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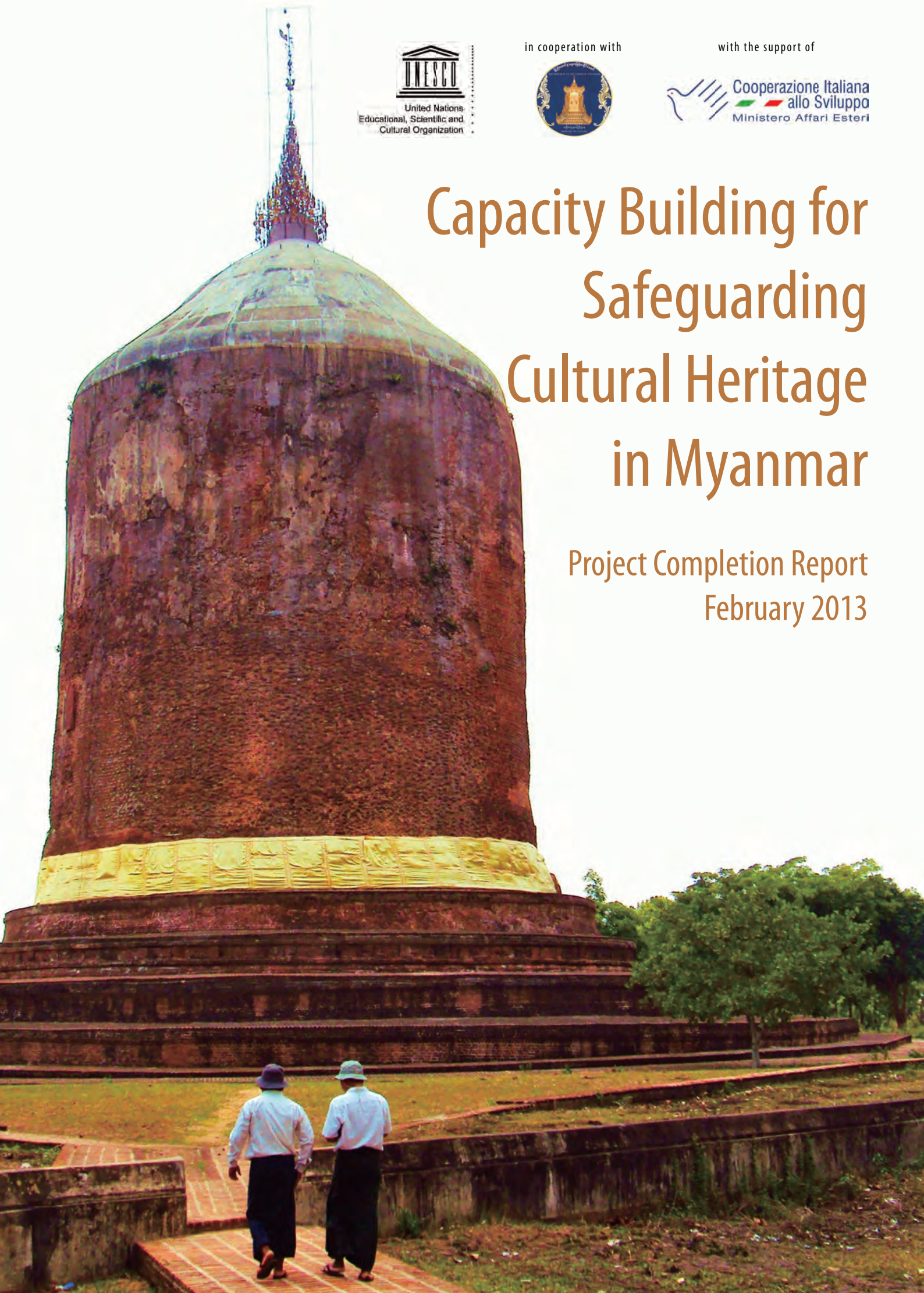


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Capacity Building for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar

Project Completion Report
February 2013



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Project 534MYA4000

Capacity Building for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar

Project Completion Report

February 2013

A sunset over a landscape with silhouettes of pagodas and mountains. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun visible in the upper right corner. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouettes of trees and a body of water. In the middle ground, several pagodas with pointed spires are visible against the horizon. In the background, a range of mountains is silhouetted against the sky.

Project Profile

A sunset over a landscape with silhouettes of pagodas and mountains. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper left corner, casting a warm, orange and yellow light across the sky. The foreground and middle ground are dark, showing the silhouettes of several pagodas of varying heights and shapes. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under the hazy sky.

Beneficiary Country Myanmar

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Cultural Heritage in Myanmar

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SUMMARY





After a hiatus of more than a decade in culture sector cooperation, UNESCO Bangkok implemented the “Capacity Building for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar” project in 2012 in close collaboration with Myanmar’s Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (DoA). The project was funded by the Italian government.

The project was conducted in the context of the government’s recent re-engagement with the international processes of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (popularly known as the World Heritage Convention), following recent reforms in Myanmar. Myanmar ratified the World Heritage Convention in April 1994 but does not yet have any properties on the World Heritage List.

To support Myanmar’s implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the project provided exposure to the most up-to-date international conservation practices. In the light of the country’s ultimate goal of nominating World Heritage properties, the project upgraded Myanmar’s capacity to conserve and manage cultural heritage sites.

The project responded to the immediate high-priority needs of the DoA at two important cultural heritage sites on its Tentative List: the Pyu Ancient Cities and Bagan Archaeological Area and Monuments.

In order to raise technical capacity for World Heritage safeguarding, leading international organizations including the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Lerici Foundation conducted world-class training in archaeological site conservation, World Heritage site management, and the conservation of mural paintings and stucco carvings. The hands-on training at the Pyu Ancient Cities sites and at Bagan led to improved conservation standards through practical demonstration projects such as the consolidation of external carved stuccoes at a temple site in Bagan and the conservation of the highly significant Khin Ba Mound in Sri Ksetra. With the participation of government officials from various sites on the national Tentative List, the capacity building efforts have benefited heritage sites from around the country.

At the institutional level, the project assisted the authorities in strengthening their management capacity for cultural heritage sites. For the first time in Myanmar, advanced technologies such as GIS were successfully put in place for the purpose of protecting cultural heritage. Key reference documents pertaining to World Heritage were translated into Myanmar language, to facilitate widespread diffusion and continued application among various national and local authorities.

The project was structured into three major components:

- (1) training in site management and conservation at the Pyu Ancient Cities and Bagan,
- (2) developing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for cultural heritage site management and,
- (3) assisting the government in nominating the Pyu Ancient Cities for World Heritage.

The World Heritage nomination dossier for the Pyu Ancient Cities was completed as per the schedule set by the national authorities over the course of the project. The serial site, comprising the three cities of Halin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra, had been selected by the Myanmar Parliament as the first priority for World Heritage nomination. These archaeologically-intact ancient cities, dating back almost two millennia, are testament to the introduction of Buddhism from South Asia into Southeast Asia and provide evidence of the establishment of the earliest urban settlements in the sub-region. The activities under this component were carried out in a manner designed to build as much national capacity as possible. As such, Myanmar drafting committees prepared the content of the nomination file, under the guidance of international experts and mentors provided by the project.

