huê Monument Complex (Vietnam) (C 678) / Ensemble des Monuments de Huê (Vietnam)  
(C 678)**

**15-22 October 2006 / 15-22 octobre 2006**

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:  
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**Reactive Monitoring Mission to the World Heritage Property of  
Hué Monument Complex (12-22 October 2006)**

**MISSION REPORT**



**Giovanni Boccardi – UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
William Logan – ICOMOS**

**November 2006**

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## 1. Background to the Mission

The WH property of Hue, inscribed on the List in 1993, has been the subject of particular attention by UNESCO and the international community. Already in 1981, the then D-G of UNESCO, Mr. Matar M'Bow, launched an International Safeguarding Campaign for the site. Numerous of its buildings were since restored with contributions from several countries and foreign institutions. An International Advisory Group, set up to review the progress and orient the strategy of the Campaign, has met several times throughout its implementation until 1998, each time issuing comprehensive recommendations. After 1998, some further monitoring and advisory missions were conducted to the property, including as recently as in February 2006.

The joint WHC-ICOMOS Mission was carried out at the request of the World Heritage Committee (Decision 30 COM 7B.XX - see annex 1). Four issues had been identified by the World Heritage Committee and needed to be looked at. These were:

- 1) The removal of illegal buildings from the core WH area;
- 2) An inventory of traditional buildings;
- 3) The progress made in the preparation of a comprehensive Management Plan;
- 4) The Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Vong Canh Hill Tourist Resort.

The Mission team, composed of Giovanni Boccardi (World Heritage Centre) and William Logan (ICOMOS), benefited of the full assistance of the staff of the Hue Monuments Conservation Centre (HMCC), as well as from the continuous support of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi. The members of the Mission wish to express their gratitude to both for the extraordinary cooperation.

## 2. Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The World Heritage property of the “Complex of Hue Monuments” was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993 under criteria (iii) and (iv), with the following justification:

Criterion (iii): Hue represents an outstanding demonstration of the power of the vanished Vietnamese feudal empire at its apogee in the early 19th century.

Criterion (iv): The complex of Hue monuments is an outstanding example of an eastern feudal capital.

The brief description of the property, as agreed by the World Heritage Committee, reads as follows:

*Established as the capital of unified Viet Nam in 1802, Hué was not only the political but also the cultural and religious centre under the Nguyen dynasty until 1945. The Perfume River winds its way through the Capital City, the Imperial City, the Forbidden Purple City and the Inner City, giving this unique feudal capital a setting of great natural beauty.*

This serial property is composed of 16 separate elements, including large sections of the Citadel. Although originally inscribed as a group of monuments, these built elements are bound together by the geomantic philosophy that guided their design and execution and by the imperial rituals up and down the river that linked the living citadel and associated temples along the banks with the tombs of the deceased emperors upstream. Because of this, the property would qualify as a cultural landscape of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (designed) and 3<sup>rd</sup> category (associative), according to definitions provided in Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

The State Party, ICOMOS and UNESCO recognized from the outset that the cultural landscape is part of the significance of the WH site. According to the ICOMOS Evaluation (October 1993), the justification of the State Party for the inscription was that ‘The Hue complex represents unique architectural, sculptural, and aesthetic achievements and highly creative labour by the Vietnamese people over a long period of time, particularly in monumental arts, town planning and **landscape design**’ [our emphasis].

The special significance of the landscape lies in the use of geomantic principles in determining the site and design of the monuments. In particular, sites were chosen where a combination of natural features – hills representing a protective screen in front of the monument, a blue dragon to the left and a white tiger to the right – would shield the main entrance and prevent the entry of malevolent spirits. A winding river flowing in front of or around the site added to its propitious location.

### **3. State of conservation**

#### **General considerations**

The boundaries of the Hue World Heritage property, as originally submitted, do not reflect the significance of the property as a cultural landscape since they only include the built structures and their immediate setting, not including the essential natural components of the geomantic landscape. The buffer zones existing around each monument were not defined in the official documents submitted by the State Party at the time of inscription but are designated as Zone II within the existing legal framework (whereas the World Heritage-inscribed core areas are designated as Zone I). The buffer zones appear, however, to be too small to ensure the protection of the heritage sites from unwanted developments.

In the case of the citadel, these problems are well understood by the Hue Monuments Conservation Centre (HMCC, i.e. the Agency responsible for the management of the WH site) and other authorities and seem to be under control. It would nevertheless be appropriate in management terms to regard all the non-inscribed sections of the citadel as the buffer zone. It is in regard to the other World Heritage-inscribed areas that problems are becoming acute and the OUV of the inscribed property has been seriously undermined. Indeed, the property would be a candidate for World Heritage in Danger listing if the State Party is not able to strengthen protection measures. Such strengthened protection to support the property’s OUV can only be achieved by an urgent extension of the boundaries of the inscribed sites and their buffer zone and the establishment of appropriate regulations and guidelines within these extended areas.

It is clear that the property’s statement of OUV, as well as its boundaries and buffer zone, need to be revised to reflect the broader definition of the property as a cultural landscape and provide a stronger level of protection. Such a recommendation was expressed at various times by the World Heritage Committee in recent years, notably by its Decisions 28 COM 15B.61; 29 COM 7B.58; and 30 COM 7B.71.

