

The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol

Master Plan
2012 - 2017



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Published by
UNESCO Islamabad-Pakistan



A Norway-Funded Project



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol

Master Plan 2012 - 2017

A Norway-Funded Project

The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol

**Master Plan
2012 - 2017**



**Produced by
Design & Management Consultants**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**Published by
UNESCO Islamabad-Pakistan**



Copyright © 2011 UNESCO, Islamabad, Pakistan

Materials in this report may be reproduced for non profit purposes,
provided acknowledgment of the source is made.

Printed at
Nexcom
Lahore, Pakistan. June, 2011

The Publication is available at

UNESCO Office
House 17, Street 8, F-7/3
Islamabad, Pakistan.
Tel: (92-51)2611170-3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Design & Management Consultants, Lahore, were requested by UNESCO, Islamabad, to prepare a Master Plan for the World Heritage Site of **“Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol.”** The two components of the site i.e. the Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the City Remains at Seri Bahlol are located about five kilometers apart, the former, towards the east and the later towards the west of main Mardan-Swat road. Both components have different sets of diverse problems which made our job much more complicated. However with the help of a number of individuals, we were able to complete the assignment. The Design & Management Consultants wish to acknowledge with gratitude their effort and help.

In order to accomplish the job, a large number of people were involved for various aspects of the project, discussions were held and their input was obtained. Valuable input was, however, provided by the following individuals and groups:

- Saleem ul Haq (Lahore)
- Maqsood Ahmad Malik (Lahore)
- Ahmad Nawaz (Takht-i-Bahi)
- Dr. A Samad Khan (Peshawar)
- Dr. Shaukat Mahmood (Lahore)
- Wilayat Khan Bhatti (Lahore)
- Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, particularly its Vice Chancellor Ehsan Ali
- Mian Tahir (Advocate) General Secretary, ANP, Sheikhanu kile, District Mardan
- Peshawar Museum
- Lahore Museum
- UNESCO, Islamabad particularly Farht Gul, Adnan Ahmad and Jawad Aziz
- Mohammad Imran of MIA Associates for carrying out the topographic survey

- Raazia Fatima Mahmood for typing the manuscript
- Tariq Mahmood for compiling, proof reading and all types of logistic support
- Mohammad Alam Fatmi for working tirelessly in the office and providing logistic support at the site

The Design & Management Consultants wish to thank all of them and others, whose names could not be mentioned, for helping us in one way or the other in the preparation of this document. The Master Plan has been prepared in the frame work of the Norway-Funded Project, “Mapping of Cultural Assets in NWFP” (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) their financial support is also acknowledged.

Dr. Mahmood Hussain

Chief Executive

Design & Management Consultants

7-A Sikandar Malhi, Road, Canal Park.

Gulberg II. Lahore. Pakistan

FOREWORD

It is a matter of great honour for UNESCO to be actively involved in the planning and development of the third Master Plan of a World Heritage Site in Pakistan. Previously, Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens were developed by UNESCO with funding from Norway and the Getty Foundation respectively. The Norway-funded project, "Mapping of Cultural Assets" provided us with another opportunity to prepare a Master Plan for "**Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol**" a World Heritage Site, located some 15 kilometers northwest to the city of Mardan. The fairly well-preserved state of the site may be attributed to its high location on the crest of a hill, which guarded it against successive invasions. Nearby are also the remains of Seri Bahlol, a small fortified city dating from the same period and also a part of the same inscription.

Despite its national and international significance as a World Heritage Site, Takht-i-Bahi has gradually started to show traces of deterioration, mainly due to the absence of a proper conservation and management plan and increasing vandalism. Given its religious significance, unique location and natural setting, Takht-i-Bahi holds great promise for tourism promotion and economic growth for local communities. Accordingly, the Master Plan for Takht-i-Bahi provides a detailed and holistic framework for decision making and for the implementation of a coherent set of appropriate actions for the conservation and management of the World Heritage Site. Goals of the Master Plan include: sustainable management of Takht-i-Bahi; respect for the unique qualities and outstanding universal values of the World Heritage Site, so that they are understood and are sustained in the future; improved standards of conservation, care and interpretation, encouraging all people to enjoy and understand the value of a World Heritage Site; and increased public awareness of, and interest and involvement in the heritage of Takht-i-Bahi, achieving a common local, national and international ownership of World Heritage Site management.