From the outset it was acknowledged that the project was ambitious, given the limited time frame of one year, the administrative and operational difficulties in Myanmar, and being the first international cooperation project undertaken by the DoA in almost two decades and likewise

the first technical assistance project in the culture sector rendered by UNESCO in the same period.

That said, the project has made substantial achievements, in large part through the enormous political and institutional commitment of the Myanmar counterparts and the excellent goodwill of international cooperating bodies. This speaks to the high priority that the Myanmar authorities are now placing on World Heritage.

The concrete results from this first phase provide a strong foundation for the Myanmar national authorities to further build upon and to apply at other sites with the potential for World Heritage nomination. The next priority site identified by the government for international cooperation is the Bagan Archaeological Area and Monuments Tentative List site, with an immediate focus on improving the conservation and management of the site, with a view to eventual nomination to the World Heritage List.







OVERVIEW OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project achieved its overall development objective of strengthening the capacity of Myanmar to safeguard its cultural heritage within the international framework and standards of the World Heritage Convention.

In the course of the one-year project, intensive technical assistance was provided to the Myanmar authorities through training activities, on-the-job training, international seminars, and collaborative working sessions led by international and national experts. A total of 16 activities were carried out in Myanmar (see Annex B). The project activities were executed by UNESCO Bangkok with support from the Project Office in Yangon and in close coordination with national authorities, mainly the DoA, and international expert organizations such as ICCROM and the Lerici Foundation.

The overall project implementation went smoothly and successfully. The collaboration between UNESCO and the DoA particularly in terms of organizing project activities such as trainings, working sessions and survey missions worked well. The Ministry of Culture demonstrated its strong commitment to improving the institutional infrastructure for safeguarding Myanmar's cultural heritage and for raising awareness for heritage protection among local communities.

The assigned DoA staff were very helpful in preparing and conducting the activities in the field.

In terms of challenges, given that Myanmar has not engaged with international conservation practice for more than a decade, gaps in technical capacity among the national counterparts which emerged over the course of project activities required intensification of technical assistance. The challenge was addressed by hiring additional experts to work closely with the national counterparts.

With a view to sustaining the momentum established by the first phase of this project over the long term, it is vital that further capacity building activities be undertaken in Myanmar in order to continue on the road to successful cultural heritage conservation. The project can be seen as the cornerstone for further capacity building to safeguard Myanmar's cultural heritage.





The Pyu Ancient Cities: An Overview

The Pyu Ancient Cities, Halin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra, constitute one of Myanmar's eight properties that are included on the country's Tentative List for World Heritage.

The three archaeological sites were city states that developed and flourished over a period of more than 1,000 years between ca. 200 BCE and 900 CE in the Dry Zone of the middle Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River basin within the territory of what is today modern Myanmar. The highly-intact moated-and-walled urban settlements are set within a vast irrigated landscape and contain the remains of monumental brick Buddhist stupas (reliquaries), other ritual structures, palace-citadels, burial grounds, water management features and early industrial production sites.

The project "Capacity Building for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar" had its major focus on the Pyu Ancient Cities and worked towards their protection in line with internationally accepted conservation standards. Preparations for a World Heritage nomination dossier were undertaken within the course of the project.

An international expert survey mission was undertaken as the first step in order to assess the condition of the serial archaeological site. Based on the assessments, a management plan for the sustainable protection of the site was developed as well as a curriculum for on-site training addressing the most pressing issues in site conservation. During the hands-on training course the conservation standards were lifted through demonstrative conservation measures at the highly significant Khin Ba Mound (Sri Ksetra) and the Sri Ksetra site museum. The project also set up a comprehensive Geographic Information System for the Pyu Ancient Cities to be employed for their future management and monitoring.



Bagan: An Overview

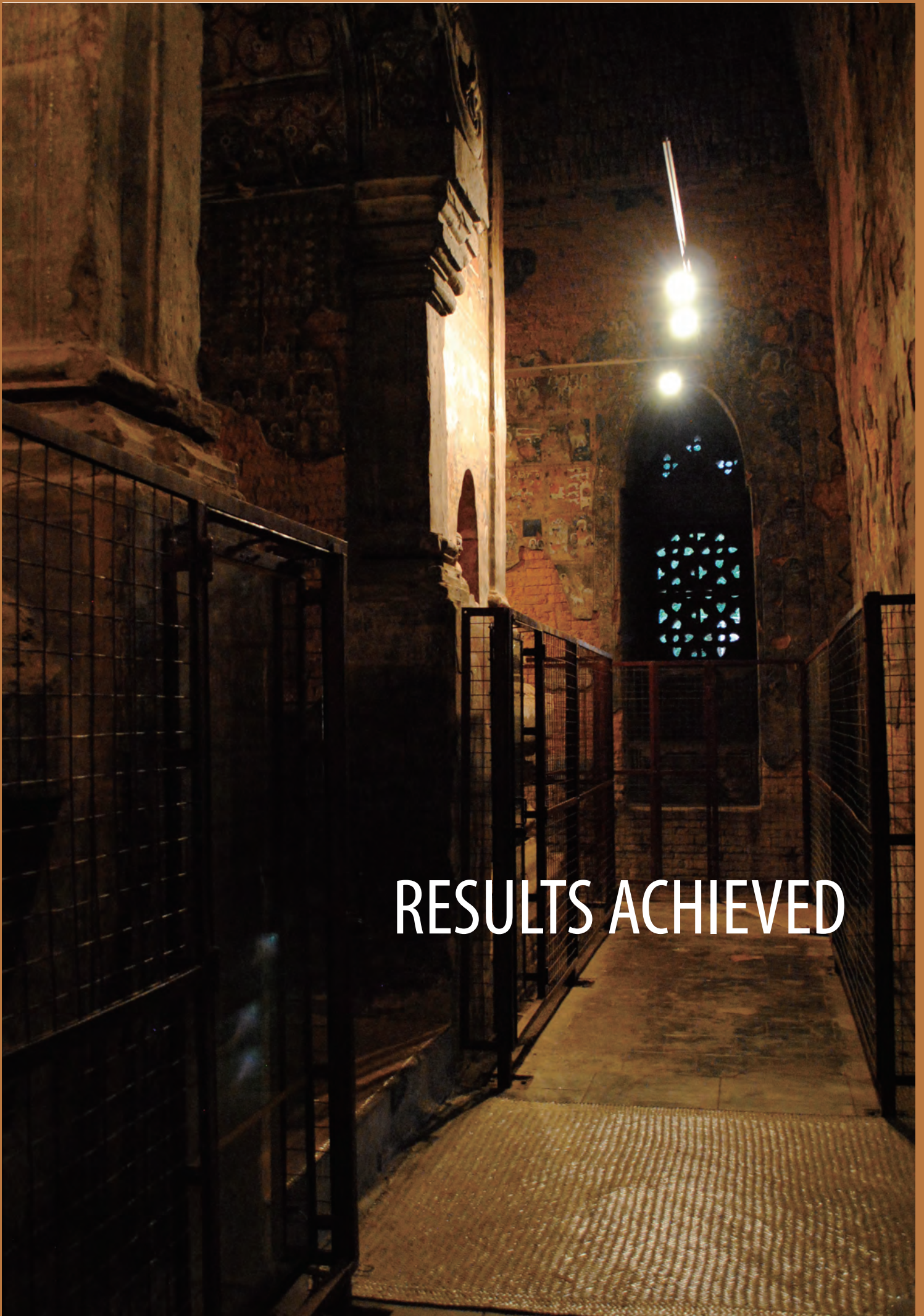
Probably the most prominent heritage site in Myanmar, the Bagan Archaeological Area and Monuments is included on the country's Tentative List as the capital city of the first Myanmar Kingdom dating back to the period between the 11th and 13th centuries. The extensive site measures over 80 square kilometers and contains more than 2500 Buddhist monuments built from the 10th to the 14th centuries CE. The monuments range from small stupas to monastic complexes and several enormous stucco-covered brick structures. Mural paintings and contemporary stone inscriptions on the interior of the monuments provide a unique and irreplaceable document to Bagan's intellectual, social and political history.