With respect to the four issues raised by the WH Committee in its Decision 30 COM 7B.71, the Mission observed the following:

#### *3.1 Illegal buildings*

The removal proceeds in phases, with the support of the Provincial authorities. Although the Committee expressed concern about the structures built following the 1999 flood along the ramparts

of the Citadel, it appears that the process involves a much larger number of houses and residents, including some which existed since 1945, as well as the so-called boat-people.

In fact the Mission was informed that the post-1999 flood structures have already been removed and the focus is now on those of longer standing. This is more difficult given that some households have been here since the 1940s and have firmly established social and economic links to the citadel area. In this respect, the sensitive efforts made by the authorities to improve the appearance of the WH site and the living conditions of some of its inhabitants are commendable.

### *3.2 Inventory*

The World Heritage Committee had requested a complete survey of all traditional structures in Hue so as to inform the desired redefinition of the significance and extent of the WH property in view of a possible re-nomination. Currently, three different inventories for Hue appear to exist.

The first, including 690 traditional houses from the Hue province, was compiled in cooperation with the Showa University. Out of these 690, forty houses were surveyed in greater detail.

The second inventory, prepared by the Bureau of Culture and Information of the Provincial People's Committee, includes temples, garden houses and French colonial houses.

The third inventory comprises a number of important buildings included in the World Heritage property.

HMCC will work to integrate these inventories, in cooperation with the Waseda University. This will require another survey to capture GPS points. The intention is to develop a GIS database, integrated within the GIS that the Provincial authorities are developing. This will be used not only to improve planning and coordination among various authorities, but also as a tool for promoting cultural tourism. A very interesting application is indeed being developed by the Hue Provincial People's Committee to provide tourists with portable devices that would tell them where they are during their exploration of Hue, and enable them to retrieve information on all major monuments and sites (see web at: [www.huecit.com.vn](http://www.huecit.com.vn) ).

A request of assistance has been made (only verbally at this stage) to UNESCO to help in developing such a GIS for the heritage sites of Hue. One issue that would need to be looked at is the current limitation to buildings, considering that the elements of the cultural landscape as re-defined above (see point 2) would include also natural features such as rivers, lakes, mountains etc.

### *3.3 Management Plan*

The Decision 30 COM 7.B 71 by the Committee requested a draft of the 'Management Plan' by the end of 2006. According to a letter from President of Thua Thien Provincial (dated 15 March 2006), the HMCC indicated its intention to meet this request, upon instruction by the responsible Vietnamese authorities. During the Mission, however, it became apparent that for 'management plan' the HMCC referred mainly to the redefinition of zone boundaries and adjustment to regulations covering land-use and building activities within and around the boundaries of the World Heritage properties. The State Party had also confirmed that the elaboration of this 'management plan' will be carried out in consultation with the World Heritage Centre. The draft document, however, was not presented to the Mission. The Mission was informed that the draft (for the revised zoning) is well advanced but will need now to be revised in response to the Mission's recommendations.

A second workshop was to have been conducted by the State Party in cooperation with Waseda University in the third quarter of 2006. The workshop was to follow up the first workshop in

August 2005 which produced a series of guiding principles for the establishment of the management plan for the World Heritage property and to review and integrate comments into the final draft. This workshop was not held.

As indicated above, urgent attention needs to be paid to improving the management of the World Heritage property and buffer zones given the increasingly rapid changes that are impacting negatively on the integrity of the World Heritage property. In general, a piece-meal approach seems to prevail in the heritage areas in the south-western periphery of Hue City, including along the river (road enlargements, tourist resorts, golf course, bypass, quarry, schools etc).

Part of the problem appears to be the large number of authorities involved and the complex arrangements for coordination between them, as well as the priority that seems to be given to road infrastructure and new building construction at the expense of the overall heritage values of this part of the city.

Among the specific problems observed by the Mission were the loss of integrity caused to the site of Khai Dinh by the recently executed bypass road and Tuan Bridge. The adverse impact to the site consists in physical damage to one of the geomantic element of the complex (dragon hill) by road cutting, noise and air pollution. A similar if less serious issue was observed at the Minh Mang Tomb, where the continuous noise of heavy trucks driving along the nearby road detracts significantly from the previously serene atmosphere of the site. Other intrusions along the river that have seriously affected the integrity of the cultural landscape include two sets of power-lines, some 15,000 people living near by-pass bridge (Tuan); a couple of tourist resorts; a cement factory; a new People's Committee's building and a school built on river banks; the extension of cemetery since 2003; stone, sand and gravel quarrying etc<sup>1</sup>.

As for the two monuments of Tu Duc and Dong Khanh, these are in turn affected by some building encroachment and threatened by the proposal to build a tourist resort at Vong Canh hill (see more on this below). Suburban sprawl in general, encouraged by the new road infrastructure which has been realized, is generally affecting various other monuments part of the World Heritage property.

