

VIETNAM

Complex of Huế Monuments



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II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1993

Organisation Responsible for the Report

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II.2 Statement of Significance

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Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:
“The Hué monument complex represents unique architectural, sculptural and aesthetic achievements and highly creative labour of the Vietnamese people over a long span of time, particularly in monumental arts, urban planning and landscape design.”
The complex “is regarded as one of the most important physical representations of the national heritage (...) In spite of social, economic influences, of war as well as human settlement, the Hue monument complex still maintains quite intact appearance of an imperial capital of the former Vietnam empire in the 19th century.”

Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.
- Protective zoning was introduced in 1992.

II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage value is considered to have been maintained.
- Changes in authenticity/integrity are foreseen due to: (i) urbanisation & development of infrastructure affecting the setting; (ii) increasing numbers of tourists affecting the capacity and lifespan of buildings; (iii) tropical climate and natural disasters.

II.4 Management

Administrative and Management Arrangements

- Management of the property is governed within the framework of the following laws and decrees: (i) Law on Cultural Heritage, 2001; (ii) Circular No. 04-NQ-TU concerning the “promotion of the preservation and presentation of Hué Historic Monuments in the period 2001-2005, 2001”; (iii) Decision No. 1264/QD-UB concerning the regulation of functions, tasks, authority and organizational structure of the Hue Monuments Conservation Centre, 1999; (iv) Decision No. 105/TTg concerning the approval of the planning project of conservation and presentation of the Hué Monuments Complex from 1996 to 2010; 1996; (v) Ordinance on the Protection of Historical Cultural Relics and Scenic Sites, 1984.
- The Dept. of Conservation & Museums manages the property through the Provincial People’s Committee and the Hué Monuments Conservation Centre.
- There is a Management Plan, which organised a survey of historic buildings, investigated encroachments and made an inventory of moveable cultural heritage.
- Future actions include: (i) encouraging people to relocate from protected areas; (ii) regularising penalties for encroachments; (iii) working with the provincial agencies to define controls in protected areas between 1994 and 1999 .

Present State of Conservation

- Restorations are undertaken according to the principles of the Venice Charter and the Nara Conference on Authenticity.

Staffing and Training Needs

- There are 645 staff of whom 210 have a degree or postgraduate degree.
- Staffing levels are viewed as inadequate.
- Training needs are identified in heritage management, maintenance/restoration, conservation and museology.

Financial Situation

- Funding comes from the annual government budget, entrance fees, private funds, bi-lateral projects, NGOs & the World Monuments Fund.
- Funding is considered as inadequate.
- * International Assistance from WHF as follows: (i) 1994, US\$20,000 Technical Assistance; (ii) 1995, US\$108,000 Technical Assistance, establishing Conservation Laboratory; (iii) 1996, US\$12,500 Technical Assistance, re-evaluation of site boundary; (iv) 1997, US\$35,000 Technical Assistance, revision of planning regulations; (v) 1998, US\$50,000 Emergency Assistance, for the Queen Mother's Palace; (vi) 1999, US\$5,000 Promotional Assistance; (vii) 1999, US\$16,811 Technical Assistance; (viii) 1999, US\$50,000 Emergency Assistance, following flood; (ix) 2001, US\$9,800 Technical Assistance, Hué Heritage House.

Access to IT

- All offices of the Centre have PCs (37), some of which are networked.
- Internet and e-mail access.
- GIS is in use for recording and monitoring the condition of the monuments. Available software includes Arcview & Mapinfor.

Visitor Management

- 1,103 million visitors in 2001 (of which 376,549 were foreign tourists) generating entrance fees of approx US\$1.6 million.
- Shop, refreshment and toilet facilities are available all over the site. The need for improved visitor information facilities and transport for the elderly and disabled is identified.
- Need for a Visitor Management Plan is recognised.
- Publications are available, a website is in preparation, and an education programme provides texts, competitions and activities for schools.
- There has been a 400% increase in visitors since Inscription in 1993, an increasing number of research and restoration programmes, and a more proactive approach to research and public awareness.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property

Threats and Risks

- Urbanisation and traffic pressure within the buffer zone. Tourist numbers are affecting building conservation and changing traditional lifestyles.
- Annual typhoons damage buildings and riverbanks, and cause floods.
- There is a shortage of modern equipment for the work of the Hue Monuments Conservation Centre.