Several of the monuments are still highly venerated by the population, and attract numerous pilgrims and devotees from all over the country, particularly at festival times. Throughout the year, these seasonal activities are punctuated by a calendar of festivals organized in turn by each village around some of the ancient monuments. This


close symbiosis of the traditional country life with the remnants of a royal past constitutes one of the best maintained examples of a cultural landscape.

The project "Building Capacity for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar" sent the first international expert survey mission in more than a decade to assess the condition of the overall site and of individual monuments as well as of their decorative works. The assessments provided vital baseline data for the future conservation planning of the site and helped to develop the curriculum for a foundation course in conservation carried out as part of the project. The course in mural painting and stucco carving conservation conducted in December 2012 was a first step for re-establishing a national team of specialists for the conservation of decorative works.





RESULTS ACHIEVED



The project supported Myanmar's re-engagement with the World Heritage process by building the technical capacity of a range of heritage professionals in the country. Through demonstration projects, the project lifted the conservation standard at two of Myanmar's Tentative List sites: the Pyu Ancient Cities and Bagan.

As part of institutional capacity building, the project established the first GIS system for cultural heritage management in Myanmar.

The project assisted the government in preparing a World Heritage nomination for the Pyu Ancient Cities serial site.

In summary, the project has laid a strong foundation for continued cooperation to safeguard cultural heritage in Myanmar in line with international standards.

Component 1 - Technical capacity building in conserving and managing cultural heritage sites

This component was designed to bolster the capacity within the DoA to attain a higher level of understanding, knowledge and skills in conserving and managing cultural sites. This component was particularly critical for complementing the DoA's work in preparing World Heritage nominations which requires that nominated properties have an adequate management system in place and that site managers are familiar with international technical benchmarks so as to protect the sites according to global standards.

Main Achievements

Within component 1 on capacity building, the following main results were achieved:

- A corps of government officials at the management level and technical level have been trained in up-to-date skills in cultural heritage conservation and management;
- Knowledge about conservation standards within the DoA has been improved through demonstration projects and on-site practicum;
- Awareness about cultural heritage protection has been raised among local stakeholders and communities particularly at the Pyu Ancient Cities sites.

In the technical training courses and workshops, almost 100 Myanmar beneficiaries were trained in total.

- 25 senior and mid-level officials from the DoA and cooperating agencies gained knowledge about World Heritage principles and management guidelines
- 20 professionals from the DoA trained in World Heritage management
- 25 professionals trained in mural painting and stucco carving conservation
- 26 professionals trained in archaeological site conservation including topics such as non-invasive site investigation, archaeological documentation, archaeological consolidation and architectural restoration

All training courses provided the participants with reference documents and materials to allow for continued application of the newly acquired skills. A comprehensive manual stemming from the long training course in archaeological conservation is currently under preparation.

In the community awareness raising sessions, over 300 Myanmar beneficiaries were involved.

- Over 100 community members and local government officials at each site gained awareness about World Heritage principles.



Framed by the World Heritage nomination process for the Pyu Ancient Cities, the Ministry of Culture and particularly the DoA conducted sensitization sessions and stakeholder meetings at the three archaeological sites: Sri Ksetra, Halin and Beikthano. The meetings addressed local stakeholders such as different government departments, pagoda trustees, chief monks, village representatives, local business owners and others and provided a platform for sharing concerns and information regarding the protection of the cultural heritage sites. A total of ten meetings were held at the three archaeological sites. The DoA co-organized the meetings and provided the financial resources for most of the meetings, with contributions from the project mainly for the final meeting conducted at Sri Ksetra.

To support the training and awareness raising process, the following key reference documents for World Heritage were translated into Myanmar language, to facilitate widespread diffusion and continued application among various national and local authorities:

- 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (version 2011)
- World Heritage specific terms and glossary
- World Heritage Resource Manual: Preparing World Heritage Nominations (2nd edition, 2011)

RESULTS ACHIEVED





Activities in Detail

Under component 1 for capacity building, the following activities were successfully organized (in chronological order):

- 1st Expert Survey Mission: Sri Ksetra, Beikthano and Halin, 22 May - 4 June 2012
- ICCROM Training Workshop on World Heritage Management, 7-12 June 2012, in Pyay/Yangon
- 2nd Expert Survey Mission: Bagan, 1-21 September 2012
- Training Course in Archaeological Conservation, 15 October - 30 December, in Pyay
- Meeting with ICCROM and international experts to review the Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities, 6-9 December 2012, in Yangon
- Training Course in Mural Painting Conservation, 3-22 December 2012, in Bagan
- Awareness-raising workshop for local stakeholders at Sri Ksetra, 25-27 January 2013

1st Expert Survey Mission: Pyu Ancient Cities

22 May- 4 June 2012, Sri Ksetra, Beikthano, Halin

The survey was undertaken by Professor Maurizio Boriani (Politecnico di Milano), Dr. Mauro Cucarzi (Lerici Foundation) and Dr. Nilan Cooray (National Trust of Sri Lanka). During the field survey and consultations the international experts examined the overall condition of each site as well as the condition of individual monuments and archaeological structures. They also undertook an assessment of the protection and management mechanisms of the sites and gave recommendations for improvement of the site management. The assessments by the experts formed the basis for the curriculum development of the capacity building activities under this component.

ICCROM Training Workshop on World Heritage Management

7-12 June 2012, Pyay/Yangon

The ICCROM Training Workshop on Management Planning for World Heritage introduced international principles and guidelines to the staff of the DoA, using the Pyu Ancient Cities as the main case study. The training was conducted by Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM) with assistance from Dr. Nilan Cooray and Dr. Richard Engelhardt. The training workshop combined field exercises at Sri Ksetra with lectures in Yangon.

2nd Expert Survey Mission: Bagan

1-21 September 2012, Bagan

The mission was carried out by the architect Professor Pierre Pichard and the conservator-restorer Prof Rodolfo Lujan Lunsford, both experts of long-standing experience in conservation of the Bagan monuments stemming from their involvement in the 1980s/90s UNESCO/UNDP project. Professor Pichard undertook an assessment of the condition of the overall site and individual monuments while Professor Lujan joined the mission to survey the murals and stucco carvings at Bagan. The mission results included the identification of structures in need of urgent repair, recommendations for key actions concerning the site in terms of conservation and proposals for capacity building activities.