### *Citadel*

With respect to the Citadel, the area inscribed includes only the remaining royal buildings, ramparts, canals, with a very limited buffer zone conceived as a stripe of land following the contour of the core area. This does not seem to be particularly problematic and height controls are in place (11 m) while illegal dwellings are being removed (eg. around Tinh Tam Lake). Nevertheless, there are some buildings erected in the early 1990s that exceed the height limits, and a stronger control over the non-listed sections of the Citadel would be important. It was suggested, therefore, that the remaining sections of the citadel and adjacent areas outside the walls and moat be re-designated as Zone II in the current legislation (i.e. buffer zone for the World Heritage site). It appears, on the other hand, that this is already the intention of the HMCC.

It should be stressed that this does not require all residents and buildings within the new buffer zone to be removed, except in locations where vistas are affected in ways that undermine the integrity of the World Heritage property. It is important that any such re-locations seek to minimize the negative impacts on households, taking into account their needs in terms of access to work places and schools for the children.

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<sup>1</sup> For a comprehensive description of all these issues, please refer to the Report of the Mission carried out by Rampon and Guédant, between 18 February and 3 March 2006. This report is available at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and at the UNESCO Hanoi Offices.

### *South-west*

#### Zone I or Core Areas:

In order to avoid repetition of the kinds of problems described above that undermine the heritage values of the World Heritage property (see point 2 above), the existing boundaries of the inscribed places in the south-western zone need to be expanded to take in the geomantic design elements and protect the vistas in all directions from the monuments. These expanded areas, which would be designated Zone I under Vietnamese legislation, should be re-inscribed by submission to the World Heritage Committee as a matter of highest priority.

In addition, it has been found that the **Perfume** River has high cultural landscape significance that should be added to the World Heritage property in the foreseen re-inscription submission. The river has geomantic significance within Hue as a whole and was clearly the most significant cultural route linking the citadel and the temples and tombs upstream.

This is recognized in the State Party's initial 1992 World Heritage submission, which refers to the river as being the 'major line' in the general planning of the Hue imperial complex (p. 4). Further, the World Heritage Nomination Documentation file (File Name 678.pdf) stresses the importance of the river in its Brief Description of the site: *'Established as the capital of unified Vietnam in 1802, Hué was not only the political but also the cultural and religious centre under the Nguyen Dynasty until 1945. The Perfumed River winds its way through the Capital City, the Imperial City, the Forbidden Purple City and Inner City, adding natural beauty to this unique feudal capital'*.

Both banks of the river are involved, given the location of temples, traditional houses and other heritage features and the need to maintain the integrity of views along and across the river. This will require the continued cooperation of the districts on both sides with the Hue City, which, it was indicated, may become the responsible authority for some part of the south-west in the next few years. The Huong River Management Board will also have a significant coordinating role to play.

Again, it is stressed that only where vistas are affected in ways that undermine the integrity of the World Heritage property should some relocation of residents and re-arrangement of buildings be contemplated. Such re-locations will seek to minimize the negative social and economic impacts on households. In many cases tree-planting may successfully screen unsympathetic visual intrusions.

The HMCC should proceed with urgency, therefore, to complete the redefinition of Zone I or 'core area' boundaries, in consultation with other authorities, and to develop management plans for each inscribed area. These plans would become sub-plans in the overall Conservation Management Plan for the World Heritage property.

#### Zone II or Buffer Zone:

The Provincial People's Committee and Department of National Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Information have directed HMCC to undertake protection zoning for the World Heritage property and to establish regulations relating to land use and construction within the existing buffer areas (Zone II). This work was to have been completed by June 2006 but is continuing. The summary zoning content and drawings promised in the progress report made to the World Heritage Centre in March 2006, pursuant to Decision 30 COM 7B.58, were not forwarded to the Centre, nor presented to the Mission.



The Mission is of the view that the remaining south-western area provides a setting for the inscribed Zone I sites and also requires the most careful management in order to maintain the area's ecological value (especially vegetation) and quiet rural atmosphere. It would be appropriate to re-designate all of this remaining area as Zone II under Vietnamese legislation.

This would not in fact be new, since the 1997-2010 Master Plan already defines the south-west as an ecological area. The re-designation would merely reiterate and reinforce that earlier decision by the Vietnamese government authorities and is in line with current national, provincial and local ambitions to develop Hue as a festival city with an emphasis on tourism based on cultural and natural heritage.

Appropriate regulations are required for this buffer zone. It is noted that the proposed extension of the 1997-2010 Master Plan to the year 2020 provides another opportunity to establish the firm statutory basis that successful conservation management in the south-west requires.

The Mission was informed that the extended Master Plan will be developed on the basis of concepts to be defined through an international competition. Because it is urgent, however, to halt the steady reduction in the integrity of the south-west that is now occurring, the re-designation of the areas as a Zone II buffer and imposition of controls should not wait for the finalization of the extended Master Plan.

As an interim measure until a full re-nomination of the site as a cultural landscape, an extension of the existing buffer zones should be undertaken to ensure that all the geomantic elements are protected. This would require the determination of sight lines from each of the inscribed monuments in order to define the areas to be covered by the new buffer zones and the regulations and guidelines under the management plan.

There should, however, be a temporary suspension of major infrastructural and building activities in the newly-defined buffer zone (Zone II) until the necessary regulatory framework is approved.

