UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Management in Bangladesh

Presentation
By

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Bangladesh and surrounding countries
Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the largest delta in the world, stretching between the montane regions of the mighty Himalalayas on the north and the Bay of Bengal in the south. It is, so to say, the gifts of the mightiest rivers like the Brahmaputra, Padma, Meghna and their numerous tributaries. The natural fertility of the soil of this region, its kind and generous climate, fabled riches attracted people from all over the world. In one hand, the region is bestowed with alluvial plains stretching for miles and miles with bountiful crops of different kinds, hills and woods on the other have made the land extraordinary in the history of the world. The factors of climate and geography have profoundly influenced the extraordinary personality, art and culture, architecture, dress, tradition and way of life of this region.
Department of Archaeology

Department of Archaeology as the Government agency of Bangladesh bears the main responsibility for exploration, excavation, protection and preservation of cultural heritage in the country. Its prime function is to take care of those cultural sites which have been declared as 'protected monument' and the objects acquired by the regular excavation of cultural mounds or as surface finds. At present, archaeological sites are nearly 500 which includes two UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites: *Shomapura Mahavihara* (Paharpur), the largest monastery of the country of 8th century A.D. and a group of monuments at Bagerhat of 15th century AD.
Regional Director Office (Rajshahi & Rangpur Division)  
Dept of Archaeology, Ministry of Cultural Affairs.  
Archaeological protected monuments
World Cultural, Natural and Intangible Heritages of Bangladesh
World Cultural Heritage Somapura Mahavihara, 1985
(Paharpur Buddhist Monastery)
A short History of the site

Paharpur is a village located in the north-western part of Bangladesh. The village Paharpur is famous as it contains the structural evidence of Buddhist monastery, which is historically known as Somapura Mahavihara. Francis Buchanon Hamilton, an officer of the British East India Company who visited the site some time in 1807-1812. It is known from a number of clay seal and sealing that the Somapura Mahavira (great Buddhist monastery) built by Dharmapala (770-812) the second Pala monarch of Bengal. The site was declared protected monument by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1919 under the provision of Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 1904.

The regular archaeological excavation at Paharpur was first undertaken in 1923 and it continued till 1934. Kumar Sharat Kumar Roy, D.R. Bhandekar R.D. Banerjee K.N. Dikshit and their team conducted excavations whole of the mound and unveiled a grant Buddhist monastery, central temple with enumerable antiquities.

This site was declared UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 1985.
Ground Plan of the Monastery
Elevation plan of the temple
Mosque city of Bagerhut World Cultural Heritage, 1985
Sundarban, The Green Forest, Natural Heritage, 1987
Sundarban, The Green Forest, Natural Heritage, 1987
Sundarban, The Green Forest, Natural Heritage, 1987
Intangible World Cultural Heritage
Jamdani Sharee 2013
1 La Baishakh, Bangla Noboborsho
(Bangla New Year Celebration)
Intangible Cultural heritage, 2016
1 La Baishakh, Bangla Noboborsho
(Bangla New Year Celebration)
Intangible Cultural heritage, 2016
Paharpur Buddhist Monastery (Before conservation)
During Conservation
During Conservation
Central temple of the monastery
(After conservation)
1. Introduction

1.1. Authentic historical background

1.2. Outstanding universal value of the site

1.3. Present state of conservation

1.4. Authenticity and integrity of the site
2. Objectives

• 2.1. Improve understanding of the heritage values of the site
• 2.2. Development of the setting of the monastery complex
• 2.3. Proper conservation of the historic fabric
• 2.4. Visitor management
• 2.5. Risk management
• 2.6 Sustainable tourism for economic development
• 2.7 Prevent in unauthorized encroachment
• 2.8 Community awareness
3. Comprehensive conservation management plan

- 3.1 Survey
- 3.2 Research
- 3.3 Architectural documentation
- 3.4 Proper mapping of buildings and decorative surface
- 3.5 Digitalization of decorative features
- 3.6 Material investigation
- 3.7 Inventory of open spaces and heritage garden
4. Management plan

- 4.1 Ownership
- 4.2 Legal status
- 4.3 Boundaries/Core zone
- 4.4 Buffer zone
5. Management system

- 5.1 Management structure
  - 5.1.a Skilled manpower
  - 5.1.b Professional conservator
  - 5.1.c Administrator
  - 5.1.d Archaeologist / Researcher
  - 5.1.e Sufficient electronic goods
  - 5.1.f Equipments

- 5.2 Master plan
  - 5.6. a. Short term
  - 5.6. b. Mid term
  - 5.6. c. Long term
6. Threats and preventive protections

6.1 Climate change
6.2 Natural disasters
6.2.a Flood
6.2.b Earthquake
6.2.c Heavy rainfall
6.2.d Temperature and humidity
6.2.e Insects
6.3 Tourism pressure
6.4 Security of buildings
7. Monitoring and quality control

- 7.1 Periodic reporting
- 7.2 Reactive monitoring
- 7.3 Preventing monitoring
- 7.4 Advisory board and commission
- 7.5 Conflict management
8. Mediation

- 8.1 Publications
  - 8.1.a Brochures
  - 8.1.b Leaflets
  - 8.1.c Guide books
  - 8.1.d Maps
- 8.2 Internet
- 8.3 Website
- 8.4 Television channels
- 8.5 Guide
- 8.6 Narrated visual presentation
- 8.7 Audio tape presentation
- 8.8 Exhibitions
- 8.9 Events
9. Budget

- 9.1 Sufficient budget for preservation
- 9.2 Sufficient budget for maintenances
- 9.3 Sufficient budget for higher training regarding conservation and management techniques
Awareness and involvement of local community
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Awareness of Local Educational Institutions
Future plan

There are still many unprotected monuments and sites, which need immediate protection in order to save them from further decay. So the Department of Archaeology submitted a revised organogramme with a proposal for increasing the number of archaeologists, researchers, chemists, conservators, archaeological engineers and facilities of modern equipments. The government have been implementing a large project entitled 'Cultural Heritage Project' for the exhaustive conservation and protection of archaeological sites and monuments.
Thank you all.
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