Training Course in Archaeological Site Conservation

15 October - 30 December, Pyay

The Lerici Foundation in close cooperation with the DoA conducted the Training Course in Archaeological Site Conservation at the Field School of Archaeology (FSA). The course responded directly to the training needs identified during the expert survey mission to the Pyu Ancient Cities, as well as to the training needs identified by the DoA during the early planning phase of the project. Staff members of the FSA and DoA branch offices from Yangon, Mandalay and Naypyidaw were trained in up-to date functional skills in archaeological site conservation.

Specifically, the trainees acquired knowledge and skills in the following fields:

- **Techniques of archaeological excavation:** undertaking on-ground surveys, stratigraphic interpretation, data collection and documentation using a Total station (surveying equipment)
- **Landscape archaeology:** surveying landscape features by using a Total station, software application for documentation of archaeological findings
- **Archaeo-anthropology and archaeo-botany:** analysing burnt human and vegetal remains from cemetery sites in order to explore the relationship of past civilizations with their natural environment
- **Public archaeology:** improving site interpretation through translating exhibitions panels, making the vast site of Sri Ksetra more accessible by developing visitor routes, developing heritage products in collaboration with local community, conducting visitor surveys
- **Geomorphology, non-invasive investigation and geo-physical prospecting:** understanding the process of formation of geological layers, detecting and defining unexcavated structures and features by using advanced technologies
- **Conservation:** different approaches to conservation, architectural surveying, brick conservation and analysis of construction techniques as well as chemical-physical analysis of original construction materials for later reproduction, stone restoration

For demonstration of the above course content, field practicum activities were carried out at Khin Ba Mound and the site museum in Sri Ksetra. A study visit was also undertaken to Beikthano.



Training Course in Mural Painting Conservation

3-22 December 2012, Bagan

Conducted by Professor Rodolfo Lujan, the course provided important basic grounding in mural painting and stucco carving conservation. The trainees were a diverse group of staff from the DoA representing the interdisciplinary nature of the field: technicians, masons, chemists, fine arts specialists and others. The theoretical lectures were held at the Bagan Archaeological Museum while the practical part of the course was conducted in situ. The two selected pilot temples for the on-site practicum were Nat-hlaung-kyaung (1600) and Shwe-kyaung-U Phaya (2007). The work carried out at the selected temple sites mainly focused on the graphic documentation. In addition, emergency intervention was carried out at Hsin-byyu-shin monastic complex (684-710) to save dangerously separated stuccoes of the northern forepart of the two-storey monastery.

The training course covered different topics in mural painting conservation such as the study on causes and effects of decay, proper documentation and the study and application of different kinds of treatments for consolidation and fixation.





RESULTS ACHIEVED



Meeting to review the Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities Site

6- 9 December 2012, Yangon

Two specialists from ICCROM and the management consultant to the project, Dr. Nilan Cooray, provided technical guidance in reviewing the management plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities to assure conformity in line with international standards. The comments from the World Heritage Centre on the draft nomination dossier were also reviewed and clarified.

Awareness-raising workshop for local stakeholders

25-27 January 2013, Sri Ksetra

As part of a series of ten meetings and workshops conducted with local stakeholders by the DoA, a final workshop was held at Sri Ksetra. The workshop gathered 150 local authorities, village representatives, as well as the concerned government officials. The purpose of the workshop was to share World Heritage concepts and to seek cooperation from the local communities in the on-going nomination process for the Pyu Ancient Cities to the World Heritage List. Support for this process was shown by H.E. Daw Sanda Khin, Deputy Minister of Culture, who delivered the opening speech of the workshop.





Component 2 - Cultural heritage information management using Geographic Information Systems

This component aimed at introducing GIS technology for cultural heritage management in Myanmar. In cultural heritage management, GIS technology is a useful means for creating geographically-referenced inventories of heritage assets, creating zoning strategies and monitoring the state of conservation of a heritage site. Within the World Heritage framework, the identification and inventory of components of a heritage site is a precondition for its World Heritage inscription. In this regard, the GIS work thus contributed to World Heritage nomination work by providing GIS mapping outputs that were included for the nomination preparation.

Main Achievements

Within this component, the following results were achieved:

- A GIS framework for collecting and managing data related to Myanmar cultural heritage sites was developed;
- The capacity of selected technical officials to collect and manage data for cultural heritage sites was strengthened;
- The first GIS system for managing a cultural heritage site in Myanmar was set up for the Ancient Pyu Cities Tentative List site;
- GIS reference maps were produced for the nomination dossier and management plan of the Pyu Ancient Cities.

In the initial phase, the DoA and UNESCO GIS specialist developed a framework for data collection as a first step to establish a GIS system for the demonstration site (Pyu Ancient Cities). Subsequently, three trainings in GIS Application for Cultural Heritage Management were carried out in order to strengthen the capacity of selected technical officials and future GIS operators. The trainings were consistently attended by 20 trainees, three national resource persons and one international resource person.

The three trainings followed a sequence in building up GIS capacity from very fundamental IT knowledge to practical technical skills in data collection, data entry and data management using GIS technologies. The first training introduced the fundamentals of GIS technology and data collection. The second training focused on ArcGIS software and the integration of collected data into the GIS system. The third training had its focus on cultural heritage database management.

In a joint effort the UNESCO GIS specialist together with the DoA GIS team set up the GIS system for the Ancient Pyu Cities site. They installed all necessary hardware and software at the DoA Yangon Division Office and integrated the collected data of GIS layers and archaeological data layers from other government institutions and from the field survey. The mapping outputs produced with the GIS system were used as reference maps for the nomination dossier and management plan of the Pyu Ancient Cities site. The GIS system set up within this project is envisaged to be applied in the sustainable management of Beikthano, Halin and Sri Ksetra and to serve as a model for other heritage sites in the country.