We sincerely hope that this initiative of UNESCO will be instrumental in developing a strategic approach to conservation and leading towards the effective management of the Site for promotion of tourism and sustainable livelihoods of communities living near the Site. UNESCO further promotes the concept of "culture and development" and we are convinced that cultural conservation will be an effective factor in development of sustainable and peaceful growth in Pakistan.



Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata
Director/Country Representative
UNESCO, Islamabad

ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| C | Consultant |
| CHIA | Cultural H eritage I mpact A ssessment |
| CYOC | Community and Y outh O utreach C ell |
| DOAM | Department of Archaeology and M useums |
| EIA | Environmental I mpact A ssessment |
| FOTB/SB | Friends of T akht-i- B ahi/ S eri B ahlol |
| ICCROM | International C entre for the S tudy of P reservation of C ultural P roperty |
| ICOMOS | International C ouncil on M onuments and S ites |
| IDP | Internally D isplaced P ersons |
| KCI | K hyber C onservation I nstitute |
| KPK | Province of K hyber P akhtunkhwa |
| LFA | Logical F ramework A nalysis |
| MGWCHS | M anagement G uidelines for W orld C ultural H eritage S ites |
| NFCH | National F und for C ultural H eritage |
| PMT | P roject M anagement T eam |
| PTDC | P akistan T ourism D evelopment C orporation |
| RC | R esearch C ell |
| SC | S ite C ommission |
| SOP | Standard O perating P rocedures |
| TC | T echnical C ommittee |
| UNESCO | United Nations E ducational, S cientific and C ultural O rganization |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rapid demographic and economic changes in the country, over the last many decades are a continuous threat to the survival of our cultural heritage. Moreover, the preservation and conservation of monuments are frequently ensured through legislation and national services in which we are lacking most. The Master Plan for the “**Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol**” has been prepared to ensure the continued conservation and safe guarding of this World Heritage Site. It is a working document for the custodians of the site; however, it is also meant to inform all levels of government and other concerned departments, of their roles and responsibilities. The Master Plan also provides a format for increased involvement of communities around Takht-i-Bahi and those within or outside Seri Bahlol as well as the voluntary organizations interested in caring for this site.

The Master Plan has been prepared to provide a detailed and holistic frame work for decision making and for the implementation of a coherent set of appropriate actions for the conservation and management of this World Heritage Site. It also aims to ensure that the cultural heritage significance of this site is not compromised and that the values for which both components of the site were inscribed are not irretrievably lost.

The document, in particular, has addressed four pertinent issues. Firstly, The Master Plan recommends that comprehensive research should be carried out to explore links, if these ever existed between many Buddhist Sites that are present in a radius of about twenty kilometers in Mardan district. Secondly, after thorough review of the literature, The Master Plan suggests that the original approach to Takht-i-Bahi complex was from the southern side of the mountains rather than the existing approach from the north. The original approach must be restored. Thirdly, the literary sources talk of a strong link that must have existed in old glorious days; between Takht-i-Bahi and Seri Bahlol and that this link must be explored and revived. Fourthly, the twelve or more mounds that existed in a radius of two miles of Seri Bahlol, should be identified, the land acquired and the entire area be declared as an “**Archaeological Park.**”

The Master Plan has been divided into eleven sections: section 1 gives a brief introduction and the need for a master plan followed by its objectives. Section 2 presents a brief historical background of the Buddhist Cultures in the region along with the location and importance of both components of this World Heritage Site. Section 3 outlines the statement of cultural significance in the context of a UNESCO world heritage site. This is followed by a theoretical frame work (section 4) under which the Design and Management team has prepared this document. This also includes the approach towards interventions and the setting of conservation priorities.

The next section details out a comprehensive system for collecting the baseline information about the site. These include a detailed topographic survey of both components of the site.

(This is the first time that a detailed topographic survey has been conducted) A detailed condition survey has also been carried out by our team.

Section 6 describes the current context and the existing situation with regards to the conservation efforts and the urbanization taking place around both components of the site at the moment.

Section 7 highlights many issues, this World Heritage Site faces with regards to site management, maintenance, monitoring, conservation, site visitation, the environment and the infra structure around both components of the site. It also briefly discusses the financial aspects and emphasizes the need for a research frame work.