- Documentation concerning heritage properties which was destroyed during the War, is costly and time-consuming to collect.

Counteractive Plans

- Plans are concentrated on natural disaster mitigation.
- Other actions include the implementation of a plan coping with urbanization and economic development issues, as well as co-operation "with ICOMOS to organize a workshop on historic timber structure and traditional mortar, and a training course in treatment of cracks on monuments."

II.6 Monitoring

Monitoring Arrangements

- No formal system exists. A system of periodic site visits to assess conditions and restoration works is foreseen.
- Monitoring could be improved by raising public awareness, computerising data and increasing training.



Non-traditional building amidst the historic hydrologic heritage of the Hué Citadel

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Monitoring Indicators

- No indicators have been identified.
- A manual of conservation norms and a bureau for investigation and supervision are identified as the keys to developing indicators.

II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Conclusions and Proposed Actions

- The following actions are proposed for the time period 2003-2006: (i) Organising training courses to raise the staff capacity; (ii) Establishing closer links with heritage preservation bodies in Vietnam and abroad; (iii) Upgrading the Centre's GIS; (iv)

Preparing a manual on restoration of traditional houses; (v) Collecting historic documentation, particularly from France and Britain.

- Assistance from the WHF may be needed for organising an international workshop, and study visits to WH Sites in Asia and archives in Europe.

* State of Conservation Reports

1994 WHC-94/CONF.003/6 A mission was to visit the site to prepare a partnership with an agro-chemical company for a termite suppression campaign.

1995 WHC-95/CONF.203/5 The Committee was notified of a proposal by the Working Group of the International Safeguarding Campaign to redefine the Site's boundaries and enforce building codes in the core zone and its two buffer zones. With bi-lateral support the GIS will be expanded to cover the whole Province.

1996 WHC-96/CONF.201/7B It was proposed to support a re-evaluation of land use and building regulations in the buffer zones. The Government was urged to improve inter-ministerial co-ordination to ensure that infrastructure developments do not undermine the value of the site.

1997 WHC-97/CONF.208/8BRev Damage caused by the September 1997 typhoon; and continued building violations in the buffer zones were reported. The co-operation agreement between Hué, Lille and UNESCO to review land-use and building regulations, and the establishment of the Heritage House, an advisory service for local people, were welcomed. It was suggested that the Government be invited to submit a report on the options for the upgrading and construction of roads, on measures to stop building violations, and on the impact of the typhoon to the site.

1998 WHC-98/CONF.202/4 The continued efforts of the authorities and Hué Conservation Centre, with technical support of Lille and UNESCO, in mitigating the threat to Hué caused by inappropriate buildings and densification of land use were encouraged. The State Party was requested to submit a report on progress in the elaboration and application of regulations concerning urban design and land-use in Zones 1 and 2 of the site.

1999 WHC-99/CONF.209/14 The continued efforts of the Authorities and the Hué Conservation Centre, with the support of Lille, UNESCO and the French Government, in halting the deterioration of the protected areas of Hué were appreciated. The State Party, the World Heritage Centre and Lille were encouraged in the organization of a donors' meeting, scheduled in April 2000, and requested that invitations be extended to members of the Committee and advisory bodies, as well as to the international development agencies and diplomatic missions. It was noted that the report requested by 15 September 1999 had not been received, and the request was reiterated for a comprehensive report with conservation and development plan of Hué to be provided by 15 September 2000.

2000 WHC-2000/CONF.204/10 Damage caused to the monuments and urban heritage of the site by the November 1999 floods was noted with concern. Appreciation was expressed for the manner in which the authorities handled emergency actions to prevent further damage and for preparing the project proposals. The UNESCO Bureau for extra budgetary Funding was to co-operate with the World Heritage Centre in seeking donors for these projects. In view of the damage and the funding required to redress the situation and to mitigate risks of future floods, the State Party was invited to consider inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to report their decision to the World Heritage Centre by 15 September.