Activities in Detail

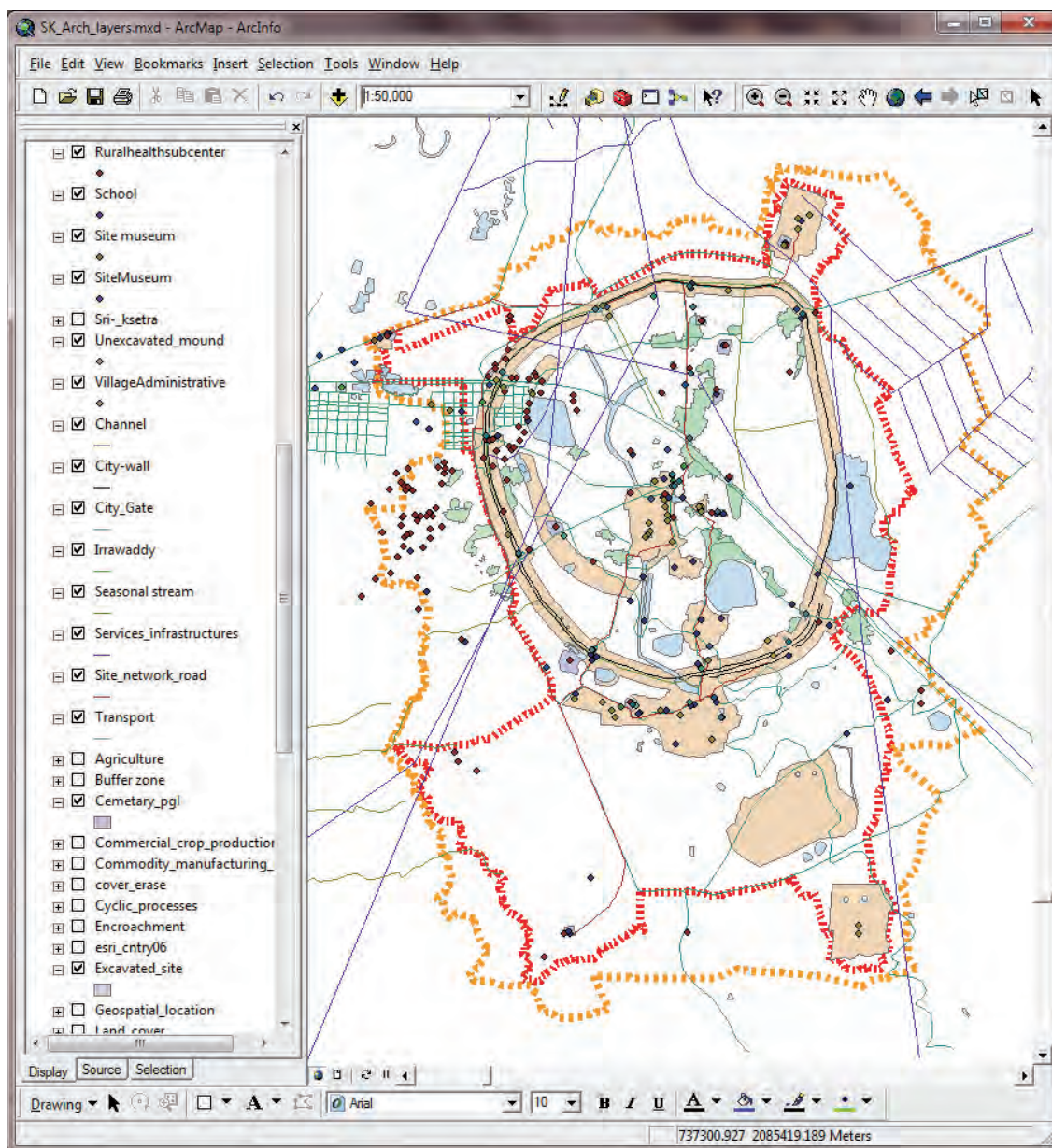
Under component 2 on GIS, the following activities were successfully undertaken:

- Development of a data collection framework
- 1st Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management, 14-19 May 2012, Pyay
- 2nd Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management, 9-13 July 2012, Pyay
- Setting up of GIS equipment at DoA Office in Yangon, 14-18 August 2012
- 3rd Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management, 17-19 September 2012, Yangon
- Working sessions for revision of reference maps for Pyu Ancient Cities Nomination Dossier and Management Plan, 5-10 December 2012 and 5-18 January 2013

Development of Data Collection Framework

The inventory of available GIS-based data and archaeological data from the DoA and other government institutions was started in February 2012. On the basis of the inventory and with help of the conceptual GIS framework for mapping and managing heritage sites, data needs and gaps were identified. For the DoA to undertake the necessary data collection, comprehensive guidelines were prepared. One of the major achievements was the design and creation of the first archaeological database in GIS format for a cultural heritage site in Myanmar. However, this database does still not cover the full range of the archaeological content of the Pyu cities and should be extended and continuously updated in the future.





1st Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management

14-19 May 2012, Pyay

The first training in GIS, which was held at the Field School of Archaeology in Pyay, aimed at explaining the different fields of application for GIS technology in cultural heritage management. The course taught the fundamentals of how to set up a GIS for managing cultural heritage and provided the trainees with basic knowledge on GPS and data collection in the field. Subsequently, the DoA GIS team began to collect data from various ministries and from the field as per data collection framework which had been developed in the very initial phase of the project.

2nd Training on GIS Application in Cultural Heritage Management

9-13 July 2012, Pyay

The second training course provided more advanced knowledge on the application of GIS technologies in cultural heritage management and introduced the trainees to processing tools such as ArcGIS software. Accordingly, the trainees undertook practical exercises such as processing the data they had collected in the field to be integrated into the GIS system for the Pyu Ancient Cities. Moreover, in this training the participants learned how to create a map layout using ArcMap as well as to make use of topographic maps and satellite images for mapping and conducting basic analysis functions in ArcMap.