With both the re-nomination as a cultural landscape and the interim extension of the existing buffer zones, international assistance should be sought under the World Heritage Fund, particularly through the provision of training in the development of conservation management plans for the staff of the Hue Monuments Conservation centre and other relevant agencies.

Again, it should be repeated that re-designating the remaining parts of the south-west as a buffer zone or extending the existing buffer zone boundaries as an interim measure does not imply the end of development in this part of Hue's periphery. What is required is careful management to ensure that new constructions are consistent with the objective of providing a harmonious setting for the Zone I World Heritage-inscribed sites.

### *3.4 Vong Canh Hill*

The project to construct a five-storey hotel at Vong Canh Hill, the most prominent and beautiful hill along the Perfume River, has not yet started. It was discovered that four sites have been considered: (1) on the central slope of Vong Canh Hill; (2) on the summit of Vong Canh Hill; (3) on the slopes of Vong Canh Hill near the water pumping station; and (4) on the inland slope of Vong Canh Hill near the cemetery.

It appears that option (1) has been rejected on environmental grounds and option (4) is not acceptable to the developer because the site does not have river views. The mission was shown site

(2) by the Provincial Department of Construction. The Secretary of the Provincial Party indicated at the final meeting that in fact site (3) was currently favoured.

Option (2) would almost certainly impact on the appreciation of the geomantic landscape of the Tu Duc and Dong Khanh tombs (to the east) and the Hon Chen temple (to the west, across the river). All three of these monuments are clearly visible from this site. Moreover, the area has been a public park since the French period and is much appreciated by the local population for its stunning panorama over the river and the surrounding monuments. It would be preferable to leave it as a public area for the enjoyment of everyone.

The mission observed option (3) only from the river. A water pumping station from the colonial period is set back from the river edge in a depression in the hill. A second building of similar size and also incorporating some traditional architectural elements in its design site on the river edge close by. A five-storey hotel built in this depression or low on the hill slope would be preferable to option (2) which is atop the hill. A hotel here would nevertheless be a major visual intrusion on the river, even with tree screening, and would probably impact negatively on the Hon Chen temple on the opposite river bank. It is feared that the construction of a hotel and necessary access roads would inevitably lead to the development of an urban cluster here, as has occurred around the Tuan Bridge and bypass road near the Minh Mang tomb.

There clearly seems to be a need for a substantial revision of the plan, and ideally the transfer of the project to another location where the World Heritage values of Hue would not be adversely affected. This relates to the vision for the south-western area and is part of the overall planning issue discussed in 3.3 above.

In line with requests from the World Heritage Committee and the views of various consultants' reports to the World Heritage Centre, an Environmental Impact Assessment is apparently to be prepared soon and it was agreed that such an EIA would be submitted to UNESCO as soon as available. The mission explained the purpose of this EIA as far as the WH property is concerned, which is to ensure that any adverse impact to the heritage value of the site is avoided or significantly reduced.

However, if Vong Canh Hill and the river banks become part of one of the expanded core areas or a new core area in the World Heritage property, they would be covered by Zone I controls under Vietnamese legislation and an EIA may not be necessary. Should they not be brought within the core area (Zone I), the completion of the EIA will be of utmost importance and should be carried out and conveyed to UNESCO as soon as possible and certainly before construction of the hotel commences.

### *3.5 Other issues*

An additional issue observed by the Mission was the risk from floods which affects the World Heritage property and the broader question of water management within the historic area of Hue.

On 1 October 2006, just two weeks before the mission took place, a major flood hit the World Heritage property of Hue, reaching the level of +4,35 Mt. above the average height of the water in the river. The 1999 flood, probably the highest over the previous 100 years, reached the level of +5,9 Mts. Every time a major meteorological event strikes the City of Hue, the waters affect the Citadel and some of the other listed monuments, causing considerable damage to its structures. The 2006 storm and subsequent flood is believed to have caused around 2 Ml US\$ in damage.

To reduce the impact of these recurrent floods, three dams and associated reservoirs are being constructed upstream along the Perfume River. These dams are due to be completed by 2010 or 2011. It is estimated that when the dams are operational, the level of floods within the city of Hue will be reduced by around 1 m on average.

While significant, this reduction would not be sufficient to prevent the adverse effect of the worst flood events. The construction of an anti-salinity barrage at the mouth of the lagoon of Hue, moreover, may exacerbate the problem. The rapid urban development along the two banks of the River upstream to the Citadel, finally, might in the future bring additional constraints to the natural overflow of water, resulting in augmented water flows through the historic section of the City, also due to higher sedimentation within the river bed, with increased risks of floods.

The original historic water defensive and transportation network within and around the Citadel, today mostly non operational or strongly reduced in size and capacity (see photos in Annex 3), had in the past the additional function of water release, or 'expansion vase', in case of floods. By allowing extra water ingress during high tides, in fact, the canals and ponds reduced inundation within the Citadel.