Section 8 of The Master Plan presents a series of integrated action plans, based on the input by many experts, designed to achieve the short term, medium term and long term vision. The action plan is based on the correlation between issues and strategies elaborated earlier in the section. It defines the overall approach adopted, reformulates issues into objectives, discusses these objectives individually and proposes actions.

Section 9 presents these objectives with their levels of priority, target dates, key implementation agents and the action plan, while section 10 outlines the mechanism for implementation of The Master Plan including the term over which, the plan will extend and a format for its systematic review at regular intervals. The last section gives in detail, the recommendations for further specialist studies and projects, for effective implementation of The Master Plan. Some of these studies can be under taken internally as part of the ongoing conservation programmes by the custodians. For some studies, outside consultants may have to be hired, while other studies can be conducted by government agencies or allied government departments.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOREWORD

ACRONYMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE MASTER PLAN 1-7

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1.1 | Introduction | 1 |
| | 1.1.1 The need for a Master plan | 1 |
| 1.2 | Goals for the Master plan | 2 |
| 1.3 | Specific Objectives of the Master plan | 2 |
| 1.4 | Geographic Scope of the Master Plan | 3 |
| | 1.4.1 Takht-i-Bahi Complex | 3 |
| | 1.4.2 Village of Seri Bahlol | 4 |
| 1.5 | Key Stake Holders | 5 |
| 1.6 | Master Plan Inputs and Structure | 6 |

SECTION 2: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BUDDHIST CULTURES IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA 8-15

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 2.1 | Buddhist Cultures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 8 |
| | 2.1.1 Buddhist Cultures and their Ruins in the Region | 8 |
| | 2.1.2 Location and Importance of Mardan District | 8 |
| 2.2 | Takht-i-Bahi | 9 |
| | 2.2.1 Location and Importance | 9 |
| | 2.2.2 Takht-i-Bahi Monastic Complex | 10 |
| 2.3 | Seri Bahlol | 12 |
| | 2.3.1 Location and Importance | 12 |
| | 2.3.2 Significance of the Name | 13 |
| | 2.3.3 Historical Perspective of Seri Bahlol | 13 |
| 2.4 | Geographical Scope of The Master Plan | 14 |
| | 2.4.1 Geographical limits of Takht-i-Bahi | 14 |
| | 2.4.2 Geographical limits of Seri Bahlol | 14 |

SECTION 3: WORLD HERITAGE INSCRIPTION 16-20

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|----|
| 3.1 | Background and Inscription | 16 |
| 3.2 | Statement of Cultural Significance | 16 |
| 3.3 | Implications of the Master Plan | 18 |
| 3.4 | Legal and Regulatory Framework | 18 |

SECTION 4: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK 21-25

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 4.1 | Vision of Master Plan | 21 |
| | 4.1.1 Maintaining the Authenticity and Value of the Site | 21 |
| | 4.1.2 Safeguarding all Original Remnants is a Conservation Priority | 21 |