3rd Training of GIS Application in Cultural Heritage Management

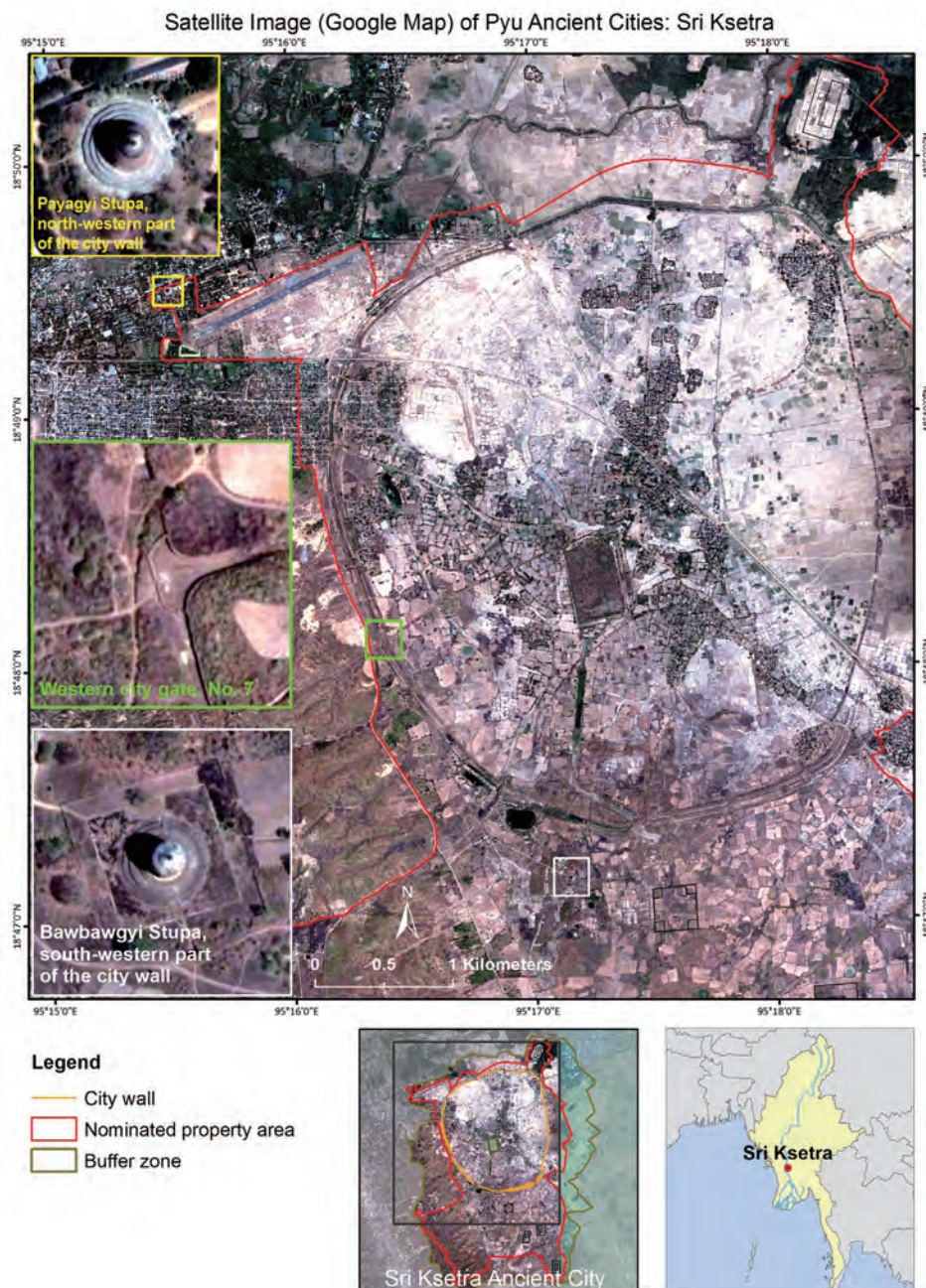
17-19 September 2012, Yangon

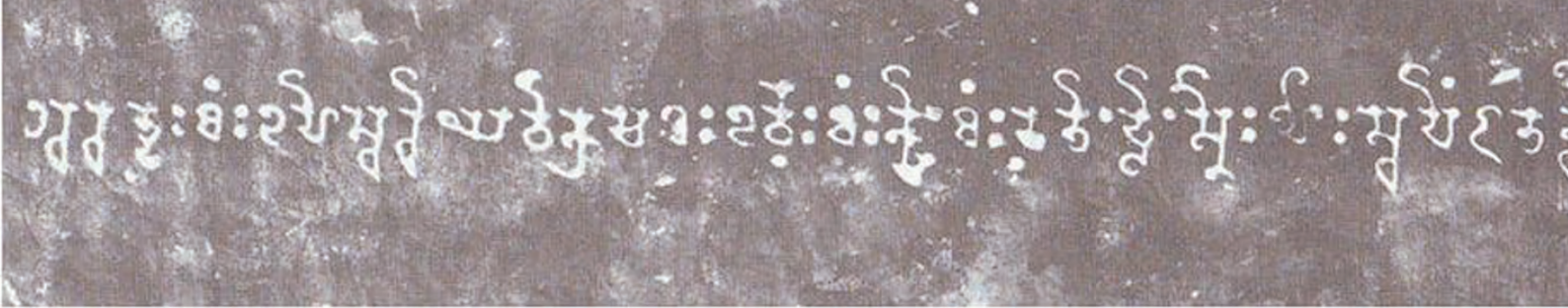
Building on the two previous courses, the trainees learnt how to perform spatial data management for the Pyu Ancient Cities with a view to applying these skills for managing various archaeological resources in Myanmar in the future. In particular the training addressed the application of ArcCatalogue including description of metadata as the contextual component of the dataset and the role of metadata in the spatial data infrastructure for cultural heritage sites.

Preparation of reference maps for Pyu Ancient Cities Nomination Dossier and Management Plan

5-10 December 2012 and 5-18 January 2013, Yangon

The DoA was trained in basic cartography to make use of and spatially visualise their archaeological data in the form of maps. With support from the UNESCO GIS specialist through a series of missions, draft maps were produced and corrected for the nomination dossier of the Pyu Ancient Cities.





Component 3 - Supporting the nomination of World Heritage in Myanmar

This component was designed to build capacity for preparing World Heritage nominations as per the requests of the Myanmar national authorities.

Main Achievements

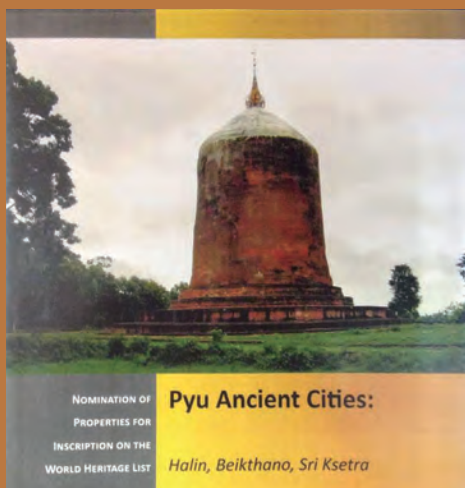
Under this component the following results were achieved:

- Nomination dossier (including management plan) of the Pyu Ancient Cities drafted and submitted in January 2013;
- A corps of Myanmar heritage professionals acquainted with the World Heritage nomination process and preparation of a nomination dossier and associated documents.

At the start of the project, the Myanmar authorities set a timeframe of submitting the draft nomination dossier by 30 September 2012, and the final dossier by 1 February 2013. From the outset, UNESCO and the international experts informed the Myanmar authorities that the drafting of nomination dossiers is a challenging process which usually requires a minimum time frame of two years, even in countries with considerable resources and experience in preparing World Heritage nominations. Given this, the stated deadline was considered very tight and it was recommended that additional time should be allocated, given the extensiveness of the work that is required in order to put forward a complete serial nomination and management plan, especially for a serial site. While noting these concerns, the authorities reiterated their desire to meet the stated deadlines.

Through an intensive process of technical collaboration and with full commitment on the part of the national authorities, the nomination dossier for the Pyu Ancient Cities site was completed as scheduled by the authorities. This effort speaks to the high priority that the Myanmar authorities are now placing on World Heritage.

The Pyu Ancient Cities nomination documents comprise three volumes:



- Nomination dossier (415 pages)
- Management plan (409 pages)
- Additional annexes (640 pages)
- CDs containing digital files of the hard-copy documents, and additional digital information including GIS files

The activities under this component were carried out in a manner designed to build as much national capacity as possible. As such, the main responsibility for preparing and vetting the content of the nomination file (including drafting of text, preparation of images, sourcing of reference material, along with associated activities related to revision of legal measures, regulations, establishment of necessary institutional structures such as site management committees, and community awareness raising) was entrusted to the Myanmar authorities.

The DoA set up a Nomination Dossier Drafting Committee composed of internal DoA staff with expertise on the Pyu Ancient Cities as well as invited external Myanmar experts. A separate Drafting Committee was also established for the Management Plan, which shows the commitment of the national authorities for the safeguarding of the site. In addition, a National Expert Committee was set up composed of senior officials and representatives from relevant agencies to provide oversight and review all outputs before vetting by the higher authorities.