The rehabilitation of this historic network, proposed by the Hue City People's Committee and supported by several of the provincial departments, would significantly contribute to reduce the vulnerability of the World Heritage property and its inhabitants with respect to the risk of floods. It would also improve the integrity of the historic features of the Citadel, thus significantly adding to its heritage value and attractiveness. Such project is currently being examined for possible funding by the central Government, and it seems that it might be submitted to the consideration of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for sponsorship.

The Mission noted the importance of this project and stressed the need to ensure that this be supported by a preliminary detailed study of the original location, functioning and architectural features of the historic water network, as well as of the associated traditional management practices. Considering the presence within the Citadel and in its surroundings of numerous traditional garden-houses, moreover, the Mission suggested that the above study integrate concern for traditional local knowledge on biological conservation and water management. This knowledge and the related practices, in fact, might prove still relevant and appropriate to optimize resources, maintain the character of the heritage areas and improve the overall sustainability of the system.

It also appeared that such project would have to be associated with the relocation programme concerning people living in illegal structures and boats along the water-ways of Hue, as well as with the up-grading of the waste-water infrastructure within the Citadel. Of particular importance, in the context of this initiative, will be a close coordination among various concerned institutions and the HMCC, so as to ensure that all infrastructure works are compatible with the need to preserve the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage property.

#### **4. Recommendations**

With respect to the four issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 30 COM 7B.71, the Mission made a number of recommendations, which were shared and discussed with the Vietnamese authorities during a general meeting organized by the Hue People's Committee during the last day of the Mission. The recommendations were the following:

##### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 The new heritage protection Law, which is currently under preparation, should include the notion of ‘cultural landscapes’, as defined by the World Heritage Convention, and concern for vernacular architecture;
- 4.1.2 The Thua Thien Hue Provincial People’s Committee should facilitate the actions referred to in the following recommendations through the coordination of all relevant government agencies and their cooperation with the Hue Monuments Conservation Centre.

## **4.2 Removal of illegal houses**

- 4.2.1 The programme for the removal of illegal structures and the relocation of the concerned persons to alternative suitable places, should continue according to the plan, in close consultation with the people being moved and with financial support from Central and Provincial Governments.
- 4.2.2 Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that the families living in these buildings are relocated in areas which are sufficiently close to their places of work and schools for the children, and are compatible with the preservation of the heritage values of the World Heritage property.

## **4.3 Compilation of an inventory of traditional buildings**

- 4.3.1 The Hue Monuments Conservation Centre should take into account the inventories carried out so far in the process for the redefinition of the boundaries of the World Heritage property (see below recommendations on Management Plan), so as to ensure that these include all the significant elements that characterize its heritage value. An updated and comprehensive inventory should also constitute an essential component of the future management plan for the World Heritage property.
- 4.3.2 Considering the special nature of the geomantic landscapes that characterize the World Heritage property of Hue, it is recommended that the scope of the inventory be enlarged so as to include all natural features and places that are associated to the built structures currently listed as World Heritage, such as hills, rocks, water features and islands.
- 4.3.3 The expanded inventory could be integrated within the GIS for the entire Province of Hue, currently being developed, so as to ensure that heritage features are appropriately taken into consideration within all planning processes. In this respect, it would be important to include in the scope of the enlarged inventory also buildings from the nineteenth century.

## **4.4 Management Plan**

- 4.4.1 Given that the World Heritage Committee recommended in its 30<sup>th</sup> Session that the management plan ‘*should involve all monuments and landscape areas considered as having significant heritage value associated with Hue and which are currently not included in the property of the World Heritage List, in view of a possible re-nomination of the property to include more of its cultural landscape*’, the management plan currently under development must both respond to the OUV identified at the time of inscription and anticipate in the near future a possible cultural landscape re-nomination by putting in place in the interim period

all necessary protection for the 'landscape areas' essential to the full articulation of this re-nomination.

- 4.4.2. The process of preparing a cultural landscape re-nomination is complex and demanding. This re-nomination will require redefining the core areas to be included within the nomination, the definition of appropriately protected buffer zones, a revised statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and modification to the management plan currently under preparation in order to specify general principles for the entire World Heritage property and sub-plans for each of the extended core areas (Zone I). This should be developed and submitted in a re-nomination document to UNESCO according to the provisions of paragraphs 165 and 166 of the Operational Guidelines (Request for Major Modification) by the end of 2009.
- 4.4.3 Until the State Party should develop a full re-nomination of the site as a cultural landscape, the State Party should extend the boundaries of the buffer zone (Zone II) to include all the territory that would be included in such a re-nomination and strengthen the protection of the territory so included to maintain it free from development that would negatively impact on the values recognized by inscription, and those linked to its future re-nomination as a cultural landscape.
- 4.4.4 In the interim until a full re-nomination of the site as a cultural landscape,, the boundaries of the existing buffer zones (Zone II) should be extended in order to protect all the geomantic elements of each of the inscribed monuments. This should be done according to the principles outlined above (see p. 9) and the new boundaries should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for comments by the end of 2007.
- 4.4.5 All efforts should be made to ensure changes contained within the re-nomination are given statutory basis in the new Master Plan for 2010-2020.
- 4.4.6 There should be a temporary suspension of major infrastructural and building activities in the newly-defined core and buffer zones (Zones I and II) until the necessary regulatory framework is approved.
- 4.4.7 Particular efforts should be made to reduce the negative impacts of the recently constructed infrastructure, including the visual intrusions and noise pollution associated with the by-pass road and Tuan Bridge, and to avoid the development of further urban sprawl around new roads and Tuan Bridge.
- 4.4.8 The main geomantic axis southwards from the citadel to the royal screen should be protected by establishing appropriate height control restrictions in the south bank area of the city.
- 4.4.9 The State Party should be encouraged to seek international assistance in preparation of the re-nomination. In this regard, the Hue Monuments Conservation Centre should make a request through the International Assistance Programme under the World Heritage Fund for a training workshop on the development of Conservation Management Plans for staff of the Centre and other agencies engaged in the above activities.