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 4.1.3 | Conservation and Management Program must be Sustainable | 22 |
| 4.1.4 | Tourism should support the Conservation rather than destroy the Site | 22 |
| 4.1.5 | Decision making must be made on Full Documentation | 22 |
| 4.2 | Standards of Intervention | 23 |
| 4.2.1 | Levels of Intervention | 23 |
| 4.2.2 | Selection of Intervention Levels | 24 |
| 4.3 | Prioritization of Conservation Interventions | 25 |
| 4.3.1 | Conservation Situation | 25 |
| 4.3.2 | The Aims of Prioritization | 25 |
| SECTION 5: COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENTATION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES | | 26-30 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 26 |
| 5.1.1 | Resource Data Base | 26 |
| 5.1.2 | Documentation System | 27 |
| 5.2 | Baseline Survey Folios | 28 |
| 5.3 | Topographic Survey | 28 |
| 5.4 | Condition Survey | 28 |
| 5.4.1 | Condition Survey of Takht-i-Bahi | 28 |
| 5.4.2 | Condition Survey of Seri Bahlol | 29 |
| SECTION 6: CURRENT CONTEXT AND EXISTING SITUATION | | 31-34 |
| 6.1 | Introduction | 31 |
| 6.1.1 | Historical Back Ground of Conservation Efforts in the Sub Continent | 31 |
| 6.1.2 | Current Conservation Situation | 32 |
| 6.2 | Dossiers of Historical Intervention at this World Heritage Site | 32 |
| 6.2.1 | Historical Intervention at Takht-i- Bahi | 32 |
| 6.2.2 | Historical Intervention at Seri Bahlol | 33 |
| 6.3 | Urbanization and its Effect | 33 |
| 6.3.1 | Urbanization around Takht-i-Bahi Complex | 33 |
| 6.3.2 | Urbanization at Seri Bahlol | 34 |
| SECTION 7: ISSUES | | 35-66 |
| 7.1 | Introduction | 35 |
| 7.2 | Site Management Issues | 35 |
| 7.2.1 | Custodianship | 35 |
| 7.2.2 | Enforcement of Legal Protection | 36 |
| 7.2.3 | Staffing | 37 |
| 7.2.4 | Training | 38 |
| 7.3 | Monitoring and Maintenance Issues | 40 |
| 7.3.1 | Routine Monitoring and Maintenance | 40 |
| 7.3.2 | Specific Monitoring and Maintenance Issues of Seri Bahlol | 41 |
| 7.3.3 | Monitoring of Conservation works | 42 |
| 7.3.4 | Maintenance of Archaeological Remains | 42 |
| 7.3.5 | Cleaning the Monuments | 43 |
| 7.3.6 | Damage to the Wall from Urbanization | 44 |

| | | |
|--------|--|----|
| 7.4 | Conservation Issues | 45 |
| 7.4.1 | Conservation at Takht-i-Bahi | 45 |
| 7.4.2 | Conservation at Seri Bahlol | 46 |
| 7.4.3 | Approach to the Conservation | 46 |
| 7.4.4 | Prioritizing Critical Conservation Issues | 47 |
| 7.4.5 | Procedure for Implementing Conservation Works | 47 |
| 7.4.6 | Documentation | 48 |
| 7.4.7 | Conservation Laboratory & Skilled Artisans | 48 |
| 7.4.8 | Training of Crafts Persons and Artisans | 48 |
| 7.4.9 | Archaeological Excavations and Repository | 48 |
| 7.4.10 | Site Museum | 49 |
| 7.5 | Research and Education Program | 50 |
| 7.5.1 | Overall Situation | 50 |
| 7.5.2 | Publication | 50 |
| 7.5.3 | Library | 50 |
| 7.6 | Site Visitation Profile | 51 |
| 7.6.1 | Background | 51 |
| 7.6.2 | Visitor's Number and Profile at Takht-i-Bahi | 51 |
| 7.6.3 | Visitor's Number and Profile at Seri Bahlol | 52 |
| 7.6.4 | Overall Situation | 53 |
| 7.6.5 | Interpretation and Education | 54 |
| 7.6.6 | Tourist's Facilities | 54 |
| 7.6.7 | Community Outreach | 54 |
| 7.6.8 | Event Management | 55 |
| 7.7 | Environment and Physical Infrastructure Issues | 56 |
| 7.7.1 | Overall Situation | 56 |
| 7.7.2 | Environmental Context of Takht-i-Bahi | 56 |
| 7.7.3 | Physical Infrastructure of Takht-i-Bahi | 57 |
| 7.7.4 | Environmental Context of Seri Bahlol | 59 |
| 7.7.5 | Physical Infra Structure of Seri Bahlol | 63 |
| 7.8 | Financial Situation | 64 |
| 7.8.1 | Funding from the Government | 64 |
| 7.8.2 | Development Funds | 65 |
| 7.8.3 | Gate Money | 65 |
| 7.8.4 | Additional Funding Sources | 65 |