The project provided technical assistance in the form of international expertise to guide this process in line with the Operational Guidelines and the principles of the World Heritage Convention. One main international mentor (Dr. Richard Engelhardt) was hired to anchor the drafting of the nomination dossier, while another mentor (Dr. Nilan Cooray) was hired to anchor the drafting of the management plan. In addition, other international experts with relevant specializations were also invited to give specific inputs and comments at various stages, including the world's top experts on the Pyu Ancient Cities and Myanmar architecture and archaeology: Dr. Mauro Cucarzi (Lerici Foundation), Dr. Bob Hudson (University of Sydney), Mr. Joseph King (ICCROM), Dr. Elizabeth Moore (SOAS), Prof. Pierre Pichard (Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient), Dr. Janice Stargardt (Cambridge University), and Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM).

The interchange over ten months between the international mentors, the international experts, and the national drafting committees and national experts proved to be very fruitful, yielding a rich and nuanced understanding of the Outstanding



Universal Value of the Pyu Ancient Cities and requirements for their safeguarding within the World Heritage framework.

In practical terms, the preparation of the nomination dossier and management plan was carried out through internal drafting and consultation sessions of the drafting committees with a series of scheduled checkpoints organized in the form of Working Sessions to allow national and international experts to give feedback. Following each Working Session, revisions were undertaken by the national drafting committees.

In intangible terms, the activities conducted under this component have yielded a core group of Myanmar professionals in the DoA and allied agencies at both the highest management levels and the technical level (site managers, GIS operators, architects, engineers, curators, archaeologists) who now have a sound working knowledge of World Heritage and a familiarity with nomination preparation procedures. During the course of the project, two key Myanmar persons driving the Pyu Ancient Cities nomination process also took part in the 36th Session of the



World Heritage Committee in St Petersburg, Russia in 2012 to sensitize members of the Committee to this upcoming nomination. Given that Myanmar has had very minimal participation in the international World Heritage circuit and has barely had any national level activities or dialogue concerning World Heritage in almost two decades, this intensive technical and political process of re-acquaintance with World Heritage concepts, technical requirements and statutory activities has been enormously beneficial in putting Myanmar back on the international World Heritage scene and in re-awakening the issue of World Heritage within the domestic Myanmar context.



Nominating the Pyu Ancient Cities as World Heritage

Justification for World Heritage

The Pyu Ancient Cities provide exceptional testimony of the introduction of Buddhism into Southeast Asia two thousand years ago which resulted in the rise of the first, largest, and longest-lived urbanized settlements of the region up until the 9th century. The Pyu created a special form of urbanization, the city of extended urban format, which subsequently influenced urbanization in most of mainland Southeast Asia. These earliest Buddhist city-states played a seminal role in the process of transmitting the literary, architectural and ritual traditions of Pali-based Buddhism to other societies in the sub-region where they continue to be practiced up to the present.

Halin, Beikthano, and Sri Ksetra together are being nominated as a “serial site”. They jointly testify to the several stages of the development of this new model of urban settlement for the Southeast Asian region. Only if taken together can one perceive the entire sequence and range of Pyu urban transformation.

Enhancing protection of the site

In 1902 CE when the Pyu Ancient Cities were “re-discovered” by modern archaeologists, they came under the formal protection, conservation, supervision, and management of the government. The Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library of the Ministry of Culture has the primary responsibility for all aspects of protection and management of the three Pyu Ancient Cities. Moreover, the Pyu Ancient Cities continue to be sites of Buddhist veneration not only locally, but also on a national level, inspiring pilgrimage from all over the country.

To ensure the safeguarding of the highly significant Pyu Ancient Cities in line with international standards, the Myanmar government decided to nominate them as a World Heritage site. As part of this process, the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the site was identified and a management plan and conservation guidelines were drawn up to safeguard this Outstanding Universal Value.

The proposed World Heritage criteria are:

(Criterion ii):

Over a prolonged period of interaction between indigenous societies with Indic cultures to the west starting after the 2nd century BCE, Buddhism achieved its first permanent foothold in Southeast Asia among the Pyu cities, where it was embraced by all classes of society. The development of Pyu Buddhist urban culture had widespread and enduring impact, following the onward transmission of Buddhist teaching and monastic practice into other parts of mainland Southeast Asia.

(Criterion iii):

The Pyu Ancient Cities marked the emergence of the first historically-documented Buddhist urban civilization in Southeast Asia. The establishment of literate Buddhist monastic communities arose in tandem with the re-organization of agricultural production, the specialized production of manufactured goods, the construction of religious monuments in brick, and the development of unique mortuary practices.

(Criterion iv):

Technological innovations in resource management, hydraulic engineering, agriculture and manufacturing of brick and iron at the Pyu Ancient Cities created the preconditions leading to significant advances in city planning and building construction, resulting in the creation of urban prototypes which later proved critically influential for later city formation in Southeast Asia.





Activities in Detail

Under this component, the following activities were successfully undertaken:

- International Expert Seminar: Towards World Heritage Nomination of the Pyu Ancient Cities, 4-6 April 2012, Yangon
- 1st Working Session to develop the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities, 3 and 7 April 2012, Yangon
- 2nd Working Session to review the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities, 13-16 June 2012, Yangon
- 3rd Working Session to review the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities, 13-16 August 2012, Yangon
- Meeting with ICCROM and international experts to review the Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities, 6-9 December 2012, in Yangon (as above in Component 1)
- 4th Working Session to finalize the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities, 7-10 January 2013, Yangon

International Expert Seminar: Towards World Heritage Nomination of the Pyu Ancient Cities

4-6 April 2012, Yangon

To initiate the nomination process, an expert seminar titled 'Towards World Heritage Nomination of the Pyu Ancient Cities' was held in Yangon from 4-6 April 2012 convening the key national and international experts in the field.

The seminar aimed at framing the potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site and defining a strategy for its nomination. Given the active participation of DoA staff at senior and technical levels, as well as representatives from various Ministries, professional associations and scholarly bodies, the seminar also provided an opportunity to re-introduce the World Heritage Convention and associated concepts to relevant national stakeholders.

1st – 4th Working Sessions to develop the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities Tentative List site

UNESCO in close collaboration with the DoA organized four working sessions to review and continuously develop the draft nomination dossier and management plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities site. The aim of these working sessions was to build the capacity of the DoA and other relevant agencies in preparing World Heritage nominations and to make progress in the completion of the nomination dossier for the Pyu Ancient Cities site in line with international standards set out in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The working sessions were guided by World Heritage specialist consultants who have been contracted within this project. Between the working sessions, the international consultants maintained close correspondence with the key team members of the DoA drafting teams.



SUSTAINABILITY





The concrete achievements from the first phase of the Italian-funded project provide a strong foundation for the Myanmar national authorities to further build upon and to apply at other sites with the potential for World Heritage nomination. Moreover, the project has generated political and institutional support for cultural heritage in the country, which is vital for Myanmar's progress towards international standards in cultural heritage conservation.

Following the implementation of the project "Capacity Building for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar" the government is eager to continue working within the World Heritage framework. The next priority site identified by the government for international cooperation is the Bagan Archaeological Area and Monuments Tentative List site, with an immediate focus on improving the conservation and management of the site, with a view to eventual nomination for World Heritage. The expert assessment undertaken during this project will provide a very useful starting point for preparing this future support to Bagan.