## **4.5 Vong Canh Hill**

4.5.1 An Environmental Impact Assessment, including consideration of cultural heritage aspects, of the proposed tourist resort project on the Vong Canh hill along the Huong River should be carried out as soon as possible and, in any case, before irreversible decisions are taken that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, and reported to the World Heritage Centre.

The Mission made the following further recommendations:

## **5. Other issues**

5.1 The traditional water network and drainage system within and around the Citadel of Hue should be restored, as a means to reduce the vulnerability of the World Heritage property and its inhabitants to the risk of flood, and to reconstitute the integrity of the historic network of ponds and canals. Such work should be associated with the improvement of the waste-water infrastructure within the historic areas of Hue and to the social housing programme concerning the occupants of illegal structures and boats along the canals, ramparts and ponds within the Citadel.

5.2 The rehabilitation of the water system of the Citadel of Hue should be preceded by a careful study of the location, functioning and architectural features of the original historic network as well as of the associated traditional management practices. Such study should also include concern for relevant traditional local knowledge concerning biological conservation and water management (e.g. within garden-houses), which could be used as appropriate to optimize resources and strengthen the sustainability of the system.

## **Annex 1. Decision 30 COM 7B.71 of the WH Committee**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM.7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7B.58, adopted at its 29<sup>th</sup> session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the significant efforts made by the State Party of Viet Nam towards the removal of illegal constructions that negatively impact on the value of the World Heritage property;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the positive steps undertaken by the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the Committee at its 29<sup>th</sup> session in 2005;*
5. *Notes however that the full implementation of those recommendations requires further substantial work, and requests the State Party to pursue its efforts by:*
  - a) *Continuing the implementation of the programme for the removal of the illegal constructions within the World Heritage property, in particular those built after the floods of 1999, and the resettlement of their occupants, within the established timeframe (ie. within 2010) in close consultation with all the concerned parties;*
  - b) *Establishing a complete inventory of all traditional buildings of Hué, possibly based upon a GIS system, that conforms to relevant international standards and which includes information on their character, significance and state of conservation, so as to inform appropriate policies for their safeguarding. This inventory should be completed by June 2007.*
  - c) *Developing a comprehensive management plan, to be operational by the end of 2008, based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and on the outcome of the above-mentioned survey, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. As previously recommended, this plan should involve all monuments and landscape areas considered as having significant heritage value associated with Hué and which are currently not included in the property on the World Heritage List, in view of a possible re-nomination of the property to include more of its cultural landscape. A first draft of the management plan, including its contents, should be prepared by the end of 2006.*
  - d) *Conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment, including consideration of cultural heritage aspects, of the proposed tourist resort project on the Vong Canh hill along the Huong River. This should be carried out as soon as possible and, in any case, before irreversible decisions are taken that may affect the value of the World Heritage property.*
6. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS monitoring mission in 2007 to assess the state of conservation of the property and assist in defining the scope and content of the management plan to be developed;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 31<sup>st</sup> session in 2007.*

## **Annex 2 - Programme of the Mission and list of persons met**

### **JOINT UNESCO WHC/ICOMOS MISSION TO HUE**

***15-22 October 2006***

#### **Sunday 15 October:**

The Mission arrives in Hue on flight VN 245 (at 13h50), pick up and transfer to Dong Da - Festival hotel by Hue MCC's reception and car.

#### **Monday 16 October:**

*Morning:*

**08.30:** Visit and meet with Director Board (PH.D *Phan Tiến Dũng*, Vice-Director) and Heads of relevant departments of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre:

- A comprehensive introduction on Hue heritage site and its protection zoning.
- Some results of the monitoring on illegal construction within the protection zoning area of the property carried out directly by Hue MCC.
- Some results on the inventory of traditional buildings (belong to the property and others)

Lunch and rest.

*Afternoon:*

**14.00 :** *Survey to the southwestern area of Hue city*

#### **Tuesday 17 October:**

*Morning:*

**08.30:** meeting with Mr. *Ngô Hòa*, Vice-chairman of TTHue Provincial People's Committee and heads of relevant bodies in the province

- Introduction to the legal frame effective for all activities relating to construction and urban planning of Hue city and its vicinity.
- The coordination and interdisciplinary work among the relevant organizations in the province for management and protection of the property.
- GIS project for Thua Thien Hue province.