SECTION 8: STRATEGY 67-120

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 8.1 | Introduction | 67 |
| 8.1.1 | Short Term Vision | 67 |
| 8.1.2 | Medium Term Vision | 67 |
| 8.1.3 | Long Term Vision | 68 |
| 8.1.4 | Correlation between Issues and Objectives | 69 |
| 8.2 | Site Management Strategy | 73 |
| 8.2.1 | Overall Strategy | 73 |
| 8.2.2 | Site Management Strategy (SMS) Objectives | 73 |
| 8.3 | Monitoring and Maintenance Strategy | 80 |
| 8.3.1 | Overall strategy | 80 |

| | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| 8.3.2 | A program of Regular Site Maintenance | 81 |
| 8.3.3 | Monitoring and Maintenance (MM) Objectives | 81 |
| 8.4 | Conservation Strategy | 89 |
| 8.4.1 | Long Term Sustainable Conservation | 89 |
| 8.4.2 | Overall Strategy | 89 |
| 8.4.3 | Conservation (CS) Objectives | 89 |
| 8.5 | Research and Education | 95 |
| 8.5.1 | Research & Education Programme | 95 |
| 8.5.2 | Research and Education (RE) Objectives | 95 |
| 8.6 | Sustainable Visitation Strategy | 97 |
| 8.6.1 | Tourism Situation | 97 |
| 8.6.2 | Overall Strategy | 98 |
| 8.6.3 | Site Visitation Policy (SV) Objective | 98 |
| 8.7 | Environmental and Physical Infrastructure | 110 |
| 8.7.1 | Overall Strategy | 110 |
| 8.7.2 | Environmental and Physical Infrastructure (EPT) Objectives for Takht-i-Bahi | 110 |
| 8.7.3 | Environmental and Physical Infrastructure (EPT) Objective for Seri Bahlol | 115 |
| 8.8 | Financial Situation | 117 |
| 8.8.1 | Focused Approach to Funding | 117 |
| 8.8.2 | Department's own Sources of Funding | 117 |
| 8.8.3 | Other Sources of Funding | 118 |
| 8.8.4 | Financial (FS) Objectives | 118 |
| SECTION 9: PROGRAMME OF ACTION | | 121-125 |
| 9.1 | Introduction | 121 |
| 9.1.1 | Key to the Action Plan Table | 121 |
| 9.2 | Takht-i-Bahi/Seri Bahlol Objectives: Action plan 2012-17 | 122 |
| 9.2.1 | Site Management Strategy | 122 |
| 9.2.2 | Monitoring & Maintenance Strategy | 122 |
| 9.2.3 | Conservation Strategy | 123 |
| 9.2.4 | Research & Education Strategy | 123 |
| 9.2.5 | Site Visitation Strategy | 123 |
| 9.2.6 | Environmental & Physical Infra Structure Strategy for Takht-i-Bahi | 124 |
| 9.2.7 | Environmental & Physical Infra Structure Strategy for Seri Bahlol | 124 |
| 9.2.8 | Financial Strategy | 124 |
| SECTION 10: MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN | | 126-130 |
| 10.1 | Implementation of The Master Plan | 126 |
| 10.1.1 | Goals of Implementation | 126 |
| 10.1.2 | Terms of the Master Plan | 126 |
| 10.1.3 | Agents Responsible for Implementation | 127 |
| 10.2 | Reviewing the Master Plan | 127 |

SECTION 11: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER SPECIALIST STUDIES