The active mentoring networks with international institutions such as ICCROM and the Lerici Foundation as well as with international experts that were built up during the project will help the DoA to seek advice and cooperation beyond this project and to broaden the scope of cooperation.

It is expected that national heritage professionals who were trained in the project will apply the newly acquired knowledge and will share it with junior colleagues and local community members. With the participation of government officials from high-priority sites on the national Tentative List, the

capacity building efforts of the project have benefited not only the Pyu Ancient Cities and Bagan, but also heritage sites from around the country.

The project also helped to develop practical tools, guidelines and systems for managing cultural heritage sites in the long term. For instance, the pilot on-site archaeological and conservation work undertaken during the long training course at Sri Ksetra and the three-week training course in Bagan will function as examples for subsequent conservation work. Technical guidelines developed during the above mentioned courses are expected to be embedded into the working processes in the DoA in the future

At the institutional level, the project also assisted the authorities in strengthening their management capacity for cultural heritage sites. The introduction of advanced technologies such as GIS will help to protect cultural heritage in Myanmar. With a functional system now available, at this stage, more training will be required to enable the DoA staff to operate the system independently.

To reinforce the achievements of this first phase and to provide for sustainability of the capacity building efforts, future international assistance would be needed to further build up capacity for safeguarding cultural heritage. In response to government request, future cooperation would be proposed to continue the work at the Pyu Ancient Cities and address conservation needs at Bagan. This assistance will be particularly timely in the face of accelerated development pressures faced by cultural heritage sites throughout the country, particularly Bagan, which has experienced a boom in visitor arrivals and tourism-related investment.



ANNEXES

ANNEX A

Field activities organized in the course of the project

Component 1 (Training)

Component 2 (GIS)

Component 3 (WH)

Components 1 and 3

April

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1st Working Session to Develop the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities
3 and 7 April 2012
National Museum, Yangon

Expert Seminar: Towards World Heritage Nomination of the Pyu Ancient Cities
4-6 April 2012
Parkroyal Hotel, Yangon

May

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6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
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24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				

1st Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management
14-19 May 2012
FSA, Pyay

1st Expert Survey Mission
22 May - 4 June 2012
Sri Ksetra, Beikthano and Halin

June

				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14
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21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	

ICCROM Training Workshop on World Heritage Management
7-12 June 2012
FSA, Pyay / National Museum, Yangon

2nd Working Session to review the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities
13-16 June 2012
National Museum Yangon

July

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2nd Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management
9-13 July 2012
FSA, Pyay

August

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5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
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29	30	31			

3rd Working Session to review the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities
13-16 August 2012
National Museum, Yangon

Installation of GIS Hardware
16-18 August 2012
DoA Office, Yangon

September

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30						

2nd Expert Survey Mission
1-21 September 2012
Bagan

3rd Training on GIS: Application in Cultural Heritage Management
17-19 September 2012
DoA Office, Yangon

October

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
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31					

Training Course in Archaeological Conservation
15 October - 30 December 2012, FSA, Pyay

November

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Drafting Meeting to Review the Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities
6-9 December 2012
DoA Office, Yangon

Training Course in Mural Painting Conservation
3-22 December 2012
Bagan and Bagan Archaeological Museum

January

			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

4th Working Session to finalize the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities
7-10 January 2013
DoA Office, Yangon

Awareness-raising Workshop for Local Stakeholders
25-27 January 2013
Sri Ksetra/Pyay

ANNEX B

Partner institutions and international experts

Partner institutions

Fondazione Ing. Carlo Maurilio Lerici (Lerici Foundation)

Dr. Mauro Cucarzi

Dr. Sylvie Coubray

Dr. Patrizia Zolese

Dr. Tommaso Pipan

Dr. Carlo Rosa

Prof. Maurizio Boriani

Dr. Michele Romano

Arch. Mara Landoni

Dr. Federico Barocco

Arch. Roberta Mastropirro

Prof. Roberto Macchiarelli

Arch. Fabio Maroldi

Arch. Dang Khanh Dgoc

Arch. Mario Bonfadani

Dr. Paolo Pagnin

Dr. Raffaella Simonelli

Arch. Christian Amigoni

International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

Mr. Joseph King

Dr. Gamini Wijesuriya

International experts

Dr. Nilan Cooray

Assistant Secretary General,
The National Trust of Sri Lanka

Dr. Richard Engelhardt

Former UNESCO Regional Adviser for Culture
for Asia and the Pacific

U Nyunt Han

Former Director General of the Department
of Archaeology of Myanmar

Dr. Elizabeth Howard Moore

Reader in Art and Archaeology, School of
Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Dr. Bob Hudson

Associate Professor in Archaeology,
University of Sydney

Prof. Rodolfo Lujan Lunsford

Conservator-restorer

Prof. Pierre Pichard

Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)

Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat

Former Advisor to the Prime Minister,
Former Permanent Secretary of Culture
of Thailand

Dr. San Shwe

Professor in Archaeology,
University of Yangon

Dr. Janice Stargardt

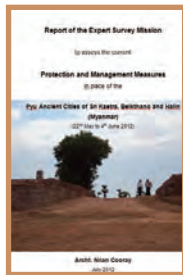
Professorial Research Fellow,
University of Cambridge

ANNEX C

List of reports and publications

I. Expert survey mission reports

- Boriani, Maurizio & Cucarzi, Mauro (2012). *Report on the field survey condition assessment and consultations on the Pyu Ancient Cities.*
- Cooray, Nilan (2012). *Report on the expert survey mission to assess the current protection and management measures in place at the Pyu Ancient Cities of Sri Ksetra, Beikthano and Halin (Myanmar).*
- Lunsford, Rodolfo Lujan (2012). *Propositions for the conservation-restoration of mural paintings and carved stuccoes in Bagan.*
- Pichard, Pierre (2012). *Bagan – condition of site and monuments.*



II. Workshop reports

- Seminar report: *Towards World Heritage nomination of the Pyu Ancient Cities*
- Workshop report: *ICCROM training workshop on World Heritage management*
- 3 Workshop reports on the series of GIS training workshops: *GIS application for cultural heritage management*
- ICCROM (2012). *ICCROM comments on management planning process and draft plan for the Pyu Ancient Cities in Myanmar.*
- Leric Foundation (2012). *Training workshop report: archaeological conservation.*
- Lunsford, Rodolfo Lujan (2012). *Training workshop report: mural painting and stucco carving conservation.*

III. Translation of World Heritage documents into Myanmar language

- *1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*
- *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (version 2011)
- World Heritage specific terms and glossary
- *World Heritage Resource Manual: Preparing World Heritage Nominations* (2nd edition, 2011)

IV. Manuals & informational material

- Mahaxay, Manithaphone (2012). *GIS training manual: GIS application in cultural heritage management.* UNESCO Bangkok.
- Leric Foundation (2012). *Draft guidelines for conservation of Pyu Archaeological Sites.*
- DoA Community pamphlets on the World Heritage nomination process.

List of photographs

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Cultural Organization

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