**10.30:** meeting with Mr. *Ngô Văn Tuan*, Director of the Provincial Department of Traffic and Transportation.

Lunch and rest

*Afternoon:*

**14.00:** meeting with Mr. *Nguyen Viet Tien* –Director, and Mr. *Nguyen Minh Dung* – Vice Director of the Provincial Department of Construction.

- Introducing new plans of residential areas and the infrastructure in Hue City.
- Construction management in the province

**16.00:** a survey along Huong river from Bach Ho bridge to Thien Mu Pagoda and Temple of Literature by car, visit 1 or 2 traditional house(s) in Kim Long under the program of traditional house project of the Municipal People's Committee (escorted by a representative of the Municipal People's Committee and a project officer).

#### **Wednesday, 18 October:**

*Morning :*

**08.30:** Meeting with leader of People's Committee of Hue city (In particular *Mr Nguyễn Văn Cao*, Chair-man of the People's Committee of Hue city, *Mr Phan Trọng Vinh*- Vice-chair of the People's Committee of Hue city, *Mr Lê Quang Vinh*, Head of Hue city People's Committee Bureau, *Mr Nguyễn Mậu Thương*, Deputy-head of Urban Planning Department of city, *Mr Nguyễn Hồng Sơn*-Head of Urban Planning Department of city, *Mr. Nguyễn Nhiên*-Head of Division for Foreign Affairs, *Mr Nguyễn Đăng Chính*, Director of Centre for Professional Administrative Affairs, *Mr Nguyễn Đình Cán*-Director of Project Management Board for city Construction):



- A comprehensive introduction on Hue city, development of urban infrastructure in recent time
- Activities for monitoring and management of the new construction and land-use in the city.
- Project of conservation the southern part of Hue citadel.
- Project for Hue Heritage houses, projects for Royal Canal inside Hue citadel.

**10h30** : meeting with Mr. Nguyễn Đình Đầu-Director of Dept. of Resources and Environment – and Mr. Đỗ Nam- Director of Dept. of Technological Science.

- Introducing environmental and land-use management and relevant issues.

Lunch and rest

*Afternoon:*

**14.00** : Meeting with *Mr. Nguyễn Đình*- Head of Management Board of Huong River Projects

- Present status of the management of Huong River projects and relevant issues.

**16.00:** Survey along Huong River by canoe (prepared by HMCC) from Hue to Tuan confluence and Gia Long Tomb

**Thursday, 19 October:**

Visit Hoi An and come back within the day

**07h30:** Depart Hue for Hoi An (3 hours driving)

**10h30:** meeting with Mr. Nguyen Chi Trung , Director of Centre for Management and Preservation of Hoi An Ancient town.

- General Introduction on Hoi An Town and the relevant management rules
- Situation of the site after the typhoon Xangsane

**11h30** : visit some typical places of Hoi An

**12h30** : Lunch in Ancient Town

**13h30** : further visit

**15h00** : leave Hoi An for Hue

**Friday, 20 October:**

*Morning:*

**08.30:** Meeting with *Mr. Nguyễn Xuân Hoa*-Director of Provincial Department of Culture and Information, *Mr. Huỳnh Đình Kết* – Hue city's Division of Culture and Information:

- Management of other relics and landscape in the province and Hue city

**10.30** : meeting with *Mr Lê Viết Dũng* - Director of Hue Centre for Software and Informatics.

- Introduction on the programs of GIS applied in the province
- GIS map for management of monument and landscapes in the province.

Lunch and rest

*Afternoon:*

**16.00** : Meeting with leaders of the province (*Mr. Ho Xuan Man, Secretary of Provincial Party, Mr. Ngô Hòa*-Vice Chairman of Thua Thien Hue provincial People's Committee) leader of Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO (*Mr. Ho Minh Tuan*-Deputy Secretary General) and some relevant agencies in the province.

-Followed up by a dinner hosted by Thua Thien Hue provincial People's Committee at Huong Giang hotel, Hue city.

**Saturday, 21 October:**

*Morning:*

**09.00:** Meeting with *Mr. Phùng Phu* Director of HMCC and his colleagues: discussion on professional matters

Lunch and rest

*Afternoon:* Depart Hue to Hanoi and HCM city

19.30 Debrief Dinner on Hue Participants: Mr. Chu and Quynh

Dr. Dang Van Bai, Director, Department of National Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Information,

Dr. Nguyen Quoc Hung , Vice-Director of same Department, responsible for tangible heritage.

Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO: Mr. Le Kinh Tai and Mr. Ho Minh Tuan

**Sunday, 22 October**

**09:30 :** Meeting on Hanoi Heritage Complex nomination (Hilton hotel), with Prof. Phan Huy Le and Mr. Dung

**16:30:** Debrief with Edle Tenden at Hilton hotel

***Evening:*** Departure to Paris

**Information contacts:**

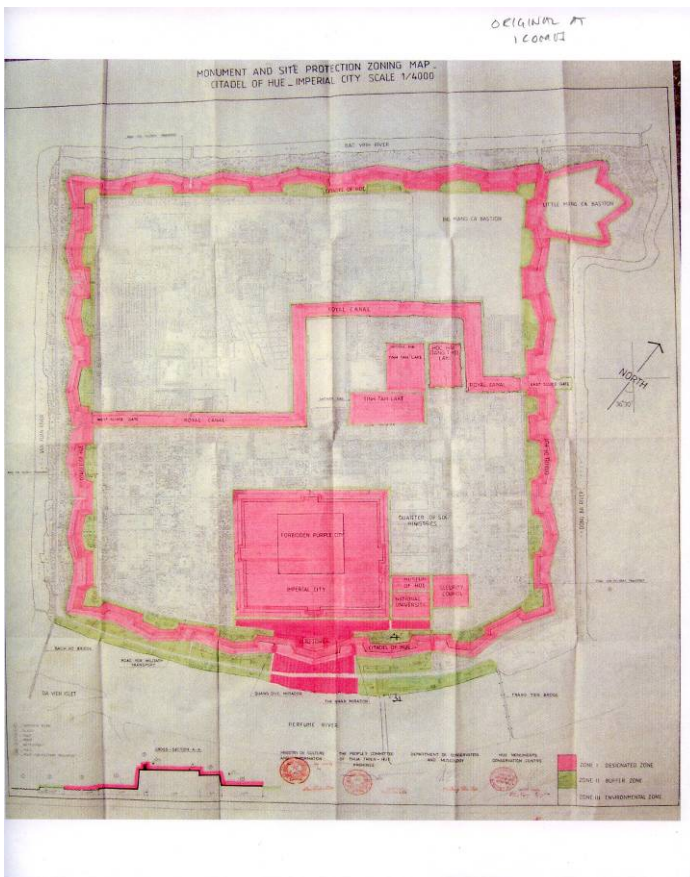
-Mr. Nguyễn Văn Phúc, Deputy-Head of International Cooperation Department, HMCC (CP: 0913.490.151)

-Mrs. Lê Thị Thanh Bình, Specialist of International Cooperation Department, HMCC (CP: 0914.145.772).

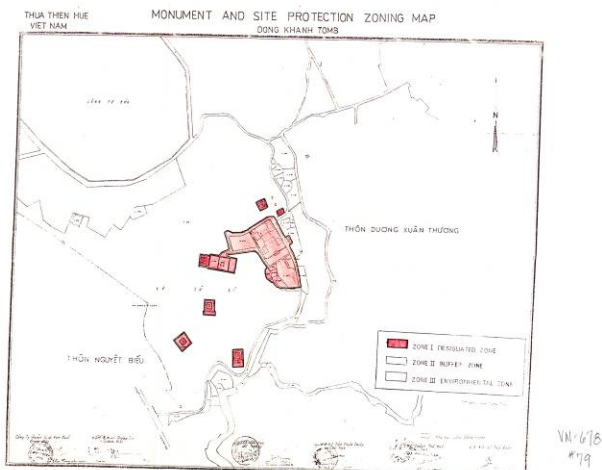
-Mrs Đỗ Thị Mỹ Châu, Vice-Director of Foreign Affairs Department (Cell phone: 0913.449.217)

-Mr Nguyễn Thanh Bình, Head of Protocol Division, Foreign Affairs Department (CP: 0913.504.716)

## Annex 3. Photographs



1. The core (pink) and buffer (green) zones currently identify which sections of the Citadel are part of the WH property. A wider buffer zone, perhaps including all of the citadel, would ensure stronger control on the integrity of the site.



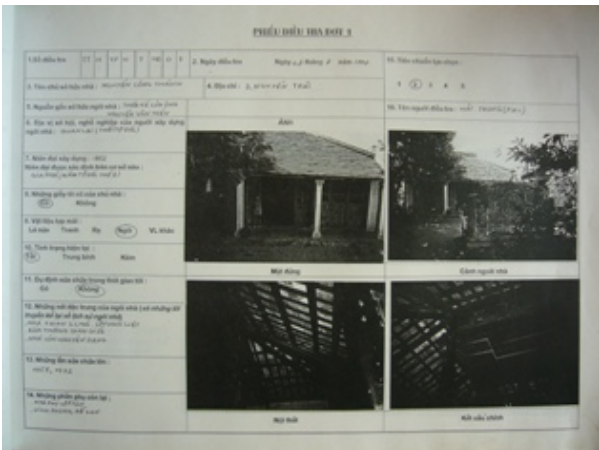
2. Current core zones for the monuments (here Dong Khanh Tomb) do not include the elements of the geomantic cultural landscape



3. Members of the Mission standing in front of the model of the Imperial Citadel of Hue



4. Illegal houses constructed along the water canal of Hue



5. The survey of traditional buildings prepared by HMCC with Waseda University



6. The recently built Tuan Bridge, with the by-pass road, has had some negative impact on the nearby Minh Mang and Khai Dinh Tombs



7. New houses along the river are affecting the integrity of the cultural landscape of Hue



8. The top of Vong Canh Hill is a popular place among the inhabitants of Hue



9. The view from Vong Canh Hill. Its visual relationship with some of the listed monuments is apparent.



10. Recent squatters have settled along the river, in a dangerous area exposed to floods.



11. The water canals and ponds within the Citadel are not functioning as in the past. They are now used to grow vegetables.