131-133

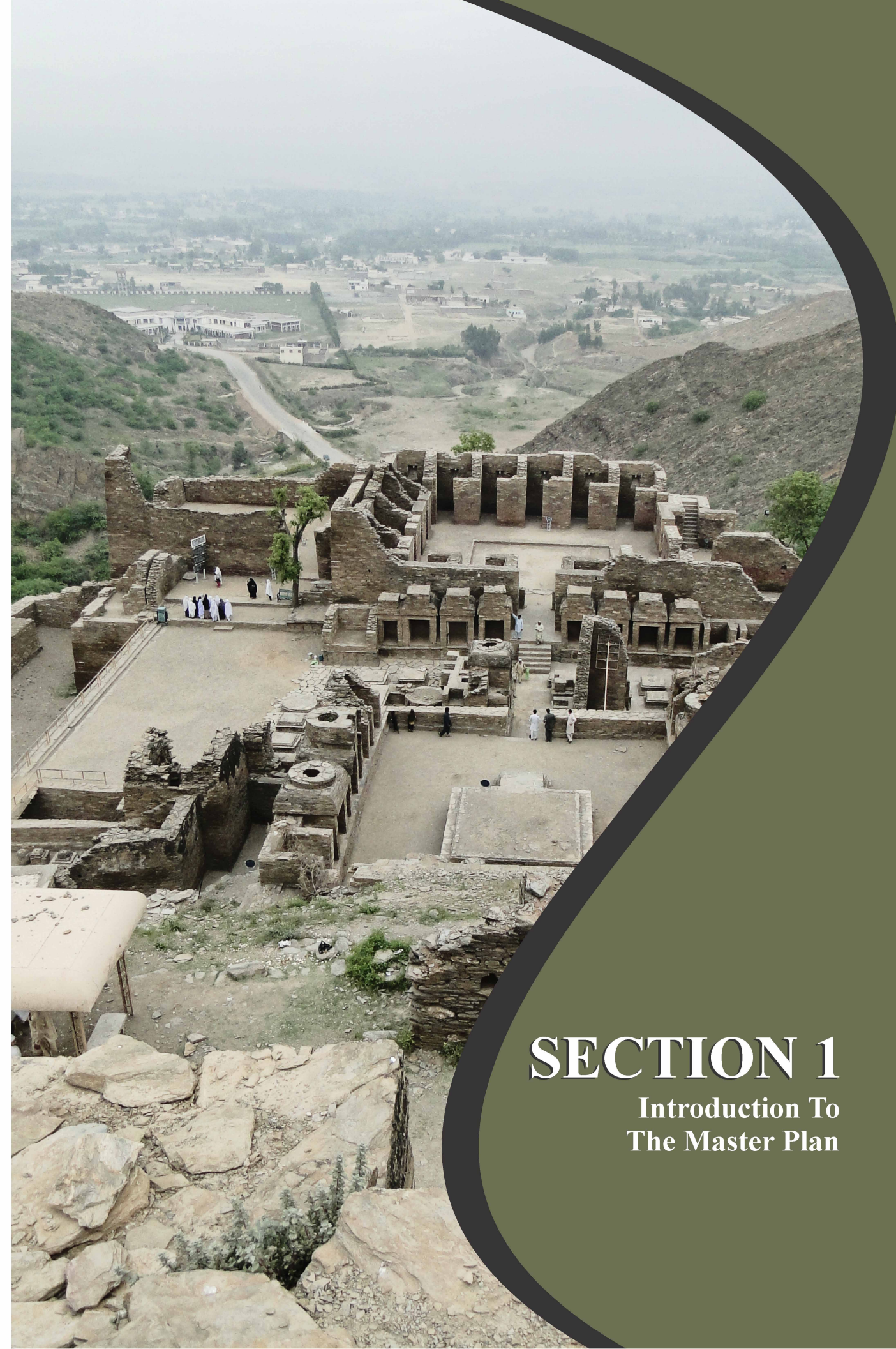
LIST OF FIGURES:

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----|
| Figure 1.1 | Schematic Diagrams of Master Plan Structure and Contents | 7 |
| Figure 2.1 | Gandhara Sites in Pakistan | 9 |
| Figure 2.2 | Plan of Main Monastic Complex | 11 |
| Figure 5.1 | Mound “E” at Seri Bahlol before Excavation | 26 |
| Figure 5.2 | North Face of Main Base: Mound “E” after Excavation | 27 |
| Figure 5.3 | Topographic Survey Plan of Takht-i- Bahi (Contour Plan) | 27 |
| Figure 5.4 | Topographic Survey Plan of Takht-i- Bahi (Spot Levels) | 27 |
| Figure 5.5 | Topographic Survey Plan of Seri Bahlol (Contour Plan) | 27 |
| Figure 5.6 | Topographic Survey Plan of Seri Bahlol (Spot Levels) | 27 |
| Figure 7.1 | Organizational Charts for Peshawar Office (DOAM) | 39 |
| Figure 7.2 | First Published Plan of Ruins at Seri Bahlol (after Cunningham 1875) | 61 |
| Figure 7.3 | General Map of Seri Bahlol and its Environs showing the Mounds (after ASIAR Frontier Circle 1909-10) | 62 |
| Figure 8.1 | Model of Cultural Resource Management | 68 |
| Figure 8.2 | Proposed Management Structure | 78 |
| Figure 8.3 | Proposed setup of Khyber Conservation Institute | 79 |
| Figure 8.4 | Monitoring Needs | 82 |
| Figure 8.5 | Monitoring and Maintenance Team Structure | 83 |
| Figure 8.6 | Set up and Implementation of Maintenance and Monitoring Programmes | 83 |
| Figure 8.7 | Long term Protection of underground Archaeological Resource | 85 |
| Figure 8.8 | Presumed Old Route between Seri Bahlol and Takht-i-Bahi | 87 |
| Figure 8.9 | Diagram illustrating Proposed Flow of Conservation Activities | 91 |
| Figure 8.10 | Diagram showing Conservation Action Priorities | 92 |
| Figure 8.11 | Procedures for Excavation and Long Term Protection of underground Archaeological Resource | 94 |
| Figure 8.12 | Existing approach to Takht-i-Bahi Monastery | 100 |
| Figure 8.13 | Proposed Alternate Route to Takht-i-Bahi Monastery | 100 |
| Figure 8.14 | Proposed Alternate Route (schematic sketch) | 101 |
| Figure 8.15 | Diagram for the proposed Diversified Funding Approach | 119 |
| Figure 10.1 | Partners responsible for Implementation of Action Plan Components | 128 |
| Figure 10.2 | Diagram showing the Evaluation/Review Process | 130 |

List of Tables

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| Table 7.1 | Site Management Issues | 40 |
| Table 7.2 | Monitoring and Maintenance Issues | 44 |
| Table 7.3 | Conservation Issues | 49 |
| Table 7.4 | Research and Publication Issues | 51 |
| Table 7.5 | Number of Visitors for the Years 1997 – 2010 | 52 |
| Table 7.6 | Site Visitation Issues | 55 |
| Table 7.7 | Environmental and Physical Infrastructure Issues of Takht-i-Bahi | 59 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-------|
| Table 7.8 | Environmental and physical Infrastructure issues of Seri Bahlol | 64 |
| Table 7.9 | Financial Issues | 66 |
| Table 8.1 | Correlation between the Issues raised in Section 7 of this Document and the Strategies to be adopted | 69-73 |
| Table 8.2 | Preliminary Review of Tourism Impact on Takht-i-Bahi | 105 |
| Table 8.3 | Matrix of Indicators and Standards for Monitoring Tourism Impact | 106 |
| Table 9.1 | Action Plan 2012-17: Site Management Strategy (SMS) | 122 |
| Table 9.2 | Action Plan 2012-17: Monitoring and Maintenance Strategy (MM) | 122 |
| Table 9.3 | Action Plan 2012-17: Conservation Strategy (CS) | 123 |
| Table 9.4 | Action Plan 2012-17: Research and Education Strategy (RE) | 123 |
| Table 9.5 | Action Plan 2012-17: Site Visitation Strategy (SV) | 123 |
| Table 9.6 | Action Plan 2012-17: Environment and Physical Infrastructure for Takht-i-Bahi (EPT) | 124 |
| Table 9.7 | Action Plan 2012-17: Environment and Physical Infrastructure for Seri Bahlol (EPS) | 124 |
| Table 9.8 | Action Plan 2012-17: Financial Strategy (FS) | 125 |



SECTION 1

Introduction To
The Master Plan

SECTION 1 | INTRODUCTION TO THE MASTER PLAN

For the World Heritage Site “Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol”

1.1 Introduction

Over the centuries, the civilizations throughout the world have raised monuments expressing ideals, aspirations and beliefs of people in material form. Many have survived to the present times and are a witness to the long span of human history. “The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol” are the most magnificent example of such cultural relics in the country belonging to Gandhara Civilization. Such cultural relics are the common heritage of mankind and those in possession of such relics are responsible for their proper preservation.

The Hoi An Protocol for “Best Conservation Practices in Asia” adopted in China in 2005, defines an archaeological site as “comprising of any combination of structural remains, artifacts and ecological elements with in a culturally modified soil matrix. A site may lie entirely beneath the surface or appears partially above it. It may be fully or partially excavated or it may be only through textual references or sub soil or remote sensing.” This definition of Archaeological Site fits completely on “Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring City Remains at Seri Bahlol.”

The importance and significance of this heritage site has been acknowledged when both components of this site (Takht-i-Bahi and Seri Bahlol) were jointly inscribed, in 1980 on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

1.1.1 The Need for a Master Plan

Until lately, a rule of thumb approach to conservation/preservation has been generally followed by the custodians of these sites. This approach has gravely impaired the authenticity of many monuments. However, deliberate programmes for the conservation of sites and monuments are a relatively recent phenomenon. During this period, principles have evolved and new techniques developed. The experience gained in solving conservation problems of a given monument, has rarely been profitably used in comparable situations else where, therefore the needs for a Master Plan for this site.

The technical principles of a management/master plan are based on the World Heritage Conventions and other International Conventions along with various charters at the international level especially those of UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) pertaining to the protection of structures, land and garden heritage sites as well as historic ensembles. These include the “Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites” 1964, the “Lausanne Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage” 1990, the “Nara Document on Authenticity” 1994, the “ICOMOS Australian Charter of Burra” (updated

several times since 1979) and the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage.”

Moreover, the preservation and restoration of monuments are frequently ensured through legislation and national services. The current exercise of preparing a master plan and its adoption by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/Government of Pakistan will ensure the continued and systematic conservation of Takht-i-Bahi and the Neighbouring Remains at Seri Bahlol. **A comprehensive Master Plan is therefore, urgently required for this World Heritage Site so that it's Cultural Heritage Significance is no longer compromised and the values for which both sites were listed are not lost.**

1.2 Goals For The Master Plan

A master plan for this World Heritage Site provides detailed and holistic framework for determining and implementing a coherent set of appropriate actions to conserve and manage this site. The goals of the Master Plan include the following:

- i) Ensure that unique qualities and outstanding universal values of this World Heritage Site are understood and sustained in future.
- ii) Improve public awareness and suggest ways and means to involve public in achieving a common local, national and international ownership.
- iii) Promote sustainable management and maintenance of this World Heritage Site.
- iv) Improve standards of conservation, care and interpretation to enable the public to enjoy and understand this World Heritage Site.

1.3 Specific Objectives of The Master Plan

The Master Plan Document is designed to meet the following specific objectives:

- i) Restore the original Gandhara Culture setting by creating a link between Takht-i-Bahi and Seri Bahlol as it might have existed in those times.
- ii) Recreate the original setting of the main mound of Seri Bahlol and the twelve or more, lesser mounds that existed in a radius of two miles of the main mound and formed essential components of the civilization.
- iii) Suggest ways and means for inclusion of two more sites i.e. Shahbaz Garhi and Jamal Garhi either as part or an extension of this World Heritage Site.
- iv) An assessment of the existing physical and environmental condition within and the immediate vicinity of both components of this Heritage Site, and upgrade the physical environmental conditions and the infrastructure.
- v) To assess the effectiveness of the existing management system and propose changes, which would augment the existing management system.

- vi) Based on resources, (both financial and man power) suggest an effective management, monitoring and maintenance system.
- vii) Design a system of regular monitoring, to ensure that baseline conditions are retained if not improved.
- viii) Design a practical system of continuing maintenance of ruins at Takht-i-Bahi and the fortification wall at Seri Bahlol.
- ix) Develop a strategic approach to conservation to ensure that the appropriate level and type of intervention is applied to specific conservation issues faced on site.
- x) Prioritize all conservation actions and set standards for the setting of future priorities to ensure that all conservation is carried out on the basis of need and urgency.
- xi) Design and develop a tourism management and visitation program to enhance visitors experience in terms of enjoyment and that the site benefits rather than suffers from the visitors.
- xii) To recommend ways to improve community out reach and involvement in the site.
- xiii) To set focused, multidisciplinary research goals for Gandhara Civilization involving staff, national and international scholars.
- xiv) And to improve assistance to the managers of the site in implementing proposal with continuity and without any hindrance.

1.4 Geographic Scope of The Master Plan

This World Heritage Site is located in the central part of Gandhara between the Indus Valley eastwards and the Hindukush mountains to the north and west, Khyber Pass to the westwards and Grand Trunk Road to the south leading through the hills to Taxila and Punjab. This World Heritage Site consists of two components: the first one being the “Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi” and the other one are the “City Remains at Seri Bahlol.”

1.4.1 Takht-i-Bahi Complex

The Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi are spread over many hilltops and in view of rapid urbanization of the area, defining the exact boundaries; the buffer zone and their implementation are the major aims of this document. The official figure of the area protected for this monument is approximately 81.3 acres. However, the area covered by us, in the topographic survey is 92.11 acres. A large buffer zone, however, is required to be established up to the farthest point on these hills, where excavations